

BOARD MEETING
BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
APRIL 17, 2025

The meeting of the Baltimore City Board of Elections was held at the Baltimore City Board of Elections Office at 417 East Fayette Street, Baltimore MD 21202.

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

Sam Novey, Board Secretary
Scherod Barnes, Board President
Hope Williams, Board Member
Terrence Thre watt Jr, Board Vice President

GUESTS

Emily Opilo, Baltimore Banner

ON PHONE

Maria Vismale, Board Member

Mr. Barnes called the board meeting to order at 4:03 pm and declared a quorum.

Mr. Thre watt moved to accept the agenda as written. It was seconded by Ms. Williams. The motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Mr. Barnes shared that Ms. Goldman was out sick and that Mr. Chapman was at a mandatory meeting for LBE counsel.

Mr. Barnes thanked the members who attended Mr. Jones' funeral and shared that the board had submitted a resolution honoring Mr. Jones and he had made remarks at the service on his behalf.

Mr. Barnes said that this meeting would focus on the upcoming SBE Biennial Conference and the upcoming search process. Mr. Barnes also shared that all board members had a report from the Acting Director and asked board members to hold questions until the May meeting when Ms. Goldman would be present.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Thre watt read out several key elements of the director's report. This includes:

- The interview process has begun for three vacant positions.

- Administrative staff meeting weekly with department heads.
- Several events were held to build morale and celebrate staff.
- Office and warehouse move is on hold in spite of SBE regulations. Baltimore City currently says FY27 is the earliest that a move could occur.
- A number of updates to legislation including requirements for Baltimore City BOE to livestream board meetings.

Ms. Williams moved to accept the acting director's report. Mr. Threweatt seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Threweatt thanked Ms. Goldman and Ms. Stanley for their work on the Biennial and MAEO conferences.

ATTORNEY GENERAL REMARKS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Novey shared initial findings from the post-election debrief. The board agreed to discuss these items at the May 15, 2025 or June 18, 2025 meeting.

Mr. Novey also asked about doing another annual staff survey. Mr. Barnes expressed concern that staff are not under board purview but it did serve us well in 2024 to do such a survey. Ms. Williams shared her feeling that the board needs to do a staff survey in order to complete the director's performance review in a high quality way that includes "360-degree feedback." Mr. Threweatt suggested doing a similar process to last year. Mr. Barnes agreed that it was a good proposal.

Mr. Threweatt asked for a roll call vote on the contract to McAfee Election Solutions for warehouse services. Mr. Threweatt speculated that this contract was connected to the agency's challenges getting city support for a new facility. Mr. Barnes expressed his concern that we do not discuss questions about the budget without the acting director present.

Mr. Novey suggested that the agency may be in a better position to attract a full-time warehouse manager given the recent reductions in the federal workforce.

Ms. Williams and Mr. Threweatt both expressed their desire to review any proposed future contracts for Mr. McAfee. Mr. Barnes said that we couldn't discuss it in more depth without Ms. Goldman present.

Mr. Threweatt pressed forward with requesting an up or down vote on doing a contract with McAfee Election Solutions in 2026. Mr. Barnes suggested that instead of doing a vote we ask the Acting Director to bring that proposal to the May meeting. Mr. Threweatt expressed his concern that he felt that in January his expectation had been set that a solicitation would be available to review by the board.

Mr. Thre watt suggested he would go to the Board of Estimates and testify against any proposed contracts. Mr. Barnes, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Novey all asked that members not testify on behalf of the board of elections without the support of other members and agreed that the appropriate next step would be more the board to hear a presentation from Ms. Goldman regarding plans for logistics and warehouse services in 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Barnes shared a number of instructions for board members attending MAEO.

Mr. Barnes also shared that he would follow up with SBE to make sure their HR team was communicated with all board members.

Ms. Williams asked for further clarification regarding the interview process and the questions that would be asked during the process.

Mr. Novey suggested that the board connect with SBE HR to clarify questions about the process. Ms. Williams concurred with this suggestion and Mr. Barnes offered to set it up at MAEO.

Mr. Thre watt reiterated his feeling that warehouse operations should be handled by BOE staff and not by contractors.

Mr. Novey thanked Mr. Barnes for speaking so eloquently on behalf of the board at Mr. Jones funeral service.