

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Ken Raymond
Chairman

Stuart Russell
Secretary

Fleming El-Amin
Member



FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 2014

Meeting Called to Order

A special meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was called to order in the fourth floor meeting room on February 3, 2014. The meeting convened at 4:30 PM, Chairman Ken Raymond presiding.

Board Members in attendance: Chairman Ken Raymond, Secretary Stuart Russell, Member Fleming El-Amin

Staff Members in attendance: Board of Elections Staff - Deputy Director Lamar Joyner, Chris Duffey, Judy Speas, Jacob Wright
Other County Staff - Beatrice Hunter, Lonnie Albright, Gloria Woods

Public Comment Session

Chairman Raymond opened the public comment session where speakers were asked to complete a public comment card and would have three minutes or less to speak. The speaker's name and address should be stated for the record; questions should be included during the allotted time and answers would be given at the close of the session. A speaker's time would not be given to another individual. At the close of the public comment session, no more statements or questions would be heard from the public. The public comment session included the following speakers:

Susan Campbell - 1208 Brookstown Avenue, Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Jo Anne Allen - PO Box 284, Winston-Salem, NC 27102
Phillip Carter - 1148 Fifth Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Secretary Russell moved and Member El-Amin seconded a motion to close the public comment session. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Raymond requested that the Board members review the minutes of the January 27, 2014 meeting. Secretary Russell moved and Member El-Amin seconded a motion to accept the Board minutes of January 17, 2014 as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Closed Session

Chairman Raymond suggested that the Board members go into closed session to discuss the appointment of the Interim Director position. Chairman Raymond stated the motion: I move that the Board go into closed session to consult with an attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged, under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3); and, to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, or condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee, under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). Member El-Amin moved and Secretary Russell seconded a motion for closed session. **Motion carried unanimously.** Board members went into closed session at 4:45 PM and left closed session at 5:35 PM.

Old Business

Chairman Raymond made several announcements regarding issues discussed during closed session.

Notice of Termination

The Board members approved a letter to be sent to Mr. Coffman that would officially establish his date of termination to be Thursday, February 6, 2014.

Letter to Ms. Wood

The Board members approved a letter in response to Ms. Wood concerning her involvement in the Tobaccoville recount situation.

Human Resources Authorization

The Board members authorized Human Resources to respond regarding matters of personnel issues.

Announcement, Interim Director Appointment

Secretary Russell announced that the Board members had decided to nominate Lamar Joyner for the Interim Director appointment to the State Board of Elections. When an interim director is needed in government bodies, a chain of command process is followed. Board members would be excited about all candidates, internal and external, for the Director position. All merits will be weighed in the process of selecting the new Director.

New Business

Primary Voting Hours and Locations

Chairman Raymond introduced the topic of the 2014 Primary Election Early Voting hours and locations schedule. New election law requires that the Early Voting period contain 137 hours in the Forsyth County schedule with one less week of voting. Chairman Raymond discussed four Early Voting schedule options that he had submitted. The Board of Elections and the two satellite locations of the Clemmons and Rural Hall Libraries were discussed as options for reasons of proximity and convenience for both political parties. The Board of Elections precinct, Precinct 404 - East Winston Heritage Center, is approximately a 10 to 1 ratio of Democrat to Republican voters. Chairman Raymond explained that the other locations would balance out this advantage to allow both political party sides the same proximity and convenience.

Secretary Russell confirmed that the Board of Elections was the only Early Voting location in the 2010 Primary. Mr. Joyner stated that more locations would increase the staff expense for Early Voting but could be provided by the county. The cost of each site would be approximately \$5000. He explained that the hours of the four options that were presented differ to some extent with the existing hours of the libraries. Member El-Amin stated that he would prefer to choose locations that would be more convenient to senior citizens and not to create a site to be politically astute.

Chairman Raymond questioned the urgency of a decision for the Early Voting schedule. Mr. Joyner stated that a decision on the locations could be made next week. Secretary Russell stated that if a final plan were not a unanimous decision, the majority plan would be submitted and the minority plan could be submitted individually. Mr. Joyner was advised to put all possible Early Voting locations on notice for their calendar schedule. Member El-Amin requested demographic statistics in an age category for the South, Northeast and Southeast Winston-Salem Wards to assist in the location selection. Chairman Raymond agreed that the Board members would meet on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 4:30 PM to agree on the Early Voting locations and hours.

Other Business

Member El-Amin moved and Secretary Russell seconded a motion to add the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to the meeting agendas. **Motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Joyner stated that a letter had been sent to the Town of Rural Hall and agreed to email it to the Board members.

Adjournment

Member El-Amin moved and Secretary Russell seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously** and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM. The next Board of Elections meeting was called for February 10, 2014 at 4:30 PM.

Approved:

_____	_____
Ken Raymond, Chair	Date
_____	_____
Stuart Russell, Secretary	Date
_____	_____
Fleming El-Amin, Member	Date

Attachments on File: 2014 Primary Hours and Locations schedule options