

MCINTOSH COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

January 8, 2024

BOARD MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Acting Chairman, Mary Fly, called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

INVOCATION: Mary Fly

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All Present

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Fly – SECRETARY and Acting Chairman, David Gardner, Michael Mock, Rhoda Stachur, Toniae Thomas, Doll Gale – ELECTION SUPERVISOR and Jason Nix,- ATTORNEY. Mrs. Fly recognized that there was a quorum.

Elections of New Officers: Nominations: Michael Mock nominated David Gardner for Chairman; Mary Fly seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous for Mr. Gardner. Rhoda Stachur nominated Toniae Thomas for Vice-Chairman; Michael Mock seconded; Mrs. Thomas was elected by a unanimous vote. Mary Fly was nominated for Secretary by Michael Mock; David Gardner seconded; Mrs. Fly was elected by a unanimous vote. Mr. Gardner then took his position as Chairman and continued with the meeting.

Public Participation: Linda Gravitt requested to speak. She will perform the poll watcher training for the Republican Party this year and will try to have enough people on hand for the full year's elections. She also extended appreciation for the help of Mrs. Gale in the past. Mrs. Gale will check with the state on the requirements of annual training.

Additions to and Approval of Agenda: Michael Mock made a motion to add an update on the website to the agenda; Mary Fly seconded. Toniae Thomas requested to add poll-worker training and election day security measures for election office staff; Michael Mock seconded. Both Motions Approved. Toniae Thomas then made a motion to approve the agenda with no further additions; Michael Mock seconded; motion approved.

Reading of Minutes/Approval: Michael Mock made a motion to forgo the public reading of the minutes as each member had a copy to read for themselves. Mrs. Thomas seconded the motion. Motion approved. Mary Fly mentioned a word that had been omitted. Mr. Mock made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4,

2023 workshop as written and the minutes of the December 4, 2023 Board Meeting with corrections. Mrs. Fly seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Unfinished Business: A. There was a discussion regarding the meaning of the word "incident" " to describe a situation at the polls. Mr. Mock offered to draft a definition of the word for the next meeting. Mrs. Thomas made a motion to have a workshop to complete this discussion but Mrs. Gale stated that right now with the upcoming election procedures the office would be too busy to do this. There was no second to the motion. Motion failed.

B. Mrs. Thomas made a motion to use the mission statement of the SOS office as our official mission statement. Mr. Mock seconded; motion approved. Mrs. Gale will supply each of the members a copy.

C. There was a discussion regarding state and local requirements for certification of Board Members. Jason Nix stated that the local Board requirement is for **every** member to be certified but doesn't know if a certain time period is stated. Mary Fly quoted OCGA 21-2-70(14) and 21-2-101!a) which requires every superintendent to pass an approved SOS certification program within six months following their appointment. Mrs. Gale will send certification information to each of the new Board Members.

New Business: A. Mr. Mock presented a proposal to change regular meeting dates for each of the last five months of the year as his schedule will not allow him to meet on the regularly set dates. The group went through each month as the meeting date is required to be published well in advance of each public meeting.

February 12 No change

March 11 Mrs. Gale proposed to move the meeting date to **Friday, March 15th** and combine it with the certification meeting and omit the need for two meetings. The meeting will be held on the 15th at **4PM**.

April 8 No change

May 13 No change

June 10 No change

July 8 No change

August 12 No change. Mr. Mock made a motion to change the date to the 5th; Mr. Gardner seconded. Mrs. Thomas objected stating that we should only change meeting dates for elections or training conflicts. Motion denied.

September 9 No change Mr. Mock had requested September 2, which is a legal Holiday – Labor Day. Mr. Gardner made a motion to keep the meeting scheduled for September 9th. Mrs. Thomas seconded. Motion approved.

October 14 Changed to **October 7th**. Mr. Mock made a motion to move the meeting to the first Monday of the month, to accommodate his work schedule; Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. Mrs. Gale pointed out that early voting begins on October 14th. Motion approved.

November 11 Changed to **November 8th**. Mr. Mock had proposed either the 4th or the 18th for the meeting date. Mrs. Thomas made a motion to move the meeting to Friday, **November 8th at 4PM** to combine that meeting with the certification meeting for the November 5th election.

December 9 No change currently. David Gardner made a motion to change the meeting to Mr. Mock's proposed date of December 16th. Mr. Mock seconded. Motion denied. Mrs. Thomas made a motion to table this meeting date until we know about a run-off from the November elections. Mrs. Stachur seconded. After discussion the motion to table this meeting date for a period of six months and to put it on Old Business at that time was approved. Mrs. Gale will go ahead and publish the first six months schedule (through June).

B. Mr. Mock requested an update on the status of the website. He would like to have the meeting agenda posted on the website. Mrs. Gale has not included that document yet (it is always posted in the office) but will in the future. Mr. Mock made a motion to move this item to next month; David Gardner seconded the motion; motion Approved.

C. Mrs. Thomas asked if the poll worker training was completed for the March 12 election. Mrs. Gale stated that it is not complete yet. She has 25 poll workers on her current list to train before early voting starts and the school has promised to send their list of approved students eligible for the program this week.

D. Mrs. Thomas asked what security measures were in place for the polls on election day. Mrs. Gale stated that had a meeting with George Trexler asking for closing coverage at each poll. Mrs. Thomas asked if each poll should have drill exercises prior to the elections. Mrs. Gale responded that because every security issue can be so different it might be better to discuss during training.

REPORTS:

Supervisor: Mrs. Gale handed out the state's schedule of elections for 2024. Early voting will be conducted in this office the three weeks prior to each election with two additional Saturdays during the first two weeks and no Sunday early voting will be scheduled. The Republican Party has decided to handle the qualifying of their candidates this election. Mrs. Gale reminded the Board that qualifying for the upcoming May 21st primary election must be advertised in advance and will be conducted only from 9-5 Monday through Thursday, March 4th through 7th, and Friday, March 8th, 9am to noon. [Completed paperwork must be turned in to this office by 2pm Friday, March

8th. The Board of Commissioners set the qualifying fees this week, which must be advertised by January 25th]. The Democratic Party has not determined whether they will conduct qualifying for their party. Mrs. Gale will need this information as soon as possible to meet the advertising deadlines.

It was decided to set up an orientation meeting with David Gardner and Rhoda Stachur for Wednesday, January 10th in this office at 4pm.

Mrs. Gale made up a voter education guide, handing it out to Board Members and asking them to look it over and discuss ways to disseminate it to voters. A decision was made to table this item until next meeting and members can bring comments.

Chairman: Mr. Gardner had no comments at this time.

Attorney: Mr. Nix had no comments at this time. He had received an Open Records request from Muckrock but no response was needed because the items did not apply and no response was made.

NEXT BOARD MEETING Monday, February 12, 2024 AT 6:00 PM at the office.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS:

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by **Mary Fly** and seconded by **Toniae Thomas**. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:36 PM.

DAVID GARDNER, CHAIRMAN

MARY FLY, SECRETARY