

Sumter County Board of Elections Meeting

Aug 25, 2020 at 4:30 pm

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Gaston at 4:30 pm.

II. Roll Call

a) Board Members Present: Chairman James Gaston, Vice-Chairman Dr. Shirley Latimore, Rhonda Reddick, and Carson Walker. Marty McDonald joined the meeting via telephone.

b) County Attorney Present: Kimberly Reid

c) Staff: BOE Superintendent Randy Howard, and Lois Phillips

III. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Carson Walker moved to accept the agenda.

Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

IV. Discussion of the School Board Elections and Candidates

a) Candidates Who Are Qualified

Randy Howard presented information regarding the Sumter County Board of Education Special Election to elect Members, and a list of the Qualifying Candidates. He also included maps showing all of the Board of Education Districts and roads that are within each district.

b) Candidates Who Have Withdrawn

Randy Howard presented information on the one candidate who has withdrawn (Dr. Deo Coley-Cochran Sherrod).

c) Candidates Who May Possibly Be Disqualified Discussion

Randy Howard also included the information from a Court Order affecting District 6.

A discussion followed among the board members and county attorney.

Attorney Kim Reid stated that in accordance with Georgia Law, O.C.G.A § 21-2-132, that the candidate must reside within the district that he is representing.

Randy Howard verified that the candidate (Dr. Michael Busman) does not live in District 6.

Attorney Reid stated that the court order does not change the general Georgia Law about residency.

Dr. Shirley Latimore made a motion to reject his application for qualification for District 6 due to the fact that he does not qualify for that particular district.

Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion.

Motion was passed 3 to 1.

d) Reimbursement of Qualifying Fee Approval

Randy Howard requested permission to request reimbursement for the two candidates that have withdrawn and been disqualified (Dr. Deo Coley-Cochran Sherrod and Dr. Michael Busman).

Dr. Shirley Latimore made a motion to reimburse the candidates who did not qualify or who have withdrawn from the election.

Seconded by Carson Walker.

Motion carried.

Kimberly Reid advised that there needs to be consistency with reimbursements in future elections where candidates withdraw or are disqualified.

V. Discussion of Precincts Update for Ballots and Voting

Randy Howard presented an informational update on the mapping and assigning of precinct combos for Sumter County. Also, a list of addresses within each district is being prepared.

Discussion followed.

VI. Absentee Ballots Discussion

Randy Howard spoke of the Absentee Ballot procedure. Requested Absentee Ballots should start to be mailed out in mid-September.

Discussion followed.

Randy Howard also spoke of poll workers and the upcoming training for them.

VII. Executive Session

No executive session.

VIII. Board Members Comments

Dr. Shirley Latimore encouraged anyone that may have questions or concerns to call the office. We are here to be transparent and to help the citizens of Sumter County. We are working to make it better for you as voters of Sumter County.

IX. Adjourn

James Gaston welcomed the visitors, and invited comments.

Eddie Bronner – If someone collects ballots from elderly citizens (and the citizen's legal signature is on the envelope), can they bring those ballots in? That used to be an issue.

Randy Howard spoke of it as still being an issue of potential ballot harvesting.

Dr. Shirley Latimore suggests that people vote early, so it's not rushed to get the ballot back to the Elections Office.

James Gaston commented on a phone call he received, and the person wanted him to know how much they appreciated the great job that Mr. Howard is doing. Mr. Howard responded that he appreciates that, but it's really a "we" job, and he can't do it without everyone here.

Carson Walker moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Dr. Shirley Latimore and Rhonda Reddick jointly seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Phillips

August 27, 2020