

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2022
*via zoom platform
Start Time: 4:30 p.m.
End Time: 6:05 p.m.

Board Attendees: Chair Dele Lowman Smith
Vice-Chair Nancy Jester
Anthony Lewis
Susan Motter
Karli Swift

Other Attendees: Twyla Hart, Interim Director
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Shelley Momo, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Irene Vander Els, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Tristen Waite, Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Motion by Ms. Swift and seconded by Mr. Lewis to approve the agenda. Ms. Smith asked items C and D be switched to A and B under Items for Discussion. No members opposed. Motion to approve the agenda as modified carries by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) December 6
- B) December 17 Special Called Meeting
- C) January 7 Special Called Meeting

Motion by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Ms. Motter to approve the minutes from past meetings. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A staff member read the rules for public comment.

Public comments of two minutes or less may be made live via the teleconference. For those joining the meeting by telephone, please be aware that your phone number may be displayed to the public viewing or participating in the online meeting. Citizens who attend the meeting via the Zoom link above may join the public comment queue by raising their hand in the Zoom application, while citizens who attend the meeting via telephone may join the comment queue by pressing # followed by 2. There will be no comment cards, so when you are called upon, please state your name and address for the record. Also, please be conscious of speaking time so that everyone has an opportunity to provide input in the allotted time. Abusive, profane, or derogatory language will not be permitted.

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No comments from the public.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Terry briefly discussed the budget and changes to Board of Commissioners committee assignments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Jester and seconded by Ms. Motter to enter executive session to discuss personnel. Motion carries by unanimous vote. Motion by Ms. Jester and seconded by Ms. Motter to adjourn executive session and reconvene this meeting. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

No action was taken during executive session.

ITEMS FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD

A) Appointment of an Executive Director

Motion by Ms. Swift and seconded by Ms. Jester that the Board of Registration and Elections appoint Keisha L. Smith as the Executive Director of the DeKalb County Department of Voter Registration and Elections (which position is also known as elections supervisor under some applicable laws), effective on February 14, 2022, with specific terms and conditions of employment for a three year term to be determined prior to the effective date of the appointment, in accordance with applicable laws and policies. Chairperson Dele Lowman Smith is authorized to finalize and sign Ms. Smith's employment agreement, in a form approved by the County Attorney or her designee, on behalf of the Board. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

B) Revision of Bylaws

Motion by Ms. Motter and seconded by Ms. Jester and Ms. Swift to approve and adopt the amended bylaws of this body. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

C) Confirmation of Previously Temporary Precinct Locations

Several precincts were temporarily changed during the 2020 election cycle and remained in place thereafter. Ms. Hart proposed the following precinct changes be made permanent: see attachment A.

Motion by Ms. Motter and seconded by Ms. Swift to approve the permanent polling place changes, as recommended by Ms. Hart, subject to completion of notice requirements to the public. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

D) Advance Voting Locations for the May 24 General Primary

Ms. Hart proposed the advanced voting locations be considered for approval as follows:

- Voter Registration & Elections Office (two locations)
- Georgia State at Panthersville (to replace South DeKalb Mall)
- Dunwoody Library
- County Line Library in Ellenwood
- Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library
- Stonecrest (Sam's Club Building)
- Bessie Branham Recreation Center in Atlanta

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- Briarwood Recreation Center in Brookhaven
- North DeKalb Senior Center in Chamblee
- Decatur (location TBD)
- Berean Christian Church in Stone Mountain

Ms. Swift requested a map and an analysis of the equitable distribution of these locations. Also, Ms. Swift is interested in adding more locations to this list.

Ms. Motter followed-up on the Emory location at Northlake Mall, which is a reserved location and asked if there are any options for reserved locations in the southern part of the county. Ms. Hart believes the south is covered with a location at Georgia State, Stonecrest, and Ellenwood Library.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Burton shared the announcement for Ms. Keisha Smith's appointment as Executive Director was released. Mr. Burton will work with Director Smith and Ms. Hart to develop a stakeholder engagement plan as the department transitions and prepares for redistricting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Hart provided an update on the redistricting process. Staff is reviewing maps and following-up with the GIS Department while awaiting approval of proposed maps. The department has not received maps for reapportionment or the school districts from the Secretary of State.

Ms. Hart informed the Board the department was notified there will be a change to the state's voter registration system in March 2022. About 33,000 confirmation notices have been mailed and all past due items have been paid.

Ms. Motter asked if updated registration cards will be mailed to voters following redistricting. Ms. Hart confirmed roughly \$250,000 has been budgeted to accomplish this task. February 18, 2022 is the target date to complete redistricting and then the Secretary of the State will order new precinct cards. Voters can expect a registration card early spring.

Ms. Smith expressed concerns about meeting the February 18 deadline given that the department does not have the maps. Ms. Hart and staff will meet on Tuesday to discuss strategy for meeting the deadline and will follow-up with the Board afterwards.

BOARD COMMENTS

All of the board members thanked Ms. Hart for her hard work as Interim Director. Board members also thanked department staff and the county attorneys.

The Board especially thanked Mr. Matelski for all his help with the interview process and conducting board meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Jester and seconded by Ms. Swift to adjourn. This meeting is adjourned.

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Attachment A: Proposed Polling Place Changes

Precinct Name	Proposed New Location	Precinct Name	Proposed New Location
Ashford Parkside (BHAVN)	Montgomery Elementary School 3995 Ashford Dunwoody Road Brookhaven 30319	Midvale Road	Henderson Mill Elementary 2408 Henderson Mill Rd., NE Atlanta 30345
Bouldercrest Road	Obama Elementary School 3132 Clifton Church Rd., SE Atlanta 30316	Mt. Vernon West (DUN)	Dunwoody High School 5035 Vermack Road Dunwoody 30338
Clairemont East (DEC)	Decatur Recreation Department 231 Sycamore Street Decatur 30030	North Decatur	International Community School 2418 Wood Trail Lane Decatur 30033
Coralwood	Briarlake Elementary School 3590 LaVista Road Decatur 30033	Rehoboth	Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church 3142 Lawrenceville Highway Tucker 30084
Embry Hills	Evansdale Elementary School 2914 Evans Woods Dr. Doraville 30340	Rock Chapel Road	Princeton Elementary School 1321 S Deshon Road Lithonia 30058
Flakes Mill Fire Station	County Line – Ellenwood Library 4331 River Road Ellenwood 30294	Scott	International Community School 2418 Wood Trail Lane Decatur 30033
Georgetown Square (DUN)	Peachtree Middle School 4664 North Peachtree Road Dunwoody 30338	Silver Lake (BHAVEN)	Ashford Park Elementary 2968 Cravenridge Drive NE Brookhaven 30319
Glenwood (DEC)	Decatur Recreation Department 231 Sycamore Street Decatur 30030	Skyland (ATL)	John Lewis Elementary 2630 Skyland Drive Atlanta 30319
Gresham Road	Obama Elementary School 3132 Clifton Church Rd., SE Atlanta 30316	Stonecrest Library	City of Stonecrest Annex 2929 Turner Hill Road Lithonia 30038
Henderson Mill	Henderson Mill Elementary 2408 Henderson Mill Rd., NE Atlanta 30345	Winnona Park (DEC)	Decatur Legacy Park Cochran Bldg. 500 S Columbia Drive Decatur 30030
Lin Mary Lin Elem (ATL)	Neighborhood Church 1561 McLendon Ave., NE Atlanta 30307		

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