

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
280 EAST BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
(614) 462-3100

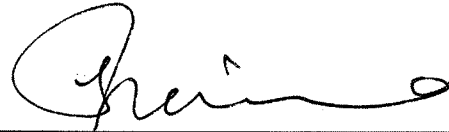
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON

8-4-08

APPROVED ON

9-8-08

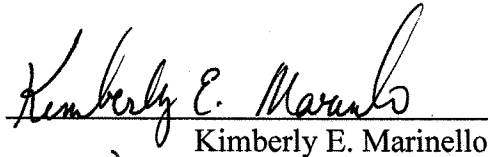
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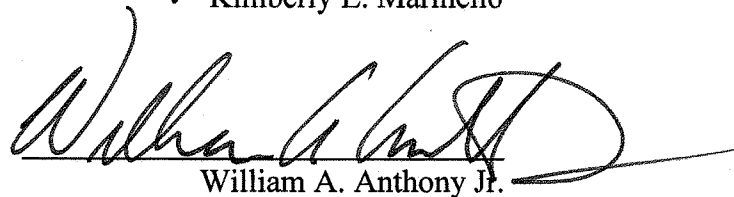
Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman



Michael F. Colley, Esq.



Kimberly E. Marinello



William A. Anthony Jr.

ATTEST:



Michael Stinziano, Director

1 BEFORE THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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3 IN RE: :

4 Board Meeting :

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6 Proceedings before Chairman Douglas J.
7 Preisse, Board Member William A. Anthony, Jr,
8 Board Member Michael F. Colley and Board Member
9 Kimberly E. Marinello, taken at Franklin County
10 Board of Elections, 280 East Broad Street, Room
11 100, Columbus, Ohio on Monday, August 4, 2008, at
12 2:45 o'clock p.m.

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney
3 373 South High Street
4 13th Floor
5 Columbus, Ohio 43215
6 By Mr. Anthony E. Palmer, Jr.,
7 Assistant County Prosecutor
8 and
9 Mr. Nick A. Soulas,
10 First Assistant,
11
12 On behalf of the Board of Elections.

13 ALSO PRESENT:

14
15 Mr. Michael Stinziano, Director
16 Mr. Matthew M. Damschroder, Deputy Director
17 Ms. Suzanne Brown
18 Mr. Eric C. Nickolas, Field Rep
19 Mr. Ben Piscitelli, Public Information
20 Officer
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P R O C E E D I N G S
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Call this meeting of the Board of Elections to order. We'll have a roll call vote.

Mr. Colley?

BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER:
Mr. Anthony?

BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Ms.
Marinello?

BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: And
Chairman Preisse?

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All members are present. The first item on the agenda is the approval of minutes.

BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I move the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on July 7th, 2008 be approved as submitted.

BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Second.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All in
2 favor, say "aye."

3 (Board votes aye unanimously.)

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Motion
5 carries. And I'll send the sheet down the row, if
6 you could all sign, and the Director will witness.

7 And the next item on the agenda is to
8 establish dates and times for in-person absentee
9 and provisional voting at Vets Memorial.

10 Secretary of State Directive 2008-50
11 requires that the minimum hours that the alternate
12 voting location be open for voting must be at
13 least equal to the same hours that the Board's
14 main offices are open.

15 And so the first motion, in my view,
16 needs to be to adopt the minimum standards of the
17 Secretary of State and have Monday through Friday
18 8:00 to 5:00 at Vets.

19 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chair?

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Mm-hmm.

21 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: If we set the
22 minimum standards, does that mean we will be
23 prohibited from coming back in and extending the
24 hours?

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Are you asking me or
2 our professional staff?

3 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I'm asking our
4 professional staff, sir. Excuse me.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think
6 the only requirement, from the directive, is that
7 we advertise or post the hours at least 50 days --
8 I think that's what the directive said -- 50 days
9 before election day.

10 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Because what I
11 would like to see -- and I don't know if this is
12 the right time to open up the discussion on it,
13 but I would like to see us open a little bit past
14 the normal quit time to allow folks an opportunity
15 to vote after work, and I would also like to see
16 us open on the weekends.

17 And I've had a conversation with the
18 County Commissioners, and we had talked about
19 trying to get an idea of what that would cost to
20 stay open those additional hours.

21 Do we still have time to kind of mull
22 this around, or are our backs up against the wall
23 at this point?

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think,

1 from my view, we have a little bit of time.

2 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: But not a lot?

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: But not
4 much.

5 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yeah, that's
6 what I thought.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think
8 the key is if the Board wants to be able to
9 provide the notice to all the voters of the times
10 through the 60-day mailing, then we probably need
11 to know pretty soon.

12 Because the vendor's probably going to
13 want to start printing those here next week to get
14 them ready, you know, to get 650,000 pieces
15 printed and processed to be mailed on September
16 6th.

17 But there's no requirement for the
18 Board to include information about the in-person
19 voting location as a part of that 60-day mailing,
20 so we could choose to post the information through
21 some other method; our web site, et cetera.

22 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Sure would be
23 nice to have it on there though, wouldn't it?

24 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yeah, I think it

1 would be.

2 How late are other polling locations
3 staying open; do we have any idea?

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I'm
5 sorry?

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: You mean other
7 counties?

8 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Do you know what
9 other counties are doing, particularly large
10 counties?

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I do not.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What are the large
13 counties doing, he asked. I'm just -- so you can
14 hear what he said.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: All right.
16 Maybe our rep would know. Eric?

17 MR. NICKOLAS: I can find out if
18 Cuyahoga or Hamilton County is -- you're speaking
19 of those large counties?

20 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yeah, Hamilton,
21 Cuyahoga.

22 MR. NICKOLAS: What their plans are?

23 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I would just
24 kind of like to know what folks are thinking

1 about. Do you know if the Secretary of State has
2 made any indication that folks are to stay open
3 later if they have the funds to do it?

4 MR. NICKOLAS: I haven't seen anything
5 yet, but I can find out.

6 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Okay. I'm not
7 trying to throw a wrench in all this.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: No,
9 that's fine.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: How about a shoe?

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: A shoe, yeah, a
12 good shoe.

13 But you see what my concerns are, is
14 that I think we ought to be open past five
15 o'clock. Only because people get off at 5:00, and
16 if you want them to come vote, it would be much
17 easier to go to Vets after 5:00. Of course on the
18 lunch hour too, but just to have that available.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: As I recall, we did
20 vote relatively late in the cycle to extend hours,
21 Saturday hours. Was it Saturday hours or was it
22 weekday hours last --

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It was
24 the Monday hours right before the election.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Monday hours.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We met on
3 Sunday and extended the hours on Monday. And that
4 ended up proving somewhat problematic, because
5 we -- I think we made the right decision. I think
6 we extended hours to 7:00 p.m. or 9:00 p.m., do
7 you remember, the primary?

8 MR. NICKOLAS: I think it was 9:00.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: 9:00 p.m.
10 Which meant anybody in line at 9:00 p.m., we
11 allowed them to go through the line and be able to
12 vote, which means our staff left here the night
13 before the election a little after midnight,
14 by the time we got the last voters through and
15 closed everything down.

16 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: That was in
17 March or April?

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: That was
19 in March for this year's primary.

20 So anticipating the same kind of, if
21 not greater, demand for in-person absentee voting,
22 particularly that last day, my view is that it's
23 going to be important to make sure that we have
24 hours that both accommodate the public, but also

1 accommodate staff requirements; because we're
2 going to have to close those machines that are for
3 in-person absentee voting, switch the terminals
4 out so we can use those booths on election day to
5 maximize the number of voting booths in the
6 precincts election day.

7 So I think as we look at weekend
8 voting, we have, in the past, been open for
9 in-person absentee voting on Saturdays, usually
10 the last couple Saturdays of the 35-day period.
11 We have not ever in the past been open on a
12 Sunday.

13 And as you all know, there's a lot of
14 other tasks involved in running the election that
15 we would be otherwise planning staff to do during
16 those days.

17 So to pull existing staff out on that
18 Sunday to go to Vets to process voters, we'd then
19 have to supplement that staff for the tasks here
20 the separating of the ballots from the ID
21 envelopes, the tearing of the stubs from the
22 ballots, all those kinds of things. So all of
23 those would have human resources, as well as
24 physical impacts.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Which is wholly
2 satisfactory to you, right?

3 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yeah. Well, you
4 know what my concerns are. I would like to see us
5 open as late as we could possibly be open, and I
6 would like to see us open on the weekends during
7 this early voting period to be able to allow
8 enough folks to get out and vote.

9 What I would like to see, maybe, is --
10 I know I've had a conversation with one of the
11 Commissioners, and, you know, there was some
12 concern about the cost of that, but there was also
13 a concern that it would be a good thing to do if
14 the costs are not that great.

15 So what I would like to see is what
16 that would cost; I mean, just some idea of what
17 those costs are if we stay open two hours, seven
18 o'clock every evening, and maybe a half a day on
19 the first couple weekends, and the last couple
20 weekends stay open 8:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and
21 Sunday. That's just my two cents worth.

22 So, I mean, I would feel more
23 comfortable taking a look at some numbers and
24 then -- when is our next board meeting?

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We have a
2 public hearing scheduled for --

3 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: The 14th?

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: -- the
5 14th, which is an evening. At this time, the only
6 planned purpose for that meeting was to accept
7 public comment on the voting machine allegation
8 plan.

9 It's sufficiently early that we can
10 supplement that agenda and provide the appropriate
11 public notification if we want to add items to
12 that agenda.

13 We also have to meet no later than
14 August 28th to certify questions and issues to the
15 ballot. And I know there's some travel schedules
16 with some members in that last week of August and
17 first week of September that we'll have to work
18 around to make sure we have a quorum.

19 But, again, I think it's important the
20 sooner we act on this, the better, so that we have
21 appropriate public notification of the times and
22 days.

23 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Well -- go
24 ahead. I'm sorry, sir.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So functionally
2 looking at the -- you had referenced at the
3 beginning of this exchange, the printer's initial
4 activity, even as early as next week, for
5 preparing for this September --

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: September
7 6th mailing.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: -- 6th mailing.
9 Well, are we hearing a request from you,
10 Mr. Anthony, or what are we hearing?

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yes, sir, that's
12 what you're hearing. I guess what I'm requesting
13 is that we don't set the date yet -- I mean the
14 times yet. I mean, I understand we can come back
15 and change it, you know, to extended hours.

16 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Until you find
17 out how much it's going to cost?

18 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yeah, or just
19 have some idea of what that is. I mean, I
20 understand we need to do that, but if we come with
21 an extended, can we just do it all at one time, or
22 is that --

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: In my short tenure,
24 we have precedent in terms of coming in later and

1 amending and extending hours.

2 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Okay.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I don't know any
4 reason we couldn't do that again.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think
6 so long as it's done outside of the 50-day window
7 before the election. I think this thing with the
8 directive that establishes a drop-dead date, that
9 we can go back and amend any decision of this
10 Board to have in-person voting hours.

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I could agree
12 with that. I would like to see them extended,
13 after we take a look at what the costs are. But I
14 could agree to the minimum hours that the
15 Secretary of State requires it to be open, but I
16 wouldn't want to talk about the weekends and all
17 that until we get some numbers. Is that fair
18 enough?

19 I mean, I don't want to dominate this
20 floor, be the one that's -- what did you say, put
21 that shoe in there?

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Shoe, several times.

23 Okay. Well, it would seem that maybe
24 we could get -- I think I'm hearing you say we can

1 head in the general direction of establishing
2 hours here by addressing the minimal requirement
3 and returning to the issue as to weekend hours
4 when we've taken a look at the additional costs,
5 staff and otherwise, that may be incurred by
6 extending hours.

7 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yes, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Which, I believe,
9 would mean we can still properly revert to the
10 first suggested order of business.

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yes, sir.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: So it
13 would be in order for -- we'll do just the one
14 resolution for the minimum hours of Monday through
15 Friday from 8:00 to 5:00.

16 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Do we need a
17 motion?

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We do.

19 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Mr. Chairman,
20 consistent with the minimum requirements of SOS
21 Directive 2008-50, I move that the Board establish
22 weekday hours of operation for in-person voting at
23 Veterans Memorial from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
24 Monday through Friday, beginning September 30th

1 and ending November 3, 2008.

2 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All those
4 in favor, say "aye."

5 (Board votes aye unanimously.)

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The
7 motion carries.

8 And I think the Director and I will go
9 back and we'll work up some numbers with Brenna
10 Umbstaetter and Todd Wedican and come back at the
11 next meeting, perhaps the 18th -- I'm sorry,
12 Wednesday the 14th --

13 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: The 14th, yeah.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: -- and
15 present those numbers at that time.

16 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I certainly
17 appreciate you guys doing that.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: No
19 problem.

20 The next item is the 60-day mailing.
21 We had six responses with quotes for printing.
22 DDP -- which I don't know exactly what DDP stands
23 for, it's a printing company in southern Delaware
24 County -- had the lowest price for printing.

1 And the prices ranged from there all
2 the way up to about \$160,000 from Dayton Legal
3 Blanks. So staff recommendation is to select DDP
4 to provide the printing and mail-house services
5 for the 60-day mailing.

6 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Why are they so
7 low?

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: From my
9 understanding, my brief conversation with them
10 this morning, they do direct-mail printing almost
11 exclusively, and so this fits right into their
12 niche.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And driving it over
14 from Dayton, with gas costs, adds 50 percent.

15 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Yeah, that's
16 probably it.

17 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Makes you
18 wonder, doesn't it?

19 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Do we know what
20 DDP is?

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It's a
22 printing company. I do not know what the initials
23 stand for.

24 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Is that knowable?

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It is
2 knowable, yes.

3 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: How do we
4 discover that?

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We send
6 Suzanne to her office to get the letterhead and
7 see if it has what DDP stands for on it.

8 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: I suggest that
9 that would be good.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All
11 right.

12 MS. BROWN: Do they have that?

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think
14 it's on their letterhead.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Or they might have a
16 web site.

17 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Hope it
18 doesn't stand for "Don't Do Printing."

19 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: That would be a
20 problem.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: If you
22 like, we can move to the next part of the
23 agenda.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I think that maybe

1 there's no reason not to sort of pass by that
2 issue and move onto the next.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The next
4 item is to discuss the issue of the length of
5 ballot language for the general election.

6 As you know from the report submitted
7 to the Board last week by our consultants who are
8 helping us with voting machine allocation, both
9 the number of issues that appears on the ballot as
10 well as the length of those issues, specifically
11 in terms of how long it takes a voter to read the
12 issue before voting, has a direct impact obviously
13 on the time it takes the voter to vote, which then
14 also has an impact on the time it takes each
15 additional voter to vote because of the waiting
16 times.

17 It's staff recommendation that we do
18 everything we can to minimize both voting times
19 and waiting times this fall.

20 And Ohio law allows a Board of
21 Elections to present condensed language for local
22 questions and issues to the voter on the ballot,
23 it's 350506E. And it's our recommendation that we
24 make a motion or that we adopt a plan to do that,

1 and the plan is attached in your packets.

2 Basically we would adopt a maximum
3 number of characters for the ballot language, and
4 the recommendation is 600 characters per question,
5 not including the title of the question and not
6 including the response -- for the levy, against
7 the levy -- and not including spaces.

8 So that the Board doesn't get in the
9 business of wordsmithing, if this policy is
10 adopted, the school districts, municipalities,
11 what have you, submitting local questions and
12 issues to the Board would have until 4 p.m. the
13 69th day before the election to submit their
14 condensed text to us --

15 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: We're trying to
16 find out what DDP stands for. This doesn't
17 help.

18 MS. BROWN: No, it doesn't.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: -- and
20 then the Board would adopt it sometime after the
21 28th, or on the 28th if we meet on the 28th.

22 We would also allow opportunities for
23 appeals after that. If the Board ended up having
24 to draft language or if an entity didn't like --

1 if a voter, for instance, didn't like the language
2 that the schools were submitting, we could appeal
3 that process.

4 So I look at it from the standpoint of
5 doing everything we possibly can do to make sure
6 that we mitigate voter waiting times on election
7 day, and I think there is this opportunity in Ohio
8 law to be able to do that by reducing the text
9 that voters have to face on election day.

10 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Sounds useful.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Doing my
12 best.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What do you think?

14 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I like the
15 concept. What happens if, let's say, they don't
16 like -- or they can't condense it or they can't
17 get it within that 600 words, the intent of
18 whatever it is, what happens then?

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: My view
20 would be that the Board could then assist them and
21 help cut the language down further. The Board
22 could then also conceivably amend its policy at
23 some point, you know, if an entity, for instance,
24 couldn't -- was at 601 characters, my guess would

1 be it would be within the Board's prerogative or
2 purview at some point to adjust the cap.

3 But I think based on what little I did
4 adjusting words and characters, in my personal
5 view, it's not difficult to get an issue down to
6 even much smaller than this and still be an
7 accurate representation, again in my view, of the
8 questions certified by the jurisdiction.

9 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: And the question
10 is, looking at our legal guy over there -- and I
11 know you gave the Revised Code for that -- what
12 standard do we have, and could we
13 withstand somebody challenges us and says,
14 "Listen, we need 750, 1,000 words because we can't
15 explain what this levy is." Do we have -- I know
16 you read the language to us, the Revised Code, but
17 how much -- I guess, are we on good footing or
18 good ground to do this?

19 MR. PALMER: Well, it is not uncommon
20 to do this. It all depends on how well it's
21 drafted, obviously. And not to be facetious, but
22 it can be accomplished, and we can withstand the
23 challenge.

24 Keep in mind it's a multiple process,

1 multiple approval process. Not only do we work
2 with staff in trying to come up with a language
3 that's acceptable to the local taxing authorities,
4 but then it comes to this Board and then
5 ultimately goes to the Secretary of State who will
6 ultimately review the language. So there are many
7 steps in the process, in terms of review.

8 I can't guarantee it would be perfect,
9 but certainly there are enough people looking at
10 it that hopefully it will all be figured out
11 by the time the ballots are printed.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We have the
13 authority to condense. We are adding to the
14 process in what would appear to be a cooperative,
15 inclusive way, where the folks placing issues on
16 the ballot are the ones empowered under this plan
17 to come up with the condensed language, right?

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER:
19 Correct.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So that's not
21 statute, but it's not contrary to our statutory
22 authorities; is that right?

23 MR. PALMER: Correct.

24 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: And then you

1 said Secretary then gets final approval. Is that
2 the way that works?

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: State and the local.

5 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Well, I think it
6 makes a lot of sense, because we saw in the 2004
7 election -- we had eight?

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Eight
9 Columbus issues.

10 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: We had eight
11 Columbus issues, and they were long, if I recall.
12 And they were taped on the sides of the machines,
13 if I recall, right?

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Right.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: The whole
16 language and everything. Have we talked to the
17 Mayor's folks about this?

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We had a
19 meeting a week ago Friday --

20 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: And I missed it,
21 right.

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: -- with
23 Mike Sexton from the Mayor's office. Obviously
24 this policy would apply to all local questions and

1 issues, not just the City of Columbus bond issues.

2 It would apply to suburban school
3 districts, Gahanna charter amendments, whatever
4 there would be. But the Mayor's office is looking
5 at it, and -- the Mayor's office is looking at
6 it.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Mayor's office is
8 looking at it.

9 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Now, we won't
10 get the -- all right.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: My
12 initial proposal to Mr. Sexton was much more
13 draconian than the current proposal. I was
14 encouraging a cap of 75 words.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: That would never
16 work, huh? A good politician needs more than 75
17 words to get stuff out.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: So I
19 think the character route -- Director Stinziano
20 and I talked about it Friday, and he suggested
21 going with characters as opposed to words, because
22 we then don't get into the business of judging
23 whether short words, "and", "the" --

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What "is" is.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Exactly.

2 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: You can take out
3 all the "the's", right?

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: That was
5 a wise recommendation that I concurred with him
6 in.

7 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Do you think
8 that this would run contrary to -- do you think it
9 would get shot down? I mean, if we did this -- I
10 mean, I understand the reason why we need to do
11 it, I totally understand the reason, and I'm in
12 total agreement, and I like the concept, and I'm
13 willing vote in favor of it.

14 The concern is that if we do this and
15 then none of these folks like it, Mayor's folks
16 may not like it, who knows whoever else may not
17 like it, and then we find ourselves with the
18 Secretary of State having some concerns about are
19 we stepping on some kind of line that shouldn't be
20 crossing. That's a concern.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: And it's
22 a very legitimate concern. I think at the end of
23 the day, this Board and its professional staff
24 would be measured by two things: one is its

1 adherence to election laws, and second being its
2 success, its administrative success on election
3 day.

4 And I think that will be measured
5 by the voters by whether or not they have to wait
6 in line again.

7 And I think it's incumbent upon us to
8 do everything we can, whether or not every entity
9 concurs with the action or the result of the
10 action. I think its incumbent upon us to do
11 everything we can to make sure that voting waiting
12 time is not what voters experienced in 2004.

13 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Good argument.
14 Can't argue with that.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: It's one more effort
16 to streamline the voting process.

17 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Hopefully.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE. Hopefully. That's
19 how we see it.

20 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: We could post the
21 language of the full text at the polling
22 locations, as well, so it's available in the
23 precincts, just not when they go to the actual
24 machines, that's when it will be condensed. But

1 it can be available, if there's that concern.

2 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Because I know
3 during 2004, we actually passed out the actual
4 language while folks were waiting in line, and if
5 they wanted to read it, they could. I'm not sure
6 how many people took advantage of that, but it was
7 available. I do remember doing it.

8 Those are just my concerns. I have a
9 lot of concerns at this meeting, don't I?

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Now's a
11 good time to raise those, instead of later.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What do you think,
13 Ms. Marinello?

14 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I would like
15 to move that the Board adopt the plan to condense
16 ballot language submitted by the Director and
17 Deputy Director.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, you can second
19 that, if you wish. Ms. Marinello has moved the
20 condensation plan. I think we've had a fruitful
21 discussion.

22 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Mr. Chair, I
23 second that motion.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Very well.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All in
2 favor, say "aye."

3 (Board votes aye unanimously.)

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Motion
5 carries.

6 Before we move on to the last item,
7 let's go back to the 60-day mailing and get action
8 on that.

9 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: We now know what
10 DDP means, Delaware Data Products.

11 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Okay.

12 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Oh, okay.

13 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: So I move that
14 the Board select Delaware Data Products as the
15 lowest and best respondent for the printing and
16 processing of the 60-day mailing.

17 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All those
19 in favor, say "aye."

20 (Board votes aye unanimously.)

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Great.

22 And then the last item that we have on
23 the official agenda is a discussion about voting
24 in public schools on election day. And this is

1 something that may be better off discussed today,
2 as opposed to acted on today.

3 But in talking with Harold Fielder who
4 manages our warehouse operation and voting
5 locations, we share a concern about the competing
6 public purposes of voting on election day in
7 schools while school is going on.

8 Some have raised the concern about
9 student safety, that schools are -- election day
10 is the only day of the year many public schools
11 and private schools throw open their doors and let
12 anybody come in.

13 But I think the issue that our Board
14 has to be concerned with, even above that, is the
15 issue that the schools are not built for the
16 students and faculty and for 1,000 visitors on
17 election day, in terms of parking facilities and
18 just physical capacity of hallways and things like
19 that.

20 Also when the school's going on, we
21 often do not -- even though the law says that the
22 Board of Elections can go in and essentially
23 commandeer the space that we deem to be sufficient
24 for voting, we often cooperate with the school,

1 which means instead of either being in a gymnasium
2 or a multipurpose room, we're in a hallway or a
3 small portion of the library.

4 And an election year like this, when
5 the Secretary of State estimates that turnout
6 could be as high as 80 percent, which is higher
7 than we had in 2004, we are going to have a
8 problem on election day with voters competing with
9 students and teachers and parent volunteers for
10 parking spaces at schools, many of which don't
11 even have sufficient parking for their staff.

12 In 2004, we did have voters who were
13 ticketed because they parked in no parking zones
14 around schools. I know that Columbus forgave a
15 number of those parking tickets that were issued.
16 But, again, this falls into the category of
17 creating whatever kind of conversations we can to
18 make the experience as convenient as possible for
19 voters on election day.

20 There are a number of public school
21 districts -- Bexley, Reynoldsburg, I think
22 Groveport -- that have already decided to close on
23 election day. And from news reports, Westerville
24 and Dublin are considering it.

1 But, again, what I would like to see
2 this Board do is authorize the Director and Deputy
3 Director -- and perhaps we won't actually need
4 this authorization -- but to have conversations
5 with superintendents and school boards about
6 closing school this year for election day to
7 maximize parking available for voters and to free
8 up space for voting in the buildings on election
9 day for our uses.

10 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Maybe the City
11 could have a free parking day or something.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Which districts do
13 we believe have canceled classes for those days
14 already?

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Based on
16 a March report from The Dispatch, I think it's
17 Bexley, Reynoldsburg, and Groveport. Dublin and
18 Westerville were considering it.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Do we know what they
20 were going to do?

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think a
22 couple of districts have teacher in-service days
23 scheduled.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thoughts?

1 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yeah, I've got a
2 thought.

3 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Shock.

4 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I'm shocked too.
5 I listened to you, and I think I heard you clear,
6 but can you repeat that?

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Start
8 from the top?

9 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: What do you want
10 us to do again? No, not from the top, but just a
11 condensed version. What do you want us to do? I
12 mean, what do you think we ought to be doing?

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: What I
14 would like you to do is to formally direct
15 Director Stinziano and myself to engage school
16 districts in conversations requesting them to
17 close -- to cancel classes on election day.

18 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Do you really
19 need a motion for that?

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Probably
21 not, but I wouldn't want to do anything that was
22 outside of our area of responsibility.

23 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Oh, okay. All
24 right. Is part of your role to try to convince

1 them that they ought to do that?

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I'm
3 sorry?

4 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Try to convince
5 them that --

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It will
7 be a tough sell in some places.

8 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: It will be a
9 tough sell.

10 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Who do you
11 have to go to to get that approved?

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER:
13 Superintendents and school boards.

14 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: So, like, the
15 Columbus School Board, you would be talking to the
16 superintendent.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Now, it is true that
18 the greatest hometown newspaper has opined on
19 this, or we're just going to --

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I don't
21 believe they have opined specifically on this from
22 an editorial standpoint.

23 I know, if I recall correctly, several
24 years ago when Gahanna Schools approached us about

1 not using their facilities for voting on election
2 day and we struck a deal with Gahanna where we
3 would leave Gahanna Schools if they took the
4 responsibility for finding our voting locations
5 for us within the district.

6 If I recall correctly, The Dispatch
7 editorialized saying that that was -- that it's
8 important to have schools open on election day; if
9 for no other reason, so the students can see
10 democracy taking place in their midst. I would
11 have to go back and look to make sure, but that's
12 my recollection.

13 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: That's what I
14 kind of recall, too. That would be the only thing
15 that I would have a concern with. I mean, I
16 understand why we need to, I understand.

17 In 2004, I was in some schools, and we
18 just took over the whole school. But lucky for us
19 voting was so late, that kids were gone.

20 I don't know, I think schools ought to
21 stay open to watch this process. Kids ought to be
22 able to watch folks vote. We need more voters.
23 But has there been a cry out there that we ought
24 to close schools?

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: There is
2 one school in particular that we have concerns
3 about, that's Independence High School.

4 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Okay.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We
6 regularly get calls from voters and poll workers
7 because there is not parking.

8 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: No parking.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: And we
10 have contacted other facilities near there, and we
11 have not been received with open arms from private
12 facilities.

13 There is one private facility nearby
14 that's interested, but they don't meet the
15 handicapped accessibility requirements. To
16 provide temporary strategies, would be too
17 costly.

18 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: So the real
19 problem here is parking for all the folks that
20 we're bringing into the schools?

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Yeah.

22 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: That's the real
23 problem?

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: To me,

1 that is the number one concern.

2 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: And the
3 playground and other places, there just is not
4 enough places to park on the street and school
5 property. Wow. All right. Well, interesting
6 conundrum.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Certainly there are
8 some cases where having the school not in session
9 would be safer, and more convenient to the voters.
10 So it's a question of whether we charge the staff
11 with the extra hump or the decision to, you know,
12 kind of more aggressively pursue that.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: If you
14 want to think about it some more and bring it up
15 in a future meeting, we can do that too.

16 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Matt, do you
17 think they all use one of their, like, the teacher
18 conference day, something, you know, where it's
19 not just a free day, they will all just reorganize
20 what they already had to do anyway?

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I don't
22 know what they will do. I think it will be up to
23 each individual school district. Some might apply
24 their snow day, because it might be too late to

1 change their calendar. I don't know what rules
2 are in terms of the Department of Education,
3 things like that.

4 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: The article that
5 Matt mentioned, one school is canceling
6 completely, the Worthington Schools. And then the
7 Bexley, Groveport, and Reynoldsburg are doing
8 teacher training days.

9 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: That's good.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, it sounds like
11 we're going to have other issues on the August
12 14th agenda anyway. If there's not an -- let's
13 have some informal discussions, maybe feel out the
14 major school districts, in the meantime.

15 Bill knows everybody, make some calls.

16 Of course there's the question of, is
17 the school setting their own. I'm not familiar
18 with their -- you know, school's starting pretty
19 soon, they're probably locking in their schedules.
20 But maybe we can buy ourselves a little more time
21 by -- unless you feel --

22 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I say we push
23 for an early vote, early vote, early vote, early
24 vote.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I think maybe we've
2 talked ourselves into waiting on this for the next
3 meeting, as well, and having some discussions with
4 some friends in the major school districts to
5 determine whether this is a starter or not.

6 We have the precedent now, maybe for
7 the first time, with these other districts opting
8 to close on election day.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It's my
10 understanding that -- I have not called up there
11 to personally verify this, but Cleveland schools
12 are closed on election day. And there are a
13 number of states that by state law have schools
14 and some government entities closed on election
15 day as well. So this would be strictly voluntary
16 on the part of the schools if they would agree to
17 do this.

18 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: We can negotiate
19 a day off for those folks.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: You
21 should work on that, Bill.

22 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Not for us,
23 though, right?

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The last

1 item on the agenda to discuss is the letter we
2 received from the Secretary of State last Friday.
3 I don't know, Michael, if you want to talk any
4 about that.

5 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: I don't know if
6 you've had an opportunity to review it. It
7 basically states that due to the recent transition
8 in directors, the Franklin County Board of
9 Elections will be receiving transitional support.

10 What that means on the Board member's
11 side is we'll require one republican board member
12 and one democratic board member to participate in
13 a conference call with the Secretary of State's
14 office, where we somewhat -- it's primarily for
15 the Deputy Director and Director's benefit, to
16 give a status report and work with the Secretary's
17 office to make sure that the transition is
18 happening smoothly and everything is --

19 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Was that
20 weekly?

21 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: There will be
22 weekly. The Board members would participate
23 bi-weekly. It would just rotate.

24 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: That means two

1 times a week, doesn't it?

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Every
3 other week.

4 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: Every other
5 week.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: It can mean either.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The other
8 kind of bi-weekly.

9 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: And that would be
10 with the Secretary directly, the regional liaison,
11 and staff members from the election divisions, and
12 our assigned elections committee.

13 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Eric, you in on
14 these too?

15 MR. NICKOLAS: Yes, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I will be
17 participating personally with the weekly
18 conference calls with the Secretary of State. The
19 Secretary of State is going to participate in it?

20 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: That is what the
21 letter says. And this is an activity that the
22 Secretary of State's office has engaged in other
23 boards that have had recent turnover and
24 transitions.

1 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Oh, okay.

2 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: It's not Franklin
3 County specific. Date and time to be determined,
4 unless Eric knows something we don't know.

5 MR. NICKOLAS: Haven't determined the
6 time and date yet. I'm sure we'll be working on a
7 schedule that meets everyone's schedule.

8 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Eric, how long
9 do you think these meetings will last?

10 MR. NICKOLAS: That depends on
11 content.

12 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Okay. Is there
13 going to be an agenda at each meeting or what? I
14 mean, what's it going to be?

15 MR. NICKOLAS: I would imagine as time
16 goes on, the meetings will get shorter and
17 shorter. It's just transitional to make sure
18 everything's running smoothly.

19 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Okay. Is there
20 like a sheet that the Secretary of State has to
21 cross off stuff?

22 MR. NICKOLAS: I haven't sat in on one
23 of these yet, so I couldn't tell you.

24 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: I don't believe

1 there's a sheet. I think part of the transitional
2 concern is the closer it is to election day, the
3 new directors, deputy directors don't receive the
4 training. And since this transition is happening
5 after the conference --

6 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Oh, okay.
7 Gotcha.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I don't personally
9 review the letters, so I don't see -- there is no
10 end time?

11 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: It will be at the
12 termination. There was not a solid end time,
13 no.

14 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: For Doug's sake,
15 make it every Friday night around about 5:30.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I'll be at work.

17 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I'd like to have
18 mine on Sunday.

19 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: After church?

20 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: After church.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, there's no
22 action to be taken there, right?

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: No, we're
24 just letting you know that once we get that

1 schedule from the Secretary of State's office, we
2 will be working with all of your calendars to
3 group you in teams to participate in the
4 conference calls together.

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I'd also like to
6 point out that the Secretary of State has said,
7 quote, "Your Board's assigned prosecutor mail, so
8 feel free to participate in the weekly conference
9 calls," et cetera, et cetera.

10 MR. PALMER: I will be assigning a
11 prosecutor to that.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: That is my request.

13 MR. PALMER: A prosecutor who is not
14 present here today will be the one assigned to
15 that duty.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: He is a capable
17 counselor, so we welcome that.

18 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Now, if our
19 schedules -- I have a very busy schedule --

20 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes, you do.

21 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: -- and there may
22 be times where I may not be able to get on it, and
23 I will entrust you to --

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: She says she wants a

1 democrat and a republican on it, so if we did it
2 one week, and Mike and Kim did it the next week,
3 and then you and Mike did it the next week, and
4 then Mike and Kim did it the next week, see how
5 it --

6 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Went right
7 over.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: It leapfrogs.

9 MS. BROWN: Is there a computer program
10 to schedule this?

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Well, I
12 certainly appreciate the assistance the Secretary
13 of State is going to give us on this transition,
14 and I will make myself available.

15 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: As will I.

16 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Whatever time, I
17 will work with the Secretary on this to make it
18 happen.

19 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Anything
21 else?

22 (No comments.)

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: That's
24 all we have.

1 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Well, wait a
2 minute. Before we go, how was your first week?

3 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: First day?

4 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: First day,
5 actually. I know, it seems like he's been here
6 forever.

7 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: Second day is
8 going very well. It's two days strong. So far,
9 so good.

10 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I bet he did a
11 little something over the weekend.

12 DIRECTOR STINZIANO: The Gallery, that
13 was about it.

14 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chairman,
15 welcome aboard.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you. Anything
17 else?

18 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I move to
19 adjourn, sir.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Is there
21 a second?

22 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Second that.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All in
24 favor, say "aye."

1 (Board aye unanimously.)

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Thank you
3 all very much.

4 - - - - -

5 Thereupon, the proceedings were
6 concluded at 3:36 o'clock p.m.

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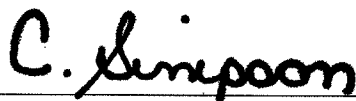
CERTIFICATE

The undersigned do hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were digitally recorded, electronically transmitted, and transcribed via audible playback, and that the foregoing transcript of such proceedings is a full, true and correct transcript of the proceedings as so recorded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, on this 21st day of August, 2008.



MICHELLE K. SALINAS
Certified Digital Reporter
Notary Public - State of Ohio.
My commission expires July 17, 2013



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