

**STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 1, 2003
Springfield, Illinois**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Elaine Roupas, Chairman
John R. Keith, Member
William McGuffage, Member
David E. Murray, Member
Philip O'Connor, Member
Albert Porter, Member
Jesse Smart, Member

ABSENT: Wanda L. Rednour, Vice Chairman

ALSO PRESENT: Dan White, Executive Director
Ronald D. Michaelson
Colleen Burke, General Counsel
Rebecca Glazier, Assistant to Executive Director

The regular monthly meeting of the State Board of Elections was called to order at 2:10 p.m. with seven members present. Vice Chairman Rednour was absent and Member Keith held her proxy.

Chairman Roupas opened the meeting by leading everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

The Executive Director welcomed Justice Jeanne Scott who was present to conduct the swearing in ceremony for reappointed members of the Board. The oath was then administered to John Keith, Bill McGuffage, Phil O'Connor and Jesse Smart.

The Executive Director then recognized outgoing Chairman Roupas and noted his appreciation for her interest and involvement in the many projects that took place during her chairmanship. Dr. Michaelson then presented Chairman Roupas with an engraved gavel commemorating her two years as Chairman. Chairman Roupas indicated it has been her honor and privilege to serve as Chairman, and thanked Dr. Michaelson and the Board members for their support and assistance over the last two years.

At this time Chairman Roupas called for the election of officers, beginning with chairman. Member O'Connor nominated John Keith for Chairman. Member Porter seconded the motion. With no other nominees presented and no objections, nominations were closed. The motion was called and passed by a vote of 7-0 with Member Keith passing his vote. Member O'Connor and Porter's

comments were noted as they thanked outgoing Chairman Roupas for her conscientious approach to the Chairman's responsibilities, and for upholding the dignity and reputation of the Board.

Member Roupas then opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Member McGuffage nominated Jesse Smart to serve as Vice Chairman. Member Porter seconded the motion. With there being no further nominations and no objections the nominations were closed. The motion passed by roll call vote of 7-0 with Member Smart passing his vote.

After a short break to reorganize, Chairman Keith thanked the Board for instilling confidence in him and noted it was an honor to be present with five former chairmen of the Board.

Chairman Keith then presented the minutes of the June 9 regular monthly Board meeting. It was noted that language be added to paragraph two, page 2 to reflect "that a member of any board created by State law or executive order cannot serve as a lobbyist". Member Murray moved to approve the minutes as amended. Member McGuffage seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Executive Director congratulated Chairman Keith and Vice Chairman Smart on their election.

Dr. Michaelson then began with a report on the recently ended legislative session. Cris Cray, Legislative Liaison, discussed the election legislation and noted at this time all bills have been sent to the Governor and he has 60 days to take action.

The Executive Director presented a status report on the Help America Vote Act and noted that SB 428 is awaiting the Governor's signature. Public hearings are scheduled for July 15 in Springfield and July 16 in Chicago. Following the public comment period, the plan will be presented to the Board for final approval at the August 18 meeting. Dr. Michaelson thanked Becky Glazier for her role in working on the plan as well as Cris Cray, Dianne Felts, and Pat Freeman and others, for their work. Member O'Connor moved to adopt, noting it is a very impressive piece of work and that it would provide a good road map once input is received from the public. Discussion ensued on the fact that the federal money will not be near enough to cover the punch card buyout. Member Roupas asked about the complaint procedure and the General Counsel indicated most complaints would be handled

by a hearing officer and would not come before the board. Dr. Michaelson thanked Dianne Felts who was the staff contact on the voters with disabilities task force as she did a wonderful job under difficult circumstances. Ms. Felts discussed the grant that has been applied for from the U.S. Department of Health & Human services which will be approximately \$511,000 for Illinois.

Dr. Michaelson discussed a letter sent to all election authorities warning them not to spend money too quickly and not to make any commitments until the Governor signs SB428 and also to make sure the system they are purchasing is acceptable. DRE's have not yet been approved for use in Illinois. He also discussed the option available to request a waiver on the implementation of the punch card buyout. It is recommended that Illinois request the waiver. Member Murray moved to request the waiver from January 2004 to 2006 for implementation of the punch card buyout. Vice Chairman Smart seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

The Executive Director noted that the fiscal status year just ended and no report is available today. The two year plan of staff activity for the months of July and August was presented for informational purposes.

The General Counsel presented an appeal of a civil penalty assessment, *SBE v. IVCC Supporter Dave Wilcoxson*, 03CE11. Ms. Burke indicated she agreed with the report of the hearing officer that the appeal be granted. Vice Chairman Smart moved to concur with the General Counsel and hearing officer recommendations and the appeal be granted.

After short discussion it was agreed to hold the complaints following closed preliminary hearing until executive session as no one was present in these matters.

The General Counsel presented a status report on *Donahue v. Moreno*, 02CD70 and reviewed the current standing. The committees have agreed on an auditing firm and a full audit will start shortly.

Chairman Keith presented retiring Executive Director Ron Michaelson with a resolution on behalf of the Board. He thanked Dr. Michaelson for his efforts during his many years of service.

Member Roupas then presented Dr. Michaelson with a present of golf clubs from the Board members. Dr. Michaelson thanked the Board for the resolution and the wonderful Jack Nickalaus

clubs and indicated he would make further comments at the retirement party being held in the evening.

Chairman Keith then welcomed Dan White as the new Executive Director. Mr. White congratulated Chairman Keith and Vice Chairman Smart and outgoing chairman Roupas. He expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the Board as he was honored to be selected for the position and promised to work very hard.

Barb Gross, Morgan County Clerk, was present as was James Lewis, East St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners, who both spoke highly of Dr. Michaelson's work over the years.

Vice Chairman Smart introduced Mrs. Smart and thanked the board for electing him as Vice Chairman. He thanked Member Roupas for an excellent job and also suggested leaving the job of social chairman with her.

Member McGuffage recognized Dick Smolka, Election Administration Reports, who was present today, and who has been a part of the State Board of Elections since the beginning as he conducted election classes for new employees.

Member Murray then complimented Member Roupas for a very efficient and dedicated job as chair, and always well prepared for the meetings. Member McGuffage indicated she served with grace and dignity and thanked her.

Member Murray moved to recess to executive session to discuss pending litigation and personnel matters. Member Roupas seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Meeting recessed at 3:30 a.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m.

Upon reconvening, Vice Chairman Smart moved to follow the recommendations of the General Counsel in all campaign disclosure complaints and that all were filed on justifiable grounds with the exception of 23 and 16 that they proceed to open hearing, that no further action be taken on 23 and that a \$5,000 penalty be imposed on 16. Member Porter seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

Discussion ensued on Administrative Order #5 as considered in executive session. Dr. Michaelson mentioned the issue of whether the State Board of Elections would have to pick up its own

employee pension costs as well as reduce its budget by 7 ½%. The agency may or may not be requested to do so. The Board decided not to take action on this matter at this time.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Elections will be held on Monday, August 18, 2003 at 11 a.m. in Chicago.

With there being no further discussion, Member McGuffage moved to adjourn. Member Porter seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Glazier
Assistant to Executive Director

Daniel W. White
Executive Director