

R. I. STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MINUTES OF MEETING (Open Session)

June 5, 2007

The Rhode Island State Board of Elections convened at 3:38 PM, a quorum included Acting Chairman Iannitti, Commissioners Florence Gormley, John Daluz, Raymond Xavier and Frank Rego (who participated on business after appeal of fines by Mr. Carlin). Executive Director Robert Kando and Legal Counsel Raymond Marcaccio were also in attendance.

First order of business: Commissioner Xavier moved to approve the minutes of the meeting dated 3/28/07 and seconded by Commissioner Gormley. The motion passed unanimously.

Next order of business: An appeal of fines issued pursuant to RI Gen. Laws 17-25 by David R. Carlin III represented by Attorney Joshua Carlin. After the Board reviewed the report (exhibit #2) given by Richard Thornton, Director of Campaign Finance, regarding past practices of the campaign finance division, a motion to deny Mr. Carlin's request to reconsider his appeal was made by Commissioner Gormley and seconded by Commissioner Daluz. The motion passed 3-1 with Commissioner Xavier opposing the motion.

Next order of business: The board received an update regarding pending collection matters before the RI Superior Court by Attorney

Raymond Marcaccio.

Next order of business: The board received reports from Richard Thornton, Director of Campaign Finance, and Robert Rapoza, Director of Elections, highlighting upcoming and pending events (see attached). Mr. Rapoza also mentioned that he and Robert Kando have been visiting cities and towns seeking feedback on methods to improve the election process and address any issues or concerns they may have.

Next order of business: A discussion regarding staff departures, and the positions of Assistant Administrator/Policy & Programs and General Foreman. Subject to approval by the board, Robert Kando has been working on reorganization of the staff to increase efficiency.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Kando will supply the board with a current organizational chart as well as a proposed organizational structure.

Next order of business: Review of Executive Director's performance. Commissioner Rego questioned the progress of the educational courses required upon hiring the Executive Director. To complete the 2-year requirement, Mr. Kando will be attending five courses in July 2007 and the last two courses, which were not offered this year but should be available in 2008 by the end of that year. The twelve-course requirement will be completed by 2008 pending scheduling by Election Center. Commissioner Rego also mentioned he felt that Mr.

Kando did not do a strong enough job to defend the efforts of

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this department in an article with the Journal regarding the past election and people voting. He felt that Mr. Kando's comments supported the office of the Secretary of State since all the issues in the article were Secretary of State's issues. Mr. Kando stated he has no control over what is written in newspaper articles. Many times a reporter has spoken to him for 10 to 15 minutes and instead of taking the substance of what he said during the interview they will put in the article something that was remote. Acting Chairman Iannitti commented that he feels that Robert Kando has done exactly what we hired and expected him to do, and that this agency is one of the finest state agencies within the state and over all he is very pleased. Commissioner Gormley commented that the agency is no longer in the paper all the time with negative press and that maybe we should consider sending out press releases regarding positive issues. Commissioners Xavier and Daluz also expressed their appreciation on the job he does and believes that he has this agency and the staff at heart.

Next or of business: Acting Chairman Iannitti informed the board that

he intends to send a letter to the Department of Administration asking them to please honor the Board of Elections vote to change Mr. Kando's title and pay grade.

At 5:10 pm Commissioner Gormley motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Daluz and passed unanimously.

Andreza Skipworth