

April 9, 2013

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS – Regular Meeting

Mr. Fatica, Chairman, called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections at 6:03 p.m. in the Erie County Council Caucus Room.

Mr. Smith, Clerk of Elections, called the roll:

Members Present: Mr. Fatica
Dr. Foust
Mr. Leone
Mrs. Loll

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, Clerk of Elections

Moving Erie 5-11 from Glenwood Elementary School to Central High School

Mr. Leone moved to approve a change in the polling place for Erie 5-11 from Glenwood Elementary School to Central High School, 3325 Cherry Street, southwest entrance at West 34th and Cherry Streets. Mrs. Loll seconded.

Mr. Smith indicated that there is ample parking on West 34th Street and signage will be provided. It is also handicapped accessible.

Mr. Fatica called for a vote on the change and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Fatica asked Mr. Smith to explain a new issue that came up just this morning. Mr. Smith explained that Erie 4-8 has been located at Erie Day School for the past several years. This morning he received a call that classrooms were being changed and they no longer feel comfortable holding voting in their facility. Mr. Smith has contacted GECAC at West 8th and Japan Streets, approximately one block east of Strong Vincent. There is also an elder care facility at Washington Place behind the Erie Day School and another possibility at West 8th and Cranberry Streets.

Mr. Leone expressed his dissatisfaction at how close the election is drawing and the uncertainty with polling sites. Mr. Smith pointed out that statutorily changes must be made no later than 30 days out. Mr. Leone stated he concerned about voters not being aware of these changes. Dr. Foust asked whether Erie Day School would work with the Board through the Primary. Mr. Fatica noted that schools receiving government funding are obligated to hold voting. Mr. Leone stated that he would prefer not to cause problems if the school is not interested in allowing the voting.

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Mr. Smith reported that the mailings for the changes in voting for Erie 4-6 and 4-7 went out today. He plans to resolve the current issue before the end of the week.

Mr. Fatica asked the Board's opinion on how to handle this current situation. Mr. Leone stated that he would like to resolve this issue as soon as possible. He is uncomfortable with the short amount of time before the election. He was not certain that the Board could actually commandeer the school and the Board would have to consult the solicitor. Mrs. Loll pointed out the Board would have to find out whether the school actually receives government funding. Mr. Leone pointed out that there is not much time. Mr. Fatica agreed and suggested moving on. Mr. Smith also agreed and stated his belief that particular statute may deal with public schools.

Mr. Leone wished to move that the facility chosen by the Clerk of Elections be approved. Dr. Foust suggested that the particular facility should be voted on by the Board. Mr. Fatica recommended that the Board wait to hear from Mr. Smith and reconvene a meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Ann Bruno, Council Secretary

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