



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved BOARD OF EDUCATION - COMMON COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

5:00 PM

Room 108, City-County Building
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 4 -
Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Matthew J. Phair; Erik J. Kass and Arlene Silveira

Absent: 1 -
Astra Iheukumere

Excused: 1 -
Maya Cole

Others Present: City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl, Paul Malischke, Rosemary Lee

Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Arlene Silveira, seconded by Ald. Matt Phair, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2011 Board of Education-Common Council Liaison Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

Maya Cole arrived at 5:06 p.m.

Present: 5 -
Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Matthew J. Phair; Erik J. Kass; Arlene Silveira and Maya Cole

Absent: 1 -
Astra Iheukumere

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals by the city members of the committee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

[24972](#)

Review Final Draft of Guidelines for Voting Day Guidelines

Attachments: [Jan 11 2012 BOE-CC Liaison Cmt Registration Statements.pdf](#)
[Jan 11 2012 Guidelines for Voting Days.pdf](#)

Erik Kass distributed a revised copy of "Guidelines for Voting Days" policy.

He indicated that he had met with the City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl and that they had made changes to the original draft:

Deleted - Under "City of Madison Responsibility":
Provide additional poll workers or volunteers to direct voters and provide support for keeping people out of "off-limit areas.

He indicated that this issue could be addressed through signage.

Identified – Under "City of Madison Responsibility":
Complete background checks of all polling workers that will work within our schools on voting days.

Mr. Kass stated that Ms. Witzel-Behl correctly noted during their discussions that some poll workers are also volunteers in the schools so that could decrease the number of poll workers who would need background checks. Ms. Witzel-Behl also stated that the city's background check would be different from the type of background check the school district runs on their volunteers.

Mr. Kass stated that he also wanted to touch base with Luis Yudice to get his input on what would be important when running a background check.

Accessibility – School Responsibilities:
Parking issues – Ms. Witzel-Behl noted that the State now audits polling place accessibility and the reports are slightly confusing (e.g.: "path of travel unclear" – not specified in report). Her staff would be reviewing the list for any schools that may have accessibility issues and work with school district staff to address them.

REGISTRATIONS:
Rosemary Lee, 111 W. Wilson St., Neither Supported/Opposed, Spoke
Ms. Lee wanted to know who would be paying for background checks. She stated that the School District should pay for the background checks if they required them. She felt that the City Clerk did a good job of vetting poll workers. She also thought that voters at schools could be considered a security risk as well and questioned whether they should also be required to have background checks.

Paul Malischke, 7825 Bayfield Terr., Supported, Spoke
He thought it was a good idea to have a designated school district staff person identified as a point of contact for the poll workers. He noted that access to schools between 6 and 6:15 a.m. was imperative (ensuring that the door is open for the poll workers when they arrive). Another issue was ensuring that there was handicapped access set up for an election when the school district

is on break. Mr. Malischke supported background checks on poll workers.

Ms. Witzel-Behl noted that the Clerk's office sends a letter before elections to the school but that it doesn't always make it to the custodians. When her staff is delivering voting machines they give the custodian a card with election dates for the next two years to keep them informed. Mr. Kass stated that he would ensure that information regarding polling locations, election dates, times when they should be open - would get to the custodians.

Mr. Kass noted that he would work with custodians relative to signage and opening the building issues.

Maya Cole asked Ms. Witzel-Behl if election officials have any kind of identification when they are serving in the schools. Ms. Witzel-Behl stated that they have nametag stickers but that they are looking at purchasing lanyards.

Ms. Witzel-Behl stated that she was still checking on the costs associated with doing election official background checks. It was difficult at this time since the Madison Police District was in the midst of staff changes. She stated that there are currently 2,045 election officials. It would be overwhelming for the police to do background checks on all 2,045 at once so she would start with regular election officials and then do checks on alternates.

Ms. Witzel-Behl stated that there was still the issue of who would be responsible to pay for background checks. For bartender licenses it is covered by their fee. Background checks are approximately \$7/person. Ald. Matt Phair asked how many new election officials she had each year. Ms. Witzel-Behl stated approximately 300 new election officials a year. Ald. Phair noted that initially the cost would be \$14,000 and then \$2,100 every year after that (approximate costs).

Committee members agreed that they needed to continue the discussion on background checks. Ald. Bidar-Sielaff requested information on whether there are other municipalities that require background checks on their election officials and if so, what were the costs, how involved was the check, etc. She also thought that having a self-declaration statement on election official applications could be a first step.

[24973](#)

Neighborhood Resource Teams & Schools - Astra Iheukumere, Assistant to Mayor Soglin

Ms Iheukumere was not in attendance so the committee could not discuss this item. Ald. Bidar-Sielaff will follow up with her at the next Council Leadership meeting with Mayor Soglin.

[24735](#)

Discussion: Identifying Areas of Collaboration for 2012

The committee members discussed the following areas of collaboration

Arbor Hills-Leopold Neighborhood Plan

*Neighborhood and school connection

Neighborhood Resource Teams and involvement of schools/school district

*Possible tie-in with achievement gap issue

City and School District initiatives

*Identify areas of overlap

*Identify areas to collaborate

*Review community service budgets (both city and school district) to better target resources

Future Agenda Items

* Neighborhood Resource Teams

* Community Service Budgets: School District and City

* Invite Superintendent Nerad and Dr. Jeffrey Lewis, Outreach Specialist for Underrepresented Communities, UW Extension to talk about closing the achievement gap

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Maya Cole, seconded by Ald. Matt Phair, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other.