

The Board of Trustees of the Howard County Junior College District met for a special meeting by telephone on Monday, April 6, 2020.

The following members of the Board and District Administration were present:

Dr. John Freeman, Chairman
Maxwell Barr, Vice-Chairman
Adrian Calvio, Secretary
Patricia Bennett
Emma Krabill
Mark Morgan

Cheryl T. Sparks, Ed.D., President
Amy Burchett, Ed.D., Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs
Danny Campbell, Administrative Dean Instruction, SWCD
Pam Callan, Administrative Dean for Instruction and Student Services, San Angelo
Brenda Claxton, Chief Fiscal Officer/Controller
Terry Hansen, Chief Athletic and Special Projects Officer
Jamie Rainey, Workforce and Community Development Officer, San Angelo
Fabian Serrano, Chief Operations and Safety/Security Officer
Steve Smith, Chief Business Officer/Internal Auditor

Others present were:

Julie Bailey, Assistant to the President
Kym Clark, Director eLearning/PASS Center Coordinator-Online
Jodi Duck, County Elections Administrator
Emma Garcia, Executive Assistant
Eric Hansen, Dean Information Technology
Cindy Smith, Director Information and Marketing
Ben Ziechick, Candidate for Trustee At-Large

Dr. Sparks explained procedures of the telephonic meeting. Chairman John Freeman called the telephonic special meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. in accordance with Texas Government Section, 551.045 with Board of Trustees members positioned in remote connections and Dr. Freeman with Dr. Sparks located in the office of the president. Roll call was taken by voice response. Based on the suspended proceedings of the Open Meetings Act in accordance with Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code, the meeting was open to the public through remote connection utilizing a toll-free number for audio purposes and visual presentation available through GoToMeetings and on the website. The public was also entitled to participate and address the Board. The meeting was recorded and will be available on the website.

Next, community members that were on the telephonic call were given the opportunity to communicate with the board. Ben Zeichick, candidate for at-large trustee commented that he felt that the May 2nd, election should be postponed until the November 3rd uniform election date due to the pandemic and its impact. There were no other comments.

Next, Dr. Sparks gave an overview (see attached) of the evolution of this matter of consideration of postponement of the May 2, trustee at-large election. Based on the Governor's Proclamation and the Secretary of State election advisory information, the administration recommended that the Board of Trustees consider an order to move the May 2, 2020, Trustee At-Large uniform election date to November 3, 2020, uniform election date. Declarations of emergency have been announced by the United States President, the Governor of Texas, Howard County Judge and the Big Spring Mayor. In recent days the United States President and Governor of Texas have intensified efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 by taking additional official actions until April 30, anticipating a significant upward curve in the next few weeks regarding confirmed cases and deaths based on scientific data and modeling, and have compelled the American people and Texans to assist in flattening the curve.

Next, Dr. Sparks shared a press release (see attached) from the Office of the Texas Governor dated March 18, 2020 with the following quote included. "I strongly encourage local election officials to take advantage of these waivers and postpone their elections until November," said Governor Abbott. "Right now, the state's focus is responding to COVID-19- including social distancing and avoiding large gatherings. By delaying this election, our local election officials can assist in that effort."

Next, Trustees were given the proclamation by Governor Greg Abbott concerning postponement of the May 2, 2020, election to November 3, 2020.

Next, Dr. Sparks shared election advisories from the Texas Secretary of State Ruth R. Hughs (see attached) detailing procedures that must be followed and in the latest advisory intensified guidance. It says, "If you haven't already moved your May 2nd election, you must take action to do so immediately! It further says, "If you don't move your May 2nd election, you are subjecting voters to health risks and potential criminal violations. Failure to postpone your election will put your election at severe risk for an election contest."

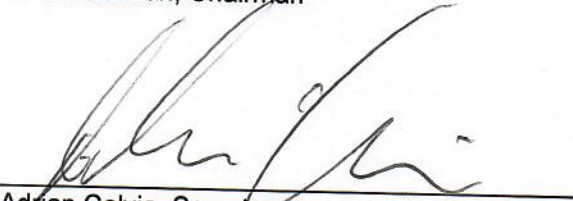
Next, Jodi Duck, Howard County Elections Administrator explained a cost analysis estimate for different scenarios including cost for a May election with the Big Spring Independent School District, City of Big Spring and Howard College participating, the cost if entities make different decisions on participating in the May election and the cost of the November election.

Lastly, Trustees considered the order (see attached) to postpone the May 2, 2020, uniform election date to November 3, 2020, uniform election date. The President and staff will provide timely information to the Board of Trustees regarding decisions that must be made pursuant to this Order. The Board will approve a revised order of election by August 17, 2020, to include the change of date, any change in location of the main early voting location, any changes to early voting dates and hours, including weekend early voting, any changes to the identity of the early voting clerk and their contact information or any changes to branch early voting locations. The major relevant dates for the November election, including the voter registration deadline (October 5, 2020), the deadline to submit an Absentee Ballot by Mail/ABBM (October 23, 2020), and the dates for early voting (October 19, 2020–October 30, 2020) will be used. Mark Morgan made the motion to approve the order. Patricia Bennett seconded the motion. All Trustees on the telephonic call approved the motion.

There being no other business, Chairman Freeman adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.



John Freeman, Chairman



Adrian Calvio, Secretary
By Julie Bailey