

MINUTES
VIRTUAL STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order by State Chair Bobbie Richardson at 10:29 AM.

The Democratic Party's *STATEMENT OF INCLUSION* was read by Parliamentarian Sybil Mann.

Dr. Randy Kelly from the Alabama Democratic Party led the Moment of Silence and the Black History Month Prayer.

Interim Executive Director Lillian Taylor presented the Guidelines and Instructions for the Zoom system.

Secretary Melvin Williams announced that with 539 Members already checked in, a Quorum had been established.

The meeting moved to consideration of the Agenda for today's meeting.

Soren Pederson made a motion to strike the Report of the Plan of Organization Review Committee from the Agenda. His motion was ruled out of order at that time.

Nazim Uddin made a motion to adopt the Agenda. His motion was approved by a vote of 348-41.

Chris Hardee made a motion to adopt the Rules of the Day. Eva Lee seconded his motion.

Diane Robertson made a motion to amend Rule 7 to add "with exception of the Budget there will be a limit of 10 minutes per item." A Member (who did not say their name clearly) seconded her motion. Her motion was adopted by the SEC.

**Tyler Beall made a motion to amend Rule 15 2
concerning Quorum to say “a total of registered SEC
Members present at that time.” His motion was adopted by a
vote of 312-50.**

**A Member who did not say their name clearly praised
Governor Cooper’s appointment of Judge Allison Riggs to the
North Carolina Court of Appeals.**

**Cliff Moone made a motion to approve the Minutes of
the 2022 Winter SEC meeting. John Easterling seconded
his motion. The Minutes were approved by a vote of 367-18.**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**State Chair Dr. Bobbie Richardson turned the gavel over
to First Vice Chair Floyd McKissick to preside over the State
Chair election. He announced the names of the candidates
who had submitted candidates forms prior to the meeting
and called for nominations from the floor. There were no
nominations from the floor.**

**Richard Poole raised a Point of Order by saying that
some SEC Members have not yet been admitted to the
meeting. Interim Executive Director Lillian Taylor advised
those Members to go to Support@NCDP.org.**

**The State Chair candidates spoke in this alphabetical
order: LaVon Barnes**

Anderson Clayton – Nominated by Monte Thorne

Dr. Bobbie Richardson

Eric Terashima

The results of this first round of voting were: 3

LaVon Barnes – 15 Votes – 2.9%

Anderson Clayton – 228 Votes – 45.42%

Dr. Bobbie Richardson – 206 Votes – 41.04%

Eric Terashima – 53 Votes – 10.56%

LaVon Barnes withdrew and endorsed Dr. Bobbie Richardson.

Eric Terashima withdrew and endorsed Dr. Richardson.

A second ballot was held and the results were:

Anderson Clayton – 272 Votes – 54.95%

Dr. Bobbie Richardson – 223 Votes – 45.05%

Dr. Richardson graciously expressed her best wishes to Anderson Clayton. Following the proper procedure, Dr. Richardson and her supporters then left the State Party Headquarters.

Three minutes later Anderson Clayton and her supporters arrived at the Headquarters. She presided over the rest of the meeting.

FIRST VICE CHAIR

Phyllis Portie-Ascot nominated Jonah Garson. Jonah addressed the SEC. Floyd McKissick delivered his campaign speech.

Ballots for First Vice Chair were cast and the results were:

Floyd McKissick – 208 Votes – 43.61%

Jonah Garson – 269 Votes – 56.39%

Both candidates congratulated each other.

SECOND VICE CHAIR

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Dr. Kimberly Hardy spoke to the SEC.

Matt Hughes delivered a speech in which he withdrew from the race and endorsed Dr. Kimberly Hardy.

Nazim Uddin was nominated by Toni Mingo. Nazim then addressed the SEC.

Ballots for Second Vice Chair were cast and the following results were announced:

Dr. Kimberly Hardy – 365 Votes – 80.93%

Nazim Uddin – 86 Votes – 19.07%

Nazim Uddin cordially congratulated Dr. Hardy.

THIRD VICE CHAIR

Betsy Wells nominated Matt Hughes.

Eva Lee's video was shown.

Rebecca Cerese nominated Nazim Uddin

Kendrick Cunningham's video was shown.

Elijah King's video was shown.

Dr. Everett Ward nominated Kendrick Cunningham and Kendrick addressed the SEC.

Chris Hardee withdrew from the race and endorsed Elijah King.

Karen Gray spoke in support of Elijah King.

Elizabeth Goodwin spoke to support Matt Hughes.

Nazim Uddin delivered his talk to the SEC.

Tom Rothrock nominated Eva Lee and Eva addressed the SEC.

Ballots for Third Vice Chair were cast and the following totals were reported:

Matt Hughes – 153 Votes – 35.35%

Elijah King – 109 Votes – 25.12%

Kendrick Cunningham – 108 Votes – 24.88%

Nazim Uddin – 47 Votes – 10.83%

Eva Lee – 17 Votes – 3.92%

Nazim Uddin withdrew and endorsed Elijah King.

Eva Lee endorsed Elijah King.

Second round ballots for Third Vice Chair were cast and the results were:

Elijah King – 152 Votes – 38.38%

Matt Hughes – 147 Votes – 37.12%

Kendrick Cunningham – 97 Votes – 24.49%

Kendrick expressed appreciation to his supporters and endorsed Elijah King.

A third round of voting for Third Vice Chair was held. The totals reported were:

Elijah King – 244 Votes – 61%

Matt Hughes – 158 Votes – 39%

Both Matt Hughes and Elijah King thanked their supporters and expressed goodwill to each other.

NCDP SECRETARY

Lisa Ellsworth made a talk nominating Melvin Williams for Secretary.

State Senator Mike Woodard made a motion to close the nominations and elect Melvin Williams unanimously.

Ryan Jenkins seconded his motion.

The motion to elect Melvin Williams was passed unanimously.

The SEC then took a 12-minute recess.

A video from Attorney General Josh Stein was shown.

At 4:57 PM the meeting went into Executive Session after it was announced that a Quorum was still present.

(Minutes of actions during an Executive Session are not published.)

After the business planned for the Executive Session was completed, the State Chair said that if there were no objections, the meeting would leave Executive Session and go back into Open Session.

A Member made a motion to adopt 2023 Budget.

A Member asked if the Budget was not passed today, would we have to wait until the Summer SEC meeting to adopt it?

Jesse Goslen said we would not have to wait until the Summer SEC meeting because the State Chair could call another SEC meeting any time she wants.

Keith Thomson called for the question on the motion to adopt the 2023 Budget.

The 2023 Budget was approved by the SEC by a vote of 217-57.

Soren Pederson raised a Point of Order. He said not enough notice was given to SEC Members about amendments to the POO. He said the SEC Members are supposed to receive POO amendments 14 days before SEC

meetings. In this case the POO amendments were on 7 on the NCDP website 14 days before the meeting but they were not emailed 14 days ahead of time.

Chris Hardee said that the POO amendments were sent with a link from the Agenda and, therefore, amendments were sent in a sufficient amount of time.

The State Chair saluted our DNC Members

Chris Hardee, Chair of the POO Review Committee, brought forth Alternative Plans of Organizing for Gaston, Stokes, and Transylvania counties.

The SEC was asked if there was any objection to combining all three Alternative Plans for consideration together.

Rick Elkins and Toni Mingo objected.

The Gaston County Alternative Plan of Organization was approved by a raised hand vote of 277 – 0.

Joanne Levitan asked why don't we have this Alternative Plan of Organization for all counties?

Chris Hardee replied.

The Stokes County Alternative Plan of Organization was approved by a raised hand vote of 231 – 4.

Ben Spencer asked if the Alternative Plans of Organization affected the number of votes.

Pam McAfee expressed joy that today's meeting is being held virtually because it gives the opportunity to participate to more Democrats with a disability issue. She said she hopes future meetings will continue to include this opportunity.

Toni Mingo raised a question about Section 1.03 of the Plan of Organization.

The Transylvania County Alternative Plan of Organization was approved by a raised hand vote of 236–4.

The SEC then considered a POO recommendation which dealt with Mecklenburg County. This proposal would reduce the percentage of County Executive Committee Members needed for a Quorum from 40% to 35%. It also set up Urban Vice Chairs assigned geographically by County Commission Districts.

Gray Newman explained which Mecklenburg County Commission Districts would be joined for the purposes of setting up the Urban City Vice Chair districts.

The Mecklenburg POO recommendation was passed by a vote of 226-4.

Chris Hardee said that before the Summer SEC meeting attention should be given to the POO landing page of the NCDP web site.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tyler Beall invited everyone to an LGBTQ+ Town Hall on February 23rd.

Dr. Sharon Brown introduced the following motion:
“Given NCDP’s commitment to BUILDING BLUE yearlong organizing, and having no designated funding for this purpose in the currently proposed budget (2023-2025),

And, given the fact that the budget can be changed 9 to reflect this need and be brought back for review and edits by the Chair and the State Executive Council,

I, hereby, move that the SEC go on record by a vote to have the Chair and State Executive Council work to make this necessary accommodation to support BUILDING BLUE yearlong organizing bringing it back to the State Executive Council within 60 days.”

This motion was seconded by Erica Smith. The motion was passed by a raised hand vote.

NCDP Trustee Kennis Wilkins introduced a resolution honoring Democratic Leader Congressman Hakeem Jeffries of New York. DNC Member John Verdejo seconded the motion to pass this resolution. This motion was passed unanimously. The exact wording of this motion follows.

RESOLUTION HONORING

DEMOCRATIC LEADER HAKEEM JEFFRIES

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2022, the United States House Democratic Caucus convened to include the seven Members of Congress from North Carolina and elected by acclamation Representative Hakeem Jeffries as the Democratic Leader of the United States House of Representatives for the 118th Congress which convened on January 3, 2023, and is scheduled to continue until January 3, 2025;

WHEREAS, Democratic Leader Jeffries of New York made history by becoming the first African American lawmaker elected and to serve as a party leader in the United States Congress;

WHEREAS, Democratic Leader Jeffries was born in Brooklyn, New York;

WHEREAS, Democratic Leader Jeffries studied political science at the State University of New York at Binghamton, became a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and earned a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University;

WHEREAS, Democratic Leader Jeffries earned a juris doctorate degree from New York University School of Law, where he was on the law review;

WHEREAS, Democratic Leader Jeffries was elected to the New York State Assembly in 2006 and elected to the Eight Congressional District of New York in 2012;

WHEREAS, in 2019, he was elected as the chair of the Democratic caucus of the United States House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, Democratic Leader Jeffries leads the Democratic Caucus in the 118th Congress of the United States House of Representatives succeeding Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California;

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2023, the North Carolina Democratic Party convened a state executive committee meeting; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party voted unanimously to recognize Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries for his extraordinary leadership and accomplishment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party congratulates Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries and extends our deepest appreciation for his exemplary service to America.

MELVIN WILLIAMS

Secretary

FEBRUARY 11, 2023

Date

(Following the NCDP meeting, the NCDP Secretary sent this Resolution to a member of Congressman Jeffries' staff so he could personally present it to the Congressman.)

John Verdejo asked for a Point of Personal Privilege which he used to congratulate the NCDP Officers who were elected today and pledged that all NC Democrats will work together. He also expressed his pleasure about the new schedule of Presidential Primaries.

Interim Executive Director Lillian Taylor encouraged participation in the Blue Crew for a donation of \$5 or more.

She reminded everyone of the dates of the Precinct meetings, County Conventions, District Conventions, an upcoming "Conversation with Congress," and Black History Month events.

Lillian gave tributes to the NCDP staff and Jeff Rose for their work on today's meeting.

Brenda Pollard said the Party should do more to pay tribute to the lives of our Democrats as they pass away. Currently the only thing the Party does is send a card to the families of deceased Democrats (if the Hospitality Committee receives a notice of their death.)

Cynthia Wallace congratulated the Officers elected today and then yielded the floor to Connie Green-Johnson.

Connie Green-Johnson invited all SEC Members to the Big Blue Breakfast which will be held in Charlotte on February 20th.

Samuel Johnson promoted the Resilience Reception which will be sponsored by the Young Democrats of North Carolina in Concord on February 25th.

Janice Lewis became everyone's heroine by making a motion to adjourn. Richard Poole became everyone's hero by seconding her motion which was passed on a raised hand vote at approximately 7:00PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Melvin Williams, State Secretary
North Carolina Democratic Party**

