

**MINUTES**  
**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
**Rocky Mount High School**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024**  
**By Secretary Melvin Williams**

**State Chair Anderson Clayton called the meeting to order at 10:32AM.**

**State Teen Dems President Daniel Patterson gave an emotional rendition of excerpts from the “I Have A Dream” speech which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. first delivered in Rocky Mount.**

**The meeting’s Parliamentarian, David Parker, read from the Democratic Party’s Statement of Inclusion.**

**John Coleman of Alamance County read the Land Acknowledgement which acknowledged that the land in much of North Carolina was originally owned and cared for by several Indian nations.**

**Chair Clayton called for a time of silence during which SEC Members were asked to remember all those whose lives have been impacted by gun violence.**

**Chair Clayton then led the entire body in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the Salute to the flag of North Carolina.**

**The Quorum Report showed that a Quorum had been established by 299 Members attending virtually and 169 attending live for a total attendance of 468.**

**The Chair introduced Minnesota State Democratic Party Chair Ken Martin who is Chair of the Association of State Democratic Chairs and also is a Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee. His theme was: “Ignore Pollsters, Pundits, and Politico.”**

**Ken Martin also quoted President Joe Biden who said: “Don’t compare me to the Almighty. Compare me to the alternative!”**

**The following candidates spoke to the SEC:**

- Mike Morgan for Governor**
- Satana DeBerry for Attorney General**
- Kenon Crumble for Superintendent of Public Instruction**

- **Gary Foxx for Governor**
- **Wesley Harris for State Treasurer**
- **Chuck Hubbard for Congress in Fifth District**
- **A spokeswoman for Josh Stein for Governor**
- **Judge Lora Cabbage for the Supreme Court of NC**
- **Dr. Lorenzo Wilkins for State Representative in HD-25**
- **Ian Shannon for Natasha Marcus for Insurance Commissioner**
- **C. R (Katie) Eddings for Superintendent of Public Instruction**
- **Gabe Esparza for State Treasurer**
- **Cameron Pruette for Braxton Winston for Labor Commissioner**
- **Felecia Robinson for Carolyn Thompson for Ct of Appeals**
- **Aron Johnson for Rachel Hunt for Lt. Governor**
- **Frank Pierce for Congress in Thirteenth District**
- **Dante Pittman for State Representative in HD – 24**
- **Lisa Ellsworth for Jeff Jackson for Attorney General**
- **Mark Osterhout for District Court Judge**

**Nash County Party Chair Dr. Cassandra Conover welcomed the SEC and led them in a rousing speech during which SEC Members joined her in shouting the words “Unapologetically Blue!**

**Nash County Commissioner Gwen Wilkins delivered a thoughtful and cheerful welcoming message to the SEC Members.**

**David Parker presented the Agenda for adoption. He suggested that items 11 and 12 be switched. Keith Thomson of Buncumbe County made a motion to adopt the Agenda with 11 and 12 switched. Calvin Stallings seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.**

**The Rules of the Day were brought to the floor. It was pointed out that section 11:03 should be labelled section 12:04.**

**Phillip Cooper of Wake County made a motion to adopt the Rules of the Day. Diane Tyndall of Craven County seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**The Minutes of June 24, 2023 were presented. Ryan Jenkins of Durham made a motion to approve these Minutes. His motion was seconded by a person who did not say their name clearly. The Minutes were approved unanimously.**

**A break for lunch was announced.**

**The meeting was called back to session at 1:24PM.**

**Secretary of State Elaine Marshall addressed the SEC.**

**Political Director Ni Lavien explained the ranked voting procedure which she recommended for DNC Member elections. Jeff Bierer made a motion to adopt the ranked choice voting method. Jeff Marshall seconded his motion. The motion was passed on a voice vote.**

**Chris Hardee explained the difference between DNC Members and National Democratic Convention Delegates.**

**Robin Dickerson withdrew her candidacy for a DNC Member position.**

**Nominations for female DNC Members began.**

**DD Adams spoke for re-election.**

**Jenny Marshall spoke for re-election.**

**Shelia Huggins spoke for re-election.**

**Jeff Bierer and Jane Whitley spoke for Aisha Dew.**

**Dorian Palmer urged Members to vote for Lainey Edmisten.**

**Diane Tyndall nominated Gloria Goodwin. Gloria then spoke.**

**Chris Hardee made a motion to close nominations for the three female DNC positions. Connie Green-Johnson seconded his motion. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**Nick Long of Wake County told the meeting that speakers can not be recognized unless they are speaking at a microphone according to the Rules of the Day.**

**The meeting moved to nominations for three male DNC Members.**

**Montica Talmadge nominated John Verdejo and Kevyn Creech seconded his nomination. Then John addressed the Members.**

**Lisa Ellsworth nominated Cameron Pruette. Cameron spoke to the SEC.**

**Paula Shelton nominated Matt Hughes and Charlie Wallin seconded his nomination. Matt addressed the crowd.**

**Mario Benavente nominated Soren Pederson. Soren spoke to the Members of the SEC.**

**Derrick Montgomery nominated Drew Kromer and Kathy Kline seconded his nomination. Then Drew spoke to the SEC.**

**Aron Johnson nominated Vinod Thomas and Diane Snyder seconded his nomination. Vinod spoke to the Members.**

**Jimmy Cochran of Lenoir County made a motion to close the nominations and Samuel Johnson of Onslow County seconded his motion. The SEC voted to close nominations.**

**The following candidates spoke to the meeting:**

- **Supreme Court Justice Allison Riggs**
- **Maurice Green for Superintendent of Public Instruction**
- **Tim Dunn for Attorney General**
- **Delano (who didn't say his name clearly) spoke for Ben Clark for Lt. Governor**
- **Kevin Clark for Senate District 29**
- **Maurice Holland for Senate District in Moore & Cumberland**
- **Chris Schultze for HD 15**
- **Ben Massey for HD 93**
- **Linda Jean Moore for HD-3 in Craven County.**
- **LaVon Barnes for HD-64**
- **Susie Scott for NC-50 which is a R+50 district**

**NCDP Second Vice Chair Kimberly Harding gave a report on all her exciting activities since the SEC meeting in June of 2023.**

**State Treasurer Deniese Chaney presented the proposed 2024 State Party budget which had already been approved by the Finance Committee and by the State Executive Council.**

**The proposed budget included funds for three Regional Organizing Directors who will report to Organizing Director Sarah O'Brian.**

**The proposed budget includes funds to provide Mobilize to all 100 counties.**

**The proposed budget will change the position of NCDP Chair to a fulltime position which will pay the Chair a fulltime salary plus the same benefits which are paid for all fulltime Headquarters personnel.**

**After some discussion and questions by several SEC Members Ryan Jenkins made a motion to close debate. Dorian Palmer seconded his motion.**

**Cliff Moone spoke up to say that our Treasurer could not preside over the vote to close discussion on the budget. The gavel was turned over to Parliamentarian David Parker.**

**David called for a vote on the motion to close discussion on the budget. After the vote was taken David ruled that the motion had failed to get the 2/3 majority that was needed to close debate.**

**Kevyn Creech, Gina Marie Santore, Carl Newman, Minisha Kapel, Cynthia Wallace, Caroline Hall, and Charles McKellum spoke about the budget and the motion to close discussion.**

**Chris Hardee spoke to agree with others to close debate. Parliamentarian David Parker humorously said: “Melvin Williams, put that in the minutes – Chris Hardee agreed with somebody about something!”**

**A Member who did not say their name clearly made a motion to extend debate for four minutes. The motion was seconded. The motion failed. Therefore, the debate on the budget was ruled to be closed.**

**The budget was then adopted with only one objection being registered.**

**In response to a question from the floor, Treasurer Deniese Chaney replied that the salary for the State Chair would begin on March 1, 2024.**

**The results of the voting for the three female DNC Members were announced. The three elected were: Shelia Huggins, Jenny Marshall, and DD Adams.**

**Then it was announced that Matt Hughes and John Verdejo had won two of the male DNC Member positions and that there would be a runoff between Soren Peterson and Vinod Thomas for the remaining male DNC position.**

**Matt Hughes gave the meeting lots of information about how to run for a Delegate position at the 2024 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.**

**State Treasurer Deniese Chaney announced the completion of many months of work spent developing the Party's first County Treasurer's Handbook. It will remain in online form only so that updates can be made as election laws are changed. Access to the Handbook can be requested at: [Treasurer@NCDP.org](mailto:Treasurer@NCDP.org).**

**Everyone applauded Deniese and her team for developing this valuable resource.**

**First Vice Chair Jonah Garson promoted Project 100 and its goal of helping conduct canvasses in all 100 counties. Every county which would like to participate should write to [JGarson@NCDP.org](mailto:JGarson@NCDP.org).**

**The State Chair announced that Vinod Thomas had won the runoff for the last male position on the DNC.**

**The State Chair then followed up on "A Resolution Expressing Our Deepest Thanks To Brenda Pollard" which was passed at the June 24, 2023 SEC meeting as well as by the 2023 NCDP Platform and Resolutions Committee, and the 2023 Durham County Democratic Convention.**

**The wording of the 2023 Resolution was:**

**"BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party, Durham County Democratic Party, and Durham County Precinct Nine wish to formally extend our deepest thanks to Brenda Pollard for her decades of selfless, exemplary, and dedicated service to the causes of freedom and human dignity, and for her advancing Democratic values in the Old North State. This Resolution requests that the State Party Chair personally thank Brenda Pollard at the next state SEC Meeting on behalf of all of North Carolina."**

**Chair Clayton praised and hugged Brenda.**

**Zack Finley made a motion to adjourn. Ryan Jenkins seconded his motion. The motion was passed and the State Chair declared the meeting to be adjourned at 5:36PM.**

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