

**INGHAM COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**June 28, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Ingham County Election Commission was called to order at 10:31 a.m. by Judge Garcia. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioners Room at the Grady Porter Building in Lansing, MI.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barb Byrum, Ingham County Clerk  
Richard Garcia, Chief Probate Judge  
Eric Schertzing, Ingham County Treasurer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Liz Noel, Election/Clerk Coordinator  
Lindsey LaForte, Recording Secretary  
Courtney Gabbara, Ingham County Attorney  
Sarah Belanger, Williamston School Board member

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2018 Election Commission Meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Remarks from Clerk Byrum**

Clerk Byrum stated that there had been two polling location changes, East Lansing City was temporarily changing the location for Precinct 15 for the August 2018 Primary Election and Lansing Township Precinct 2's location change was a permanent change.

Clerk Byrum stated that her Office had been receiving some complaints about the Meridian Township absent voter ballots requests not being processed in a timely manner. She further stated that Meridian Township's absent voter ballots would start to go out tomorrow, although there was disagreement as to how these requests should be processed.

Clerk Byrum stated that July 9, 2018 was the final day for voter registration and any address changes.

**Consideration of Recall Petition Language**

Judge Garcia asked if anyone would like to provide any public comment on the recall petition language.

Sarah Belanger, Williamston School Board member, read a statement, which is included in the minutes as Attachment A.

Ms. Belanger provided photos and a blueprint of the Williamston Branch of the Capital Area District Library, which is included in the minutes as Attachment B.

Christopher Lewis had provided a statement for this meeting, which is included as Attachment C.

Greg Talberg had provided a statement for this meeting, which is included as Attachment D.

Judge Garcia stated that this was not a fact-finding mission. He further stated that at a recent Probate Judge's meeting, the issue of approving recall language was discussed.

Judge Garcia stated that the Judges did not consider the Election Commissions to be fact-finding boards. He further stated that the Election Commission was to rule on if the petition language was factually based, rather than based on an opinion, and clear.

- o Sarah Belanger – filed by Craig Hagelberger on June 13, 2018

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to reject the petition language due to lack of clarity and factuality.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- o Chris Lewis – filed by Craig Hagelberger on June 13, 2018

Judge Garcia read the petition.

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to reject the petition language due to lack of clarity and factuality.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- o Greg Talberg – filed by Craig Hagelberger on June 13, 2018

Judge Garcia read the petition language.

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to reject the petition language due to lack of clarity and factuality.

Judge Garcia stated that he was unsure if Greg Talberg voted for the sinking fund question, but there was assertion of fact that he did. He further stated that the assertion of fact was that it would expand the proposal and include technology.

Judge Garcia stated that there was an assertion of two facts and it was relatively clear. He further stated that he found this petition language to be sufficient for a recall petition and would not support the motion.

THE MOTION CARRIED. Yeas: Clerk Byrum and Treasurer Schertzing  
Nays: Judge Garcia

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

Judge Garcia stated that without objection, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:41 a.m.



BARB BYRUM, INGHAM COUNTY CLERK



## Attachment A – Submitted by Sarah Belanger

“Board member Sarah Belanger approved an agreement to move the community library to the middle school building. The agreement expands the flow of non-student traffic to the school and increases security concerns for the building, students, and staff.”

The petition before you filed by Craig Hagelberger is neither clear nor factual. The first part of the petition, although true, lacks clarity while the rest of the petition is an opinion not based on any facts.

The Williamston Board of Education voted unanimously to approve a move of the Capital Area District Libraries, Williamston branch. Before the Williamston Board of Education voted on this matter the City of Williamston voted to approve the move as well as the executive board of CADL.

Mr. Hagelberger’s petition lacks clarity and misleads voters to think that the Williamston Board of Education, along with myself, is putting students at risk. When Mr. Hagelberger states, “the agreement expands the flow of non-student traffic to the school and increases security concerns for the building, students, and staff” he is asserting his own opinion and making an assumption that is neither clear nor factual.

The Williamston Board of Education along with its district administrators, teachers, and staff take security and safety of our students very seriously. The fact is that the Williamston Middle School, where the Williamston District Library moved to, made significant upgrades to its security. Some of these upgrades include security cameras in the entrance hallway to the library (see exhibit A), doors with alarms, and sealed doors that do not open to the middle school (see exhibit B). In respect to non-student traffic the library does not open until 10am and there is ample parking in the front of the building for busier times during the day, for example afternoon dismissal (see exhibit C). The location of the library at the Williamston Middle School is at the end of the building and the only access to the school itself would be going to the front entrance and being “buzzed” in (see exhibit D). By stating having the library at the Williamston Middle School “increases security concerns to the building, students, and staff” is factually inaccurate and is an assumption or opinion.

Based on the aforementioned reasons the recall language petition lacks clarity and is not factual.



Attachment B – Submitted by Sarah Belanger



Exhibit A- Security cameras in hallway



Exhibit B- Doors without handles



Exhibit C- Library hours







WILLIAMSTON  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Draft Lease Agreement

Williamston  
Middle School

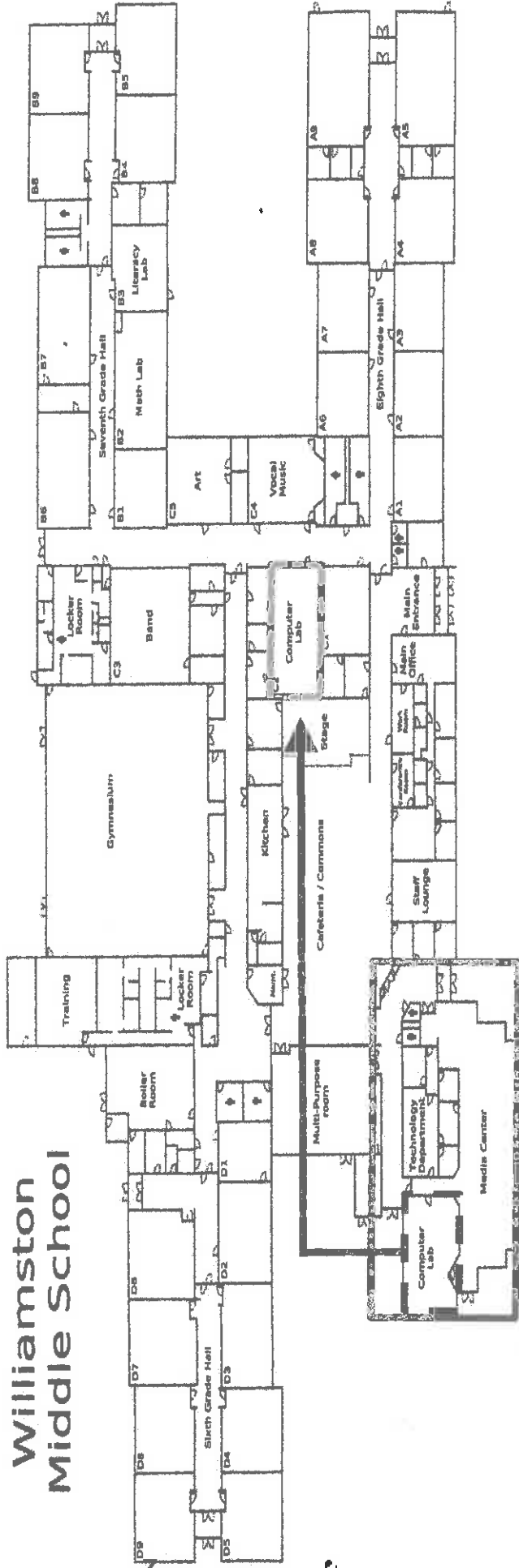


EXHIBIT D