

**Wexford County Democratic Party**  
**Minutes of Public Zoom Meeting**  
**March 9, 2022**

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Executive Board Members Attending:

Amanda Siggins, Chair  
Dave Bunce, Co-Chair  
Rowan Winterstorm, Treasurer  
Jan O'Brien, Record Keeper

Working Board:

Antoinette Schippers  
Absent: Sarah Aljabori

Visitors Attending:

Ed and Judy Markham

Rowan brought up rent of office for \$500 that includes utilities. Phone banking to solicit contributions for rent was discussed.

Howard Baron, our special guest will be joining us around 7:30 p.m. He is running for the State Board of Education. We discussed endorsing him after hearing from him and other candidates running for this office. This position is not primaried, but is chosen by the party. Rowan raised the point that direct contributions are split between administrative and endorsement accounts.

State Convention: It was pointed out that we need not have a county convention, since we are small. We can however, bring the whole board to the state convention. Rowan made a motion to send the board to the State Convention, Tiyi, seconded, motion carried.

Tiyi mentioned that we can hold public meetings at the Michigan Education Association office, as long as we are following Covid guidelines. Tiyi will look into what's involved in using that space.

Earth Day: Chad Phillips was chairperson for this event in the past and will do it again. It will be on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm. We are providing tree seedlings to give away. Chad will be sending out an email to ask for volunteers to help him organize Earth Day event.

Amanda is looking for volunteers to help her phonebank our Van list. This is to introduce ourselves to area Democrats and invite them to our meetings and events.

Tiyi reported the Governor's visit will be April 22, 2022 at (must register)(contact Wexford County Democratic Party for details).

Howard Baron joined our Zoom Meeting, as our guest speaker. He is running in 2023. He is one of the only candidates running for this position that was formerly a local school board member. He spoke on the need of a well education populace and education equity for everyone. His goal is that all students get the same high education, regardless of location, ethnicity, gender, etc. The State Board coordinates all public education per the state constitution. Candidate Baron wants Michigan to be the Top 10 in education for the country. A question-and-answer session ensued. Some of the issues addressed were: masks; critical race theory and financial education literacy standards. Candidate Baron stated his thoughts on these and promised to research the financial literacy issue. Explanations of school funding were very informative.

April 13, 2022 will be our next public meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jan O'Brien, Record Keeper