

Meeting Minutes for
Single Board Member Redistricting Steering Public Hearing District 1
Thursday, April 19, 2012
Start Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: McArthur High School Auditorium,
6501 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood 33024

Agenda Items

1. Call to order

Chair Rajner called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

#5 District 1 – Kristine Judeikis
#6 District 1 – Russell Chard
#7 District 2 – Marilyn Soltanipour
#8 District 2 – Barbara Jones
#9 District 3 – Paul Eichner
#10 District 3 – Heather Cunniff
#11 District 4 –Latha Krishnaiyer
#12 District 5 – Roland Foulkes
#13 District 5 –Roosevelt Walters
#14 District 6 – Philip Busey
#15 District 7 – Michael Rajner- Chair
#16 District 7 – Sheila Rose
#1 County Wide, At-Large 8 – Mary C. Fertig
#3 County Wide, At-Large 9 - Alan Ehrlich
#4 County Wide, At-Large 9 - Marsha Ellison – Vice Chair

The following committee members were absent from the meeting:

#2 County Wide, At-Large 8 - Michael Ahearn
#17 Superintendent – Antonio Coley
#18 District 4 – Becki Eikevik
#19 District 6 – To Be Determined

4. Approval of April 19, 2012 Public Hearing District 1 agenda

Chair Rajner moved to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved without objection.

5. Approval of deferred March 29, 2012 Orientation Meeting 3 minutes

Chair Rajner asked staff if there were any corrections to the minutes submitted by the committee members. **Patrick Sipple** presented the corrections submitted by **Mr. Busey**. The March 29th meeting minutes were adopted as amended by the committee.

6. Public Hearing

6.1 Overview of Redistricting Process and Guiding Principles

Ms. Judeikis began the public hearing by presenting to the community an overview of the Broward County single School Board member redistricting process.

6.2 Public Comment

Chair Rajner opened the floor to the public for comment on the redistricting process as there were no maps presented at the public hearing. Due to the low turnout, **Chair Rajner** allowed speakers to have five minutes to make their comments instead of the usual two minutes.

Members of the public provided their comments:

Mr. Clovis Nelson stated, “I have two quick questions. One, how exactly is the process going to impact certain minorities, say, the community where people are not necessarily forth coming unless they attend a public hearing and have their voices heard? Are we guaranteed that this group of people is properly represented in a fair and just manner? The second part, of my question has to do with the public hearing. This is a forum that the public is expected to come to and voice their opinions, or get their voices heard, or even get an honest fact of what really transpired. The fact that they are not here, how do we work this kind of situation out? Thank you.

Chair Rajner stated that although he was fine with providing a quick response to **Mr. Nelson**, he was going to follow protocol and not engage the public in a discussion in regards to their comments. He assured **Mr. Nelson**, that his concerns would be addressed when the committee discusses committee business.

Ms. Andrea McKinnon stated, “Hi, I really just want to say thank you all for participating and for taking this on. As a parent who has two children who are in the school district, it is so important that we do this. I’m so distressed that the auditorium is empty. Hopefully that will change by the next meeting. I’ll be thrilled, to be able to hear those community outreach things. If you all need any help, give me a holler. I just wanted to say thank you all for participating and for taking your time to do it, because it is an important.”

Ms. Soltanipour asked **Chair Rajner** if it were possible to allow for a few questions so long as they were specific to redistricting. **Mr. Eichner** felt that there should be more latitude given the low turnout, however, responses should be general and not specific to any one question in particular. He was concerned over the committee’s ability to remain consistent from one public hearing to the next. **Chair Rajner** stated that the topic of changing hearing procedures can be discussed when the committee discusses Step 9 on the agenda (Future Steps). **Ms. Soltanipour** asked the speaker (**Ms. McKinnon**) if she was notified of the meeting by the school at which her child attends, or if there was an advertisement put up at the school. **Ms. McKinnon** replied that she was not and said that she only found out because she was involved in other School Board issues. She went on to say she only found out about the meeting after talking with her School Board member. **Chair Rajner** stated that staff would address community outreach efforts in step 8.3 on the agenda.

7. Chair's Report

Chair Rajner stated that on April 24th the School Board will hold a workshop where they will provide the committee with clarification and guidance on the concern they were having with the meaning of geographic diversity. He went on to ask the committee members if they could articulate any concerns or recommendations they may have on the item. Committee members did not have anything to add, but all felt that they could not move forward until the School Board gave clarification on the item or removed it from the Guiding Principles.

8. Staff Follow Up

8.1 Update of Public Hearing Schedule (discussed from Web site)

Patrick Sipple presented to the committee the updated public hearing schedule as found on the District's redistricting Web site. He also described the two hour mapping meeting process.

8.2 Follow up on School Board Discussion on Guiding Principles

Jill Young described the forthcoming changes to the Guiding Principles as follows, "At the top we have the things that are required for Florida State Statue 1001.36. Those are the things that the Board must do by state law. The other 2 boxes down below are the aspirational items. What they recommended to do is to remove section A, because all of the items are stated in section B in sentence format. They are actually Florida Constitutional provisions, and are a lot cleaner in Section B. Traditional Guiding Principle number 7 will be moved up into the Required Guiding Principle section as it pertains to compliance with the Voting Rights Act. Items in the Guiding Principles Unique to Broward County will now all include the statement "whenever possible". The third item in this section will be changed from "existing geographic area population diversity" to "communities of interest". She went on to state that following their final approval, they will be provided to the committee.

Mr. Walters was concerned that the verbiage "whenever possible" weakened the statement "preservation of communities of interest". He felt that the committee must be very careful when reviewing new districts, as a community is not the same as a municipality.

8.3 Update Media Outreach (radio/robo calls, etc)

Patrick Sipple described the District's latest efforts to notify the community of the ongoing single School Board member redistricting process. These efforts included PSAs posted in the Miami Herald and in local newspapers, announcements and PSAs on BECON programs and events calendars, and through ParentLink robo calls.

Ms. Krishnaiyer and Ms. Fertig asked if anyone had received the ParentLink call? **Ms. McKinnon** (parent speaker) stated that she had not. **Chair Rajner** stated that the calls are in the process of being sent out Districtwide. **Ms. Ellison** asked **Chair Rajner** if there had been announcements in any local newspapers or through the black media. **Chair Rajner** replied yes.

Patrick Sipple stated that the flyers had been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole and have been sent to the committee members and posted online. He also stated that the meetings have been advertised on the District's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Ms. Krishnaiyer suggested to staff on sending reminder letters to the cities in which the meetings are held. **Mr. Foulkes** suggested having more information sent out via radio stations as it would reach a broader audience. He also suggested contacting faith based organizations.

Chair Rajner asked the committee to tell the other members what ways they have been reaching out to the community. The committee members have reached out to: people via email groups, the League of Cities, PTA presidents and group members, home owners associations, work groups, faith based groups, municipal staff, and political party meetings.

10.0 New Business

10.1 Request for Committee Input on May 22, 2012 School Board Redistricting Workshop

Leslie Brown described to the committee the purpose of the May 22, 2012 workshop and the need for the committee to have very specific points for the School Board to discuss. **Chair Rajner** stated that the key topic should be what the committee will be doing from August until November. The committee discussed the topic at length and agreed to add the following items to the timeline for discussion by the School Board on May 22nd : 1. In August, the committee will compare the alternative maps to the Guiding Principles. The committee reviews, and if necessary the committee will create or modify alternative maps. 2. In September, the committee presents all alternative maps and receives final public input. 3. In October, the committee generates a report for the School Board inclusive of the map alternatives review and public comments. **Motion: Mr. Chard** made the motion to adopt the timeline to include the above mentioned items inclusive of the committee generating maps. **Mr. Foulkes** seconded the motion. **Chair Rajner** called for a vote. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8 committee members in favor to 2 not in favor. **Motion: Mr. Chard** made the motion that the committee only entertain maps submitted by the public or by individual committee members. The motion fails.

11. Public Comments

There were no further public comments.

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.