

Single Board Member Redistricting Steering Public Hearing District 4

Monday, June 4, 2012

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Coral Springs High School Auditorium

7201 West Sample Road, Coral Springs, FL 33065

Michael Rajner, Chair

Marsha Ellison, Vice Chair

Agenda Items

1. Call to order

Chair Rajner called the meeting to order at 6:23 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Ellison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

District 1 – Russell Chard

District 2 – Barbara Jones

District 2 – Marilyn Soltanipour

District 3 – Paul Eichner

District 3 – Heather Cunniff

District 4 –Latha Krishnaiyer

District 4 –Mandy Wells

District 5 – Roland Foulkes

District 5 –Roosevelt Walters

District 6 – Philip Busey

District 7 – Sheila Rose

District 7 – Ron Aronson

County Wide, At-Large 8 - Marsha Ellison – Vice Chair

County Wide, At-Large 8 - Alan Ehrlich

County Wide, At-Large 9 – Michael De Gruccio

Superintendent – Michael Rajner- Chair

The following committee members were absent from the meeting:

District 1 – Kristine Judeikis

County Wide, At-Large 9 – Mary C. Fertig

4. Approval of June 4, 2012 Public Hearing District 4 Agenda

The agenda was adopted as amended by unanimous consent.

5. Approval of May 17, 2012 Draft Public Hearing District 3 Minutes

Chair Rajner asked staff if there were any corrections to the minutes submitted by the committee members. **Patrick Sipple** presented additions submitted by **Ms. McDougle**. The revisions corrected verbiage on page two of the minutes changing the word “adopted” to “approved”. The May 17th meeting minutes were approved as corrected by the committee.

6. Public Hearing

6.1 Overview of Redistricting Process and Guiding Principles

Ms. Krishnaiyer and Ms. Wells from District 4 presented a very clear and brief presentation on the Redistricting Process and Guiding Principles.

6.2 Presentation of Newly Submitted Map Alternatives

Mr. Foulkes presented Map Alternative 2 and Map Alternative 3. The following is his presentation:

“Transformation to the proposed 21st century re-configured Broward County’s Public Schools Districts (Alternative 2) from the current gerrymandered districts is what is required and demanded by Broward voters and taxpayers in the next decade and beyond. Particularly by this one, and others who have driven the One Mayor For One Broward Coalition since 1999: Men, Women and Youth advocating for sensible and inclusive districts at both the Broward County Commission and the School Board of Broward County levels.

Each of these re-configured (seven) school board districts would extend as east-to-west / west-to-east horizontal strips across the county --- from the Atlantic Ocean to the Everglades, between the sharks and the alligators, from the saw-grass to the sea-grass and back.

Each district would follow such major roadways as Hillsborough Boulevard in the north, Broward Boulevard in central-county, and Hallandale Beach Boulevard in the south, and boulevards betwixt and between. Included are intact Innovation Zones.

Through such simple, both ancient (e.g., an early Ezekiel’s layout of the 12-tribal allotments of ancient Israel in strips running between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River / Ezekiel 48: 2-27/ http://jbq.jewishbible.org/assets/Uploads/341/341_utopian.pdf and 21st century configuration, each School Board member would live in, serve, represent, be responsive to, and be knowledgeable of, Broward’s expansive diverse communities as they extend from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Everglades in the west, and back.

With respect to Broward’s rich human, ethnic, and cultural diversity, consider these Census 2000 facts: (1) Broward County, together with Miami-Dade County, sits in the middle of one of this nation’s ten (10) most multi-culturally significant markets and regions (Census 2000); (2) Broward ranked 11th of 15 of the nation’s most diverse large counties (Simpson Index of Diversity, Broward County Commission); (3) Broward ranked 3rd most diverse of Florida’s 67 counties (Simpson Index of Diversity, Broward County Commission); (4) On any given day, Broward’s students represent over 170 nations and know or speak over 80 different languages on any given day (Broward County Public Schools); and, (5) Broward County / South Florida executes international trade with over 100 nations on nearly every continent which means that the children of these global business executives are enrolled today, and will continue to enroll, in our schools over the next decade (World City Magazine).

(Despite all that diversity, regrettably, Broward ranked Number 1 statewide for three consecutive years in the number of documented Hate Crimes against Black Americans of African

Descent, the homeless of all colors, ethnicities and nationalities, and White Gay Americans of European Descent [2007 – 2010 / Florida State Attorney General]. Many of these hate crimes against the homeless, for example, were committed by recent Broward School students. And, the increased recognition of bullying on our campuses mirror, perhaps mimic, these adult hateful and deadly words, behaviors and actions.

Based on data emerging from Census 2010, Broward's diversity is as rich as it was in 2000 and throughout to 2010. However, today, that diversity is distributed widely throughout the county: Present in at least 28 of 31 Broward's municipalities. Broward's LEAST racially/ethnically diverse communities are: Highland Beach; Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Lazy Lake, and South West Ranches. Along, and throughout, the east-west boulevard orientation of the proposed new district (Alternative 2) are an array of compact, contiguous, Wealthy/Middle Class/Impoverished communities of interest, gated and non-gated neighborhoods and enclaves fully representative of, and, in many instances, inclusive of, Broward's age, gender, color, ethnic, national, family structure, faith, occupational, and educational diversity, among others.

Furthermore, with respect to Broward's equally rich, even greater, bio-diverse, yet fragile, ecosystems ---namely, our beaches, inter-coastal and other waterways, the New River, Water District canals, Biscayne Aquifer, remaining un-developed green spaces, city, county, regional, state and national parks, dry lands and wetlands, marshes, etc. --- each school board member would, as each should, have an elected and vested interest in securing, sustaining, maintaining, and enhancing these quality of life and sense of place engines of economic activity, productivity, and profitability (including the Atlantic Ocean, Port Everglades, the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport and the Everglades) these vital, precious gifts from God, for generations of students and residents to come."

Mr. Foulkes went on to state that the vertical map, Map Alternative 3, is less desirable to him than Map Alternative 2.

6.3 Public Comment on Newly Submitted Map Alternatives

Mr. Aronson asked if the maps would go into effect beginning in January 2013. **Chair Rajner** stated that the changes must be made in an odd year and will not be finalized until around February 2013 based on the current timeline. The new maps would not be in effect for the upcoming 2012 School Board member elections, but would be for the 2014 election.

Rose Waters – “Regarding the city boundaries in the Alternative 2 map, we see that Coral Springs, Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, and Pembroke Pines have at least three Districts whereas the other areas are mostly going into two Districts. I thought one of our goals was to keep them as much as possible within one District. I am not as concerned with the Innovation Zones as I am with city zones, such as, Fort Lauderdale and areas in south Broward having three representatives. The majority of the cities have two representatives with a few having only one representative.”

“In Map Alternative 3, Davie has four Districts and Hollywood has five different districts. We were asked to consider these types of things and it does not appear that much thought was placed here especially with the realization that a lot of districts are not compact.”

Jerry Graziose – “At this point, I still feel that Alternative 1’s map comes closer to the guidelines required for redistricting. I agree with Rose that people in Map Alternatives 2 & 3 will create splits of the public votes as well as splits of cities and zones. Map Alternatives 2 & 3 will actually cause members to vote for representatives that do not represent their school. In District 2 there are over 10,000 people less, whereas in Map Alternative 1 we did not have anything exceeding 5000. Our goal was/is to get the population down as close to the district average as possible.

Chair Rajner commented that no district has one Board member as they are also represented by an At-Large School Board member. **Mr. Busey** stated that the law states that the voting should not be diluted. **Mr. Foulkes** responded that he did not try to make any district a majority district and that if it were up to him, there wouldn’t be any districts. **Chair Rajner** reaffirmed that the committee was not charged with removing or reducing the number of School Board member districts.

Ms. Soltanipour asked if impacted cities were being notified. **Chair Rajner** stated that city commissions have been reached out to by staff and that committee members have received very little feedback. Cities have been placed on notice and that they have the opportunity to provide and receive input. He also reminded everyone that at the previous public hearing, held in the City of Fort Lauderdale Commission chambers, not a single city official showed up despite the convenient location and the rescheduling of the Educational Advisory Board meeting.

Mr. Walters felt the two members of the public did an excellent job at critiquing Map Alternatives 2 and 3. He stated that some of the Guiding Principles are suggestive, whereas the Voting Rights Act is cut and dry, therefore, map makers should try and follow the guidelines set forth by the Voting Rights Act. He felt that neither of the maps preserved communities of interest.

Ms. Rose complimented **Mr. Foulkes** for thinking outside the box, but she didn’t think it was practical. “When we look at local governments and communities of interest I don’t think these maps apply.” **Mr. Chard** agreed and admired the effort put into the map. He had the same concern that the cities were carved up too much. He stated that in looking at the most southern districts, which are 20 miles wide, the compactness rule wouldn’t be applicable. **Mr Foulkes** stated that communities of interest are hard to define. **Mr. Busey** agreed and stated that even the county had a hard time defining communities of interest.

6.4 Public Comment on Previously Presented Maps

There was no public comment on previously presented map alternatives.

6.5 General Public Comment on the Redistricting Process

Bob Sutton – “As a resident of Coral Springs, I am wondering whether or not anyone has considered how disenfranchised the students of Margate must feel with not having their own high school in their city?”

Jerry Grazioplene stated that none of the cities are receiving the maps. “I get a lot of emails from **Charles Webster** about the meetings. I have had two cities contact me, Margate and Coconut Creek.”

Rose Waters clarified her earlier comments by stating that Map Alternatives 2 and 3 had cities or Izones being represented by two or three single seat School Board Members, more if you count the at-large members.

Dave Thomas stated that the committee has no enviable task. To **Jerry Grazioplene**- “I visited all the schools in my district when I was a School Board member, but the farther away the schools are the less likely they will be visited.”

Carol Smith stated that she has not seen any maps aligned with cities. She questioned if this is a process that should get the cities more involved. She reminded everyone that by delaying the redistricting until now, School Board members will not be elected based on the new map until 2014.

7. Chair’s Report

Chair Rajner thanked the members of the public for their attendance and stated that the committee should be prepared to discuss August through October dates for upcoming meetings at the District 5 public hearing.

8. Staff Follow Up

Jill Young gave a brief description of what an Innovation Zone is and that it follows the boundaries of the District’s high school boundaries. **Mr. Aronson** asked if Innovation Zones fall within cities and if the single Board member districts follow city limits. **Jill Young** stated that Innovation Zones often split city limits and encompass parts of many cities.

9. Unfinished Business

There were no unfinished business items and none added to the agenda.

10. New Business

There was discussion by the committee on the length of time a map alternative creator should have to present.

Mr. Busey moved “to allow a presenter 5 minutes per map alternative with up to a total of 10 minutes per meeting at the time of scheduled presentation.” The motion was adopted after debate.

After debate and amendment, a motion introduced by **Mr. Walters** was adopted as follows: “for the public to have 2 minutes per map alternative per meeting.”

Attachment 5

Ms. Soltanipour moved “for staff to forward all agenda and backup materials to the appropriate officials in the municipalities.” The motion was adopted.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.