

Single Board Member Redistricting Steering Public Hearing District 6

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Western High Auditorium

1200 Southwest 136th Avenue, Davie, FL 33325

Michael Rajner, Chair

Marsha Ellison, Vice Chair

Agenda Items

1. Call to order

Chair Rajner called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Jeff Nelson, Mayor, Town of Southwest Ranches led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

District 1 – Russell Chard

District 1 – Kristine Judeikis

District 2 – Barbara Jones

District 2 – Marilyn Soltanipour

District 3 – Heather Cunniff

District 4 –Latha Krishnaiyer

District 5 – Roosevelt Walters

District 6 – Philip Busey

District 6 – Barry Butin

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

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

Superintendent – Michael Rajner- Chair

The following committee members were absent from the meeting:

District 3 – Paul Eichner

District 4 – Mandy Wells

District 5 – Roland Foulkes

4. Approval of July 11, 2012 Public Hearing District 6 Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented by unanimous consent.

5. Approval of June 21, 2012 Draft Public Hearing District 5 Minutes

Chair Rajner informed the committee that prior to this meeting the minutes were replaced with amended minutes by **Patrick Sipple**. The amended minutes reflected changes emailed to **Patrick Sipple** prior to the meeting. **Mr. Busey** stated that there was one missing comment

made by a Commissioner from the City of Lauderdale Lakes and that it should be added. **Patrick Sipple** stated that he would find and add the comment to the minutes. **Motion:** **Ms. Rose** made the motion to adopt the June 21st minutes as amended inclusive of the missing comment. The motion was seconded by **Ms. Krishnaiyer**. The minutes were approved as amended.

6. Public Hearing

6.1 Overview of Redistricting Process and Guiding Principles

Mr. Busey presented an overview of the Redistricting Process and Guiding Principles.

6.2 Presentation of Newly Submitted Map Alternatives

Mr. Aronson presented Map Alternative 6.

- *“I basically took one thing into consideration and the numbers seemed to balance out. That one thing was communities of interest.”*
- *What I tried to do was to get as many whole cities into each district. I started with the northwest corner and worked my way down.*
- *There are about sixteen cities that are completely within one district.*
- *As you come down District 4, Parkland, Coral Springs, North Lauderdale, and Tamarac are completely within the new district.*
- *In District 6, Sunrise, Weston, Cooper City, and Southwest Ranches are completely within the new district, as is most of Davie.*
- *In District 7, Margate, Coconut Creek, Deerfield Beach, Lighthouse Point, and Hillsboro Beach are completely within the new district.*
- *When I got to the eastern side of the county, it became difficult to place an entire city into one district.*
- *I stayed within the +/- 5% for the deviation from the district’s average population.*
- *If the committee choses to go this route, it will take some adjusting, especially on the east side of the county. I was mainly looking at communities of interest when creating the map.*
- *I tried to keep it as simple as possible.*

6.3 Public Comment on Newly Submitted Map Alternatives

Steve Breitkreuz, Council Member, Town of Southwest Ranches- Appreciate the effort put into the map. He stated that Southwest Ranches was unique in that there are no schools located within the town limits. He pointed out that most of the schools their children attend are to the south. This map places them in District 6 with the majority of their schools in District 2. “We don’t have representation because of this.”

Mr. Busey – Thanked **Mr. Aronson** for his effort. He feels that Innovation Zones are more important than city limits when drawing new districts. He asked **Mr. Aronson** if the committee should tweak a map, or if he felt that one person should take the ideas and comments and come up with a new map. **Mr. Aronson** felt that **Patrick Sipple**, as a professional, should be given the ideas and concepts to create a map to bring to the committee for review. **Chair Rajner**

stated that it can be a modified version of a previously submitted map or a new one. **Mr. Busey** asked if staff would make the map. **Chair Rajner** said that the map will be done as a group with staff present to operate the computer to help move the lines. It will not be a staff map.

Mr. De Gruccio – Thanked **Mr. Aronson** for his effort. He stated that this map splits the Innovation Zones 15 times as compared to 10 times on the map with the least amount of Innovation Zone splits.

Mr. Walters – “I have two problems with the map. 1. Districts 3 and 5 violate communities of interest; and 2. Two districts are not compact. At some point in time, a child won’t be going to the next school and have the same Board member. Innovation Zones are too large and it is too hard to accommodate all feeding schools. It will be very interesting when we sit down and compare communities of interest vs. Izones vs. cities.”

Ms. Soltanipour thanked **Mr. Aronson** for his effort. She stated that in the future, Innovation Zones will become more important to the District as they will now have a larger role and function within the new organizational structure. “We should keep this in mind when coming up with a map alternative.”

Ms. Rose stated that the committee should think about making it manageable. “If the District is moving to a system where Izones are more important, then we should consider them.”

6.4 Public Comment on Previously Presented Maps

Steve Breitzkreuz, Council Member, Town of Southwest Ranches- This is the map that is in our best interest because it is organized where we have representation at the schools where our children attend. In most of these where the border is Stirling Road, 100% of our high school, middle school students, and 80% of our elementary students would not be represented. There is another map in the works that will also meet our needs.

Bob Hartman – Southwest Ranches resident feels that Innovation Zones are the most important. This map gives accountability to the Board Member that represents the schools where our children attend.

Mr. Walters – We will get it right to the best of our ability. I believe there are at least two maps forthcoming that will address your concerns.

6.5 General Public Comment on the Redistricting Process

Andy Berns, Town Administrator, Southwest Ranches – Thanked the committee for allowing them to be heard. He stated that the Town wants to be in one district. Forthcoming Map Alternative 8 meets their needs by placing them in one district and in the same district where their children attend school. Please look at and consider map 8 as it also helps other small towns.

Jeff Nelson, Mayor, Town of Southwest Ranches – We respect the time and effort you are putting into this process. Staff has been accessible and helpful. It is important that we have a

unified voice. Map Alternative 5 and Map Alternative 8 will give us a unified voice. We prefer Map Alternative 8.

Gary Jablonski, Council Member, Town of Southwest Ranches – We are concerned about having adequate representation in our entire line of schools and having a Board member that is accountable to us. Map Alternatives 5, 7, and 8 are good. Map Alternative 8 is our preferred map.

Judy Paul (Comment Card)- I believe that Map Alternative 5 is the best since it helps to keep the IZone intact. I am looking forward to seeing Map Alternative 12.

7. Chair's Report

Chair Rajner thanked the Town of Southwest Ranches for their participation. He pointed out the committee that the residents of the Southwest Ranches community have actively participated in the online comment process. He stated that there are now 12 map submissions, 6 of which will be presented at the next meeting on July 25th. He asked committee members to have for the next meeting any questions that they may have for the District's legal counsel. **Chair Rajner** stated that his question is, "What is the minimum benchmark percentage for protection of minorities to elect other minorities." He is also going to request from the attorney's office an update on the Senate maps and the definitions that came out of the Supreme Court decision. He would like the update to include any of the decisions or definitions the committee may need to be cognizant of when making their decision.

8. Staff Follow Up

8.1 Innovation Zone Tables

Patrick Sipple presented the newly created Innovation Zone tables that were requested by **Ms. Fertig** at the June 26th public hearing. The tables list, for each map alternative, which single School Board member district(s) split an Innovation Zone. The tables also list all Innovation Zones completely within a single School Board member district.

Mr. Busey asked the question if there was any way to quantify a bad Innovation Zone split? **Patrick Sipple** stated that there really wasn't, as the computer simply divides the area split into percentages and calculates the new population based on those numbers. Since Innovation Zones do not always follow Voter Tabulated Districts (VTDs), generating the population for the Innovation Zone would be a calculation summing the completely contained VTD population and a calculated percentage of what was split. This, in combination with splitting the Innovation Zone again by district, would provide an inaccurate population number. **Patrick Sipple** also pointed out that this number could be skewed from what takes place in the real world, as a split area of an Innovation Zone may not contain very much population. He used the airport as an example. **Patrick Sipple** pointed out that the committee is using whole Voter Tabulated Districts and that should an Innovation Zone be split by a newly formed district, it will be up to the committee to decide if the split is acceptable based upon comments they have received from the community and the committee.

Ms. Fertig commented on that every map has some number of splits and that there will be no way to avoid them. Some maps have less, some have more. She was appreciative of staff's work and stated that the tables are what she needs. She would also like to see the maps sent to educational contacts and the Innovation Zones.

Mr. Busey asked if there might be a possibility that the committee could recommend to the Supervisor of Elections a voting precinct be split? **Jill Young** stated that although she did not have the Board resolution at hand, that it was agreed upon that the committee would be using whole Voter Tabulated Districts. **Mr. Rajner** suggested that **Mr. Busey** bring back the question to the July 25th public hearing where it can be provided with other questions to legal counsel.

8.2 Public Comments

Patrick Sipple presented the community comments that have been gathered to date from comment cards, online submissions, email, and in hard copy format.

8.3 Example Online Map

Patrick Sipple stated that staff is working on an online mapping application which will allow the user to compare the map alternatives and demographic data.

8.4 Rescheduling of the December 2012 School Board Workshop to January 2013

Patrick Sipple stated that because of a conflicting schedule, the December 2012 School Board Workshop will be rescheduled for some time in January 2013. Staff will post the date when it becomes available.

8.5 Department Name Change

Patrick Sipple pointed out to the committee members and the public that as of July 1, 2012, the School Boundaries Department will now be called the Demographics & Student Assignments Department as a result of the District's new organizational structure.

9. Unfinished Business

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

10. New Business

There were no new business items and none added to the agenda. **Chair Rajner** recognized new committee member **Barry Butin** as filling the vacancy in District 6.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.