

Single Board Member Redistricting Steering Public Hearing District 6

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Deerfield Beach High Auditorium

910 Southwest 15th Street, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Michael Rajner, Chair

Marsha Ellison, Vice Chair

Agenda Items

1. Call to order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

School Board Member Nora Rupert, 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 3 – Paul Eichner

District 4 –Latha Krishnaiyer

District 4 – Mandy Wells

District 5 – Roosevelt Walters

District 6 – Philip Busey

District 6 – Barry Butin

District 7 – Sheila Rose

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 5 – Roland Foulkes

District 7 – Ron Aronson

4. Approval of July 25, 2012 Public Hearing District 6 Agenda

Chair Rajner requested that section 4 be changed to read, “Approval of July 25, 2012 Public Hearing District 7 Agenda.” He also requested that section 5 be changed to read, “Approval of July 11, 2012 Draft Public Hearing District 6 Minutes.” The agenda was adopted as amended.

5. Approval of July 11, 2012 Draft Public Hearing District 5 Minutes

Chair Rajner requested that in section 8.4 it be noted that the workshop on school boundaries will precede the redistricting workshop. The minutes were approved as amended.

6. Public Hearing

6.1 Overview of Redistricting Process and Guiding Principles

Mr. Ehrlich and **Ms. Rose** presented an overview of the Redistricting Process and Guiding Principles.

6.2 Presentation of Newly Submitted Map Alternative 7

Patrick Sipple presented Map Alternative 7 for **Ms. Nathalie Lynch-Walsh**, who was not in attendance. **Patrick Sipple** read a statement provided by **Ms. Nathalie Lynch-Walsh**.

- *“The primary difference between Map Alternative 5 and Map Alternative 7 is that Sunrise and Lauderhill were put together so that all of Plantation could be kept together.”*

Public Comment on Map Alternative 7

Anzia Armstrong, Pompano Beach resident, spoke of how at one time she had children attending schools in two School Board member districts - D5 and D7. She stated that **Ms. Rupert** promised to bring the Ely Innovation Zone (IZone) back to District 7. “I am happy with this map. Pompano Beach and Fort Lauderdale have nothing in common and should not be in the same district.”

Mr. Busey commented that he was the creator of Map Alternative 5 and that the map maker of Map Alternative 7 correctly stated what she had shifted to create the new map.

Mr. Ehrlich asked **Patrick Sipple** if she had looked at North Lauderdale when creating the map. **Patrick Sipple** stated that she had tried to incorporate the wishes of North Lauderdale into her plan, however, the population numbers caused the districts to exceed the +/- 5% rule.

Mr. DeGruccio commented on the fact that Map Alternatives 5 and 7 align best with the IZones.

Ms. Rose felt that this map was on the right track, but may need some modifications.

6.2 Presentation of Newly Submitted Map Alternative 8

Melissa Gleissner presented Map Alternative 8:

- *She started with Map Alternative 5 and tried to accommodate the needs of small cities by trying to fit them entirely into one School Board member district.*
- *Map Alternative 8 keeps Southwest Ranches, North Lauderdale, and Lauderdale Lakes whole.*
- *The West Broward Izone is split, however, it is only a very small number.*

- *“It was a challenge trying to keep the Izones together and keeping the small cities in one district. Small towns need to be kept together so that they have a voice.”*

Public Comment on Map Alternative 8

Bob Hartman, Southwest Ranches resident, applauded **Melissa Gleissner** for her effort. “When I look at all of the choices, most have 20% of the Southwest Ranches students attending school outside of their district. Map Alternative 8 corrects that.”

Andy Berns, Southwest Ranches Town Administrator, “I am here to reaffirm the town’s preference for Map Alternative 8 and **Ms. Gleissner’s** effort to incorporate small towns and communities into one district.”

Anzia Armstrong, Pompano Beach resident, did not like the fact that the map placed Pompano Beach and Fort Lauderdale into the same district.

Becky Tooley, Commissioner, Coconut Creek, stated that the map takes **Ms. Rupert** out of her district. **Ms. Rose** replied that it did not. **Becky Tooley** asked the committee if this places more children in Coconut Creek High School. **Chair Rajner** stated that the single School Board member districts do not change where children attend school.

Mr. Chard stated that he felt that both District 5 and District 7 in Map Alternative 8 were not compact.

Ms. Ellison reminded the committee that when they were in Lauderdale Lakes, commissioners had stated that they felt that like-minded communities should be kept together.

Ms. Fertig commented that Map Alternative 5 did not have many deviations in the population average and wondered if this was a result of keeping cities together. **Melissa Gleissner** replied that she did the best she could with Map Alternative 8.

Chair Rajner commended her on her effort

6.2 Presentation of Newly Submitted Map Alternative 9

Rose Waters presented Map Alternative 9 (see attached data sheet provided by **Ms. Rose**):

- *“I started out by looking at all the maps. From there I wanted to focus on Section A of the ‘Not Required’ Guiding Principles. If there is a conflict of interest you can, if I am reading it correctly, disregard parts of Section B.”*
- ***Ms. Rose** asked the committee to look at the data for Map Alternative 9 and compare it to the other map alternatives.*

Public Comment on Map Alternative 9

Bob Hartman, Southwest Ranches resident, stated that this map takes the east side of Southwest Ranches and places it in the same district as Cooper City. “I like the east side of the map, but not the west side.”

Lisa Aronson, Commissioner, City of Coconut Creek, stated that one of the goals has to be the protection of municipal boundaries. She felt Map Alternative 9 did a good job at trying to reach that goal.

Joseph Varsallone, Commissioner, City of Margate, wanted to remind the committee that the map alternatives should be in the best interest of the county as a whole. He questioned why there were not more representatives from the municipalities providing input on the process. **Chair Rajner** stated that the public hearings and map making workshops were advertised in newspapers, on the radio, on BECON, in letters sent to city officials, and on the redistricting Web site. He also commented that the input from the public and city officials has been on the increase.

Becky Tooley, Commissioner, Coconut Creek, stated that she liked Map Alternative 9 and what it did for the City of Coconut Creek. She liked the fact that the percentage deviation from the district population averages were low.

Ben Preston, Commissioner, Deerfield Beach, stated that he liked Map Alternative 9.

Nick Steffens, Deerfield Beach resident, stated that he was concerned that in Map Alternative 9 Boyd Anderson High School was being placed into District 4, a district with different communities of interest. For the same reason, he felt that Coral Springs High School should not be excluded from District 4.

Mr. DeGruccio asked **Patrick Sipple** to clarify the District 2 average population deviation percentage. **Patrick Sipple** responded by stating that currently the District 2 population is 18% over the average population for each district and that Map Alternative 9 changes that number to being 4.92% below the average population for each district.

Ms. Rose stated that overall the map was good, but would need some tweaks.

Ms. Ellison commented that the map did address many community concerns.

Ms. Wells stated that the Coral Springs IZone should not be split.

Ms. Krishnaiyer agreed with **Nick Steffens** in that the Boyd Anderson IZone should not be in District 4 as this would go against the concept of maintaining communities of interest.

Ms. Jones was concerned with that Southwest Ranches was being split.

Ms. Soltanipour stated that in the end, some tweaks will need to be made in order to accommodate the community's requests.

6.2 Presentation of Newly Submitted Map Alternative 10

Mr. Chard presented Map Alternative 10:

- *“This was my fifth map. There are so many conflicting interests, it makes it difficult to accommodate everyone's wishes.”*
- *He started at the corners of the county and worked his way in with the priorities being compact districts, Innovation Zones, communities of interest, and minority interest.*
- *He stated that was also interested in keeping the percentage of deviation from the population average per district down as well.*
- *Map Alternative 10 also sought to balance the number of schools per single School Board member district.*
- *He did not look at current or potential School Board member residences when creating the map.*
- *He was not overly concerned about municipal alignment.*
- *He stated he tried to get every district population within 2% points of the population average.*
- *“District 5 has around a 49% black population and District 2 has around a 39% Hispanic population.”*
- *“I tried to make the districts compact without any great changes in proportions.”*
- *“I kept 2/3 of the cities intact, not Southwest Ranches, but I did get most of North Lauderdale in one district. Hollywood is split in the north, but most of that is the port.”*
- *We work for the School Board and not splitting IZones should be strongly considered. I have about 15 Izones that fall within one district.*
- *In balancing the number of schools between the districts, my range between high and low is around ten schools.*
- *I think Map Alternative 10 achieves the most objectives.*

Public Comment on Map Alternative 10

Lisa Aronson, Commissioner, City of Coconut Creek, thanked **Mr. Chard** for his effort. She felt that Map Alternative 10 achieved a lot of goals. She did not like the fact that it had the City of Margate split between two districts. She went on to state that many of the city officials are as involved as the School Board member and are engaged in working with the School Board member. Therefore keeping municipalities intact is very important.

Anzia Armstrong, Pompano Beach resident, stated that Pompano Beach schools should be in one district.

Nick Steffens, Deerfield Beach resident, felt that the communities west of Tamarac should be represented by District 4.

Attachment 5

Bob Hartman, Southwest Ranches resident, stated that he liked the demographics of the map, but felt that feeding elementary and middle schools should have been accommodated. He liked that he tried to fit IZones in one district.

Melissa Gleissner, Southwest Ranches resident, commented on the fact that in Map Alternative 10 all of the Town of Southwest Ranches children will attend schools in District 2 while the town would be voting for the School Board member in District 6.

Joseph Varsallone, Commissioner, City of Margate, supported Map Alternative 10 and stated that Margate should be in District 4.

Mr. Butin stated that he finds it unconscionable for someone to live and vote in one district and there child attend school in another district. He also stated that overall, the map was pretty good.

Mr. Busey liked the compact districts in the map. He stated that it was good with Izones, but not for the Town of Southwest Ranches. He then asked **Nick Steffens** if he thought the map was good for Tamarac. **Nick Steffens** replied that Tamarac would like to be in District 4.

Ms. Fertig felt that this would be a strong map for consideration.

Mr. Ehrlich asked **Mr. Chard** if the cities of Sunrise, and Plantation were split. **Mr. Chard** replied yes.

Mr. DeGruccio thanked **Mr. Chard** for his efforts and expressed concern over the southern portion of District 4 not extending to Commercial Boulevard.

Ms. Rose felt that this may be a strong map for consideration with some tweaks.

Ms. Ellison stated that she had a problem with the percentage of black population being reduced from 55% to 49% in District 5. Map Alternative 9 works best for the community.

Chair Rajner stated that the committee does not work for the School Board, but was appointed by the School Board to oversee the redistricting process.

Ms. Krishnaiyer and **Ms. Cunniff** liked the compactness in the map.

Ms. Soltanipour didn't like that Southwest Ranches was not completely contained within one district. She also didn't like the fact that students from the neighborhoods of Ivanhoe and Laguna Isles would be living in District 6 and attending schools in District 2.

Mr. Chard stated that he did not mean that the committee works for the School Board. He simply meant that Izones should be kept intact and that the number of schools should be balanced between the districts.

6.2 Presentation of Newly Submitted Map Alternative 11

Jeff Dillard presented Map Alternative 11 on behalf of **Freddie Avalos** and the Cuban Americans for a Better Florida:

- He thanked the committee and staff for their time and effort.
- The map was built using MyDistrictBuilder and was provided to staff to work up the final map and table formats.
- “The map meets the requirements for fair and legal districts.”
- “We have less than 5% deviation from the average district population.”
- We wanted to keep existing School Board member district lines in place where it was feasible. We are aware that minor changes will occur and we are willing to work with you and provide assistance if need be.

Public Comment on Map Alternative 11

Nick Steffens, Deerfield Beach resident, stated that he disliked the map because it cut and carved through the county splitting IZones and cities. The map should not split Parkland and it should not put the Ely IZone with east Ft. Lauderdale.

Anzia Armstrong, Pompano Beach resident, stated that the city of Pompano Beach would be divided into three districts. She did not like the map.

Mr. Chard felt that the districts were not compact.

Ms. Judeikis felt that the map chopped up the county too much.

Ms. Soltanipour didn't like that Southwest Ranches was not completely contained within one district. She also didn't like the fact that students from the neighborhoods of Ivanhoe and Laguna Isles would be living in District 6 and attending schools in District 2. (same comment she had for Map Alternative 10)

Ms. Rose didn't like the map because it did not preserve Innovation Zones.

Mr. DeGruccio felt that there was no reason to split Parkland.

Mr. Ehrlich complimented the map makers on their ability to have districts with a low percentage population deviation and stated that it should not have come at the cost of splitting everything up.

Ms. Fertig felt that the map split too many IZones and created too large of an school distribution imbalance between School Board members. “I would like to see the good points, keeping Coconut Creek and Margate intact, worked into a future map.”

Mr. Busey felt that having 69% black population in District 3 diluted the African-American voting rights in other districts.

Chair Rajner reminded the committee members that they should be mindful of what they are saying and to take note of any questions they may have for District legal counsel.

6.2 Presentation of Newly Submitted Map Alternative 12

Mr. Walters presented Map Alternative 12:

- He stated that it is nearly impossible to make everyone happy.
- He tried to look at compactness, a term which attorneys even have difficult defining.
- He stated he would answer any questions.

Anzia Armstrong, Pompano Beach resident, stated that the people in the city of Pompano Beach do not have the same interests as people in the city of Hollywood. “They are two very different communities.” Deerfield should not be split in to three districts. This map also draws **Ms. Rupert** out of her district.

Rose Waters stated that the map creates a District 5 with a black population 51%, and a District 7 black population of 49%. She felt that the Hispanic representation in District 2 was good and that overall this map was more fair for minorities.

Becky Tooley, Commissioner, Coconut Creek, stated that she did not like the map.

Rose Waters commented that it is difficult to satisfy everyone when looking at IZones and municipalities.

Mr. Walters stated that one of the Guiding Principles is that we should look at Amendments 5 and 6. “I drew this as if no one was in a Board member seat. I didn’t look at existing Board member locations. I tried to stick with federal and state law.”

Nick Steffens, Deerfield Beach resident, stated that the map splits communities of interest. “Tamarac being in the same district as Pembroke Pines is a far stretch.” This map falls short of what is needed.

Anzia Armstrong, Pompano Beach resident, commented on the fact that the dividing line in the map is Dixie Highway. “Schools south and north of McNab Road are not the same. I do not like this map.”

Percy Johnson, Fort Lauderdale resident, stated that he did not like the map and the diversity data breakdowns. He stated that just because an area may have more of a minority population does not mean that a minority person would be elected. Tamarac should not be split. Board members would have to travel too far and would not be representative of the area. He also felt cities and IZones should not be split.

Mr. Busey asked for clarification on how the population diversity table totals add up. **Patrick Sipple** clarified that the Census data totals for all racial breakdowns is equal to the number of non-Hispanics.

Ms. Fertig didn't like the map due to how it split IZones.

Ms. Soltanipour was concerned over the racial percentages for each district. She stated that even though District 2 is only 30% Hispanic, they did elect a Hispanic School Board member.

Mr. Chard felt that the districts were not compact. He stated that the committee needs to give the Board members a map that is representative with what they were charged to do...have compact districts, maintain IZones, and balance population numbers and schools per district.

Chair Rajner asked **Patrick Sipple** to footnote the data table to reflect how the racial breakdowns add up.

6.4 Public Comment on Previously Presented Maps

Lisa Aronson, Commissioner, City of Coconut Creek, thanked **Mr. Chard** for his map and stated that she would like to see Map Alternative 6 move forward.

Mr. Busey asked if **Rose Waters'** data was formally submitted for the record. **Mr. Rajner** replied "yes."

Ms. Fertig asked staff if there was a way to show on the map the locations of schools. **Jill Young** stated that it could be, however, the map would be cluttered. **Patrick Sipple** stated that staff will look into providing the school locations on the maps.

6.5 General Public Comment on the Redistricting Process

Bob Hartman, Southwest Ranches resident, stated that he in the past spoke to any Board member that he needed. If he couldn't get a hold of them, he would ask neighbors on if they were successful in contacting the Board member. He feels that if a city is split, the residents will not have any voting or political power as their voice will be diluted. There is also no accountability on the Board member.

Nick Steffens, Deerfield Beach resident, feels that the School Board redistricting process is taking too long and that the IZones could change before the process is complete. Feels the process should have been done sooner.

Andy Berns, Southwest Ranches Town Administrator, stated that he liked Map Alternative 8. He would like to see Southwest Ranches in one district.

Anzia Armstrong, Pompano Beach resident, likes Map Alternative 10 and wants the city of Pompano Beach in one district.

Becky Tooley, Commissioner, Coconut Creek, stated that she has had difficulty in the past reaching Board members. She feels that it is important for a city to have good communications with their representative School Board member. She likes Map Alternative 9.

Rose Waters thanked the committee.

7. Chair's Report

Chair Rajner stated that he had spoken with **Paul Carland, District Legal Counsel**, and that **Mr. Carland** can attend the August 30th meeting. He stated that he will have the redistricting attorney present in person or by phone. **Chair Rajner** also discussed a recent draft ballot as sent by the Supervisor of Elections which stated that the redistricting process was over. **Chair Rajner** had asked if the statement could be corrected to state that the School Board redistricting process was still in progress. The Supervisor of Elections declined to make the change.

8. Staff Follow Up

There were no staff followup items.

9. Unfinished Business

9.1 Identify list of specific questions for General Counsel

Chair Rajner- Is there a standard for fair minority representation in a district? What is the threshold percentage?

Mr. DeGruccio- What were the decisions made by the Supreme Court? What is the definition of compactness? Can someone explain Florida's minority protection provisions?

Mr. Walters- Even though Amendments 5 and 6 are not for School Board redistricting, the School Board did want to adhere to them.

Mr. Busey- Please explain the definition of language minorities? Can we split precincts? What is the definition of compactness?

Mr. Butin asked what the committee will be doing in the upcoming meetings. **Chair Rajner** suggested that **Mr. Butin** schedule time with staff to go over the materials.

Chair Rajner asked the committee to submit any further questions to staff.

9.2 Draft letter to cities, principals, Education Advisory on proposed map alternatives received

Chair Rajner presented the draft letter to cities, principals, Education Advisory on proposed map alternatives received to the committee.

10. New Business

Chair Rajner stated that at the next meeting the committee will discuss how they will make a map. **Patrick Sipple** will work on finding a meeting location.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.