

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

OCTOBER 5, 2021

Board of County Commissioners (BCC)

Present: Commissioner Robert D. Bender, Chairman, District 4
Commissioner Jeffrey W. Bergosh, Vice Chairman, District 1
Commissioner Steven L. Barry, District 5
Commissioner Lumon J. May, District 3
Wesley J. Moreno, Interim County Administrator
Alison Rogers, County Attorney
DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Shamara Jernigan, Agenda Program Coordinator, County Administrator's Office

Absent: Commissioner Douglas B. Underhill, District 2

District School Board (DSB)

Present: Mr. William E. Slayton, Chairman, District 5
Mr. Kevin L. Adams, Vice Chairman, District 1 via Microsoft Teams
Dr. Laura Dortch Edler, District 3
Mr. Paul Fetsko, District 2
Mrs. Patricia Hightower, District 4
Mrs. Ellen D. Odom, General Counsel

Location: Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building, Board Chambers, First Floor
221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida

Minutes prepared by: DeLana Allen-Busbee

AGENDA NUMBER

1. Call to Order

Chairman Bender called the Special Joint Meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

School Board Member Slayton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BCC AND DSB – OCTOBER 5, 2021

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

3. Proof of Publication / Was the Meeting Properly Advertised?

The Board was advised by DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office, that the meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on September 25, 2021, in a block ad, and on October 2, 2021, in the Board's weekly meeting schedule.

4. Comments – Robert Bender, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

BCC Chairman Bender provided opening remarks.

5. Comments – Bill Slayton, Chairman, District School Board

DSB Chairman Slayton provided opening remarks.

6. Introduction to Redistricting – Alison Rogers, County Attorney

- I. Recommendation: That the Boards discuss the redistricting process. The Boards are in receipt of the 2020 Census data.

This agenda item was not discussed, but an overview and information was provided in the agenda backup.

7. Overview and Presentation of Census Results, Redistricting Terms and Redistricting Software - David Stafford, Supervisor of Elections

- I. Recommendation: That the Boards discuss the overview and presentation of Census results, Redistricting Terms and Redistricting Software.

The Boards:

- A. Were advised by the Honorable David Stafford that the Supervisor of Elections office was present to facilitate and support the Boards' work in redistricting and will utilize their software to assist as well;
- B. Agreed that there is a need for redistricting and discussed the aggressive timeline for the process with advice from County Attorney Rogers and General Counsel Odom;
- C. Discussed the process for proposing changes to the maps and heard comments from Mr. Stafford regarding following major boundaries, taking into consideration the City of Pensacola, and logistical issues to ideally avoid;

(Continued on Page 3)

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BCC AND DSB – OCTOBER 5, 2021

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

7. Continued...

I. Continued...

- D. Heard Commissioner Barry's proposal to move a precinct south of Nine Mile Road from District 5 to District 4 which keeps the intent to maintain clear geographical lines;
- E. Heard comments from Commissioner May regarding equitable changes in the districts and maintaining an aggressive timeline while still considering the impact on the community and allowing as much time as possible to work on the changes;
- F. Discussed the effect of changes on maintaining the majority-minority district;
- G. Heard the following proposals from Commissioner Bender:
 - Move a portion of Precinct 109, which is in an area south of Olive Road and west of Davis Highway from District 4 to District 3
 - Move precinct 104, west of Hollywood and east of Mobile Highway, from District 2 to District 3
 - Move a portion of Precinct 29, South of Garden over to 9th Avenue, from District 3 to District 2
- H. Heard comments from School Board Member Fetsko regarding concern over losing parts of the Westside and Mayfair;
- I. Discussed moving an area east of Pace and south of Garden from District 3 to District 2;
- J. Heard the following proposals from Commissioner Bergosh:
 - Move all of Precinct 99 back to District 2 from District 1
 - Move part of Precinct 61, east of Fairfield and north of 98, back to District 2 from District 1
 - Move portions of Precinct 61 south of Highway 98 and the one portion of 61 that is north of Highway 98 and east of Fairfield, from District 1 to District 2; Blue Angel and Highway 98 will create natural boundaries for this move
- K. Heard Commissioner Bender's request to save the map with all changes up to this point as Option 1 (D4 option);

(Continued on Page 4)

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BCC AND DSB – OCTOBER 5, 2021

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

7. Continued...

I. Continued...

L. Heard the following additional proposals from Commissioner Bergosh with input from School Board Member Adams:

- Take back for District 1 the portion of Precinct 105 that lies west of Sorrento on the peninsula and once onto the island, the entirety of the island; everything east of Sorrento would remain in District 2
- Move a portion of Precinct 75 east of Patricia and south of Cerny and Marlane from District 1 to District 2
- Move a portion of Precinct 61 north of Highway 98 and east of Blue Angel from District 1 to District 2

M. Discussed saving the map proposals up to this point as Option 2 and that all districts were within the allowable deviation;

N. Was advised by Mr. Stafford that he will send the options, including the original map as a reference point, through counsel to the Boards; and

O. Heard comments from Dr. Edler regarding the lack of a middle school in District 3.

8. Public Comment

The Boards heard comments from the following citizens:

Melissa Pino
Clifford Stokes

9. Additional Discussion by Board Members

There was no additional discussion by the Boards.

10. Board Direction Regarding Future Meetings

The Boards were advised by Mr. Stafford that he would be willing to meet with any individual Board members regarding map options or adjustments, agreed to ask Chairman Bender and Chairman Slayton to stay in contact and keep their respective board apprised of any discussion they may have, and noted that the next Special Joint Meeting was scheduled for November 2nd.

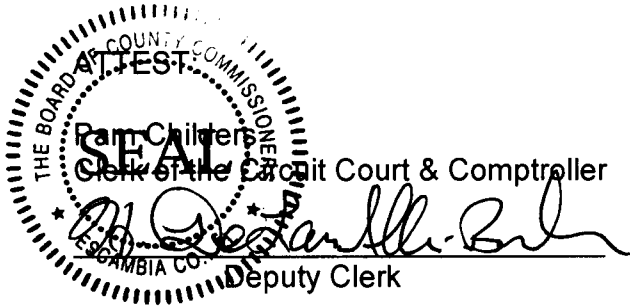
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BCC AND DSB – OCTOBER 5, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Bender declared the Special Joint Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and the District School Board adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Robert Bender, Chairman



Approved: October 14, 2021