



AGENDA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 8, 2015

Arkansas Department of Education

ADE Auditorium - Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries

Study

10:30 AM

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Reports

Report-1 Chair's Report

Presenter: Dr. Jay Barth

Consent Agenda

C-1 Minutes – March 11, 2015

Presenter: Deborah Coffman

Action Agenda

A-1 Consideration of Presentation from Metroplan

Presenter: Jeff Runder, GIS Planner for Metroplan

A-2 Consideration of Perspective from Communities

Presenter: Kelly Rodgers, Superintendent of North Little Rock Public School District; Scott Miller, NLRSD Board President; Joe Smith, North Little Rock Mayor (Isaac Henry, Special Assistant to the Mayor will speak on his behalf); Steve Winchester or Terry Hartwick, North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce; Wes Havens, Co-Chair of the NLRSD Capital Improvement Campaign (2012); Mike Kemp, Mayor of Shannon Hills; Rita Vess and Martin Gipson of Scott

A-3 Consideration of Perspectives from Legislators

Presenter: Senator Linda Chesterfield, Senate District 30; Representative Julie Mayberry, District 27; and Representative Mark Lowery, District 39

A-4 Public Comment

Presenter: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair

**Minutes
State Board of Education Special Committee
for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study
Wednesday, March 11, 2015**

The State Board of Education Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study met Wednesday, March 11, 2015, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chairman Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Present: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair; Sam Ledbetter; Diane Zook; and Kim Davis

Additional Board Members in Attendance: Toyce Newton and Vicki Saviers

Consent Agenda

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes – February 13, 2015

Action Agenda

A-1 Consideration of Report from Metroplan

Mr. Jim McKenzie, Executive Director of Metroplan introduced Mr. Jeff Runder Public Policy Analyst and GIS Planner. Mr. Runder said some portions of the four school districts are not in Pulaski County. He said some of the districts do not align with the city limits. He said the population issues include a difference between school age population and actual student enrollment. He said the racial composition is not consistent across the districts. Mr. Runder presented maps showing the distribution by race across the county. He also presented population changes 2000-2010 and tables of the property tax base.

The committee took no action.

A-2 Consideration of Area Superintendents' Perspectives

Mr. Kelly Rodgers, Superintendent of North Little Rock School District, said in 2012 the North Little Rock School Board voted to reorganize the district. The

plan is to have nine (9) elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. He said the plan focused on neighborhood schools and the resources to provide a quality education for the students. He said his board was interested in economic development in North Little Rock and North Little Rock School District. He said the board was interested in securing boundaries aligned to the North Little Rock city limits. Mr. Rodgers presented a map showing the new elementary school zones. He said each elementary building was built for 500 plus students. He said all of the new buildings in NLRSD were built for growth of additional students. He showed areas on the map of where the district is interested in expansion.

Dr. Dexter Suggs, Little Rock School District Superintendent, said the west side of the city of Little Rock needs new schools to meet the growth in this area. He said the opportunity to expand to the city limits of Little Rock would assist the Little Rock School District.

Dr. Jerry Guess, Pulaski County Special School District Superintendent, said the four existing districts should remain geographically as they are. In addition, Dr. Guess recommended an alternative option to include a countywide district with one superintendent under the authority of the state commissioner of education.

Mr. Bobby Lester, Jacksonville North Pulaski School District Superintendent, provided a brief history of boundary changes in Pulaski County. He also provided a history of the efforts of the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District to detach from the Pulaski County Special School District and form a new district. He asked that the boundaries for Jacksonville North Pulaski School District remain unchanged.

The committee took no action.

Chair's Report

Chairman Barth said the committee would reach out to area legislators, area leaders and the general public to report at the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.

NLRSD CURRENT ASSIGNED TAX REVENUE						
	Real Estate	Personal Property	Utilities	Total	millage	Tax Revenue
2014 Current Assessed Valuation (District 04)	529,132,027	157,231,385	54,033,975	740,397,387	0.048300	\$ 35,761,194
2014 Current Assessed Valuation (District 05)	2,340,833	370,165	2,158,410	4,869,408	0.048300	\$ 235,192
2014 Current Assessed Valuation (District 14)	10,062,905	1,676,610	-	11,739,515	0.048300	\$ 567,019
2014 Total Current Assessed Valuation for NLRSD	541,535,765	159,278,160	56,192,385	757,006,310		\$ 36,563,405

PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT						
	Real Estate	Personal Property	Utilities	Total	millage	Tax Revenue
2014 Current Assessed Valuation (District 06)	228,940,557	104,117,760	5,199,445	338,257,762	0.048300	\$ 16,337,850
(All area within NLR city limits assigned to PCSSD-District 06)						
Total Proposed Adjustments	228,940,557	104,117,760	5,199,445	338,257,762		\$ 16,337,850

WORST CASE SCENARIO						
	Real Estate	Personal Property	Utilities	Total	millage	Tax Revenue
2014 Current Assessed Valuation (District 04)	529,132,027	157,231,385	54,033,975	740,397,387	0.048300	\$ 35,761,194
PROPOSED Addition (District 06)	228,940,557	104,117,760	5,199,445	338,257,762	0.048300	\$ 16,337,850
(We giveup Districts 05 & 14 to get District 06 - Our boundary lines would be contained to the NLR City Limits)						
Total New Structure	758,072,584	261,349,145	59,233,420	1,078,655,149		\$ 52,099,044

BEST CASE SCENARIO						
	Real Estate	Personal Property	Utilities	Total	millage	Tax Revenue
2014 Current Assessed Valuation (District 04)	529,132,027	157,231,385	54,033,975	740,397,387	0.048300	\$ 35,761,194
2014 Current Assessed Valuation (District 05)	2,340,833	370,165	2,158,410	4,869,408	0.048300	\$ 235,192
2014 Current Assessed Valuation (District 14)	10,062,905	1,676,610	-	11,739,515	0.048300	\$ 567,019
PROPOSED Addition (District 06)	228,940,557	104,117,760	5,199,445	338,257,762	0.048300	\$ 16,337,850
(We keep our current boundary lines with Districts 04, 05, 14 and we add District 06 to encompass all NLR City Limits)						
Total New Structure	770,476,322	263,395,920	61,391,830	1,095,264,072		\$ 52,901,255

Range: Selected Parcels

Pulaski County, Arkansas

District	R e a l E s t a t e	M i n e r a l s	U t i l i t i e s	G r a n d T o t a l s	T i m b e r
	C o u n t F u l l V a l u e R e d u c t i o n E f f e c t i v e	C o u n t V a l u e	C o u n t V a l u e	C o u n t V a l u e	A c r e s
001	72,710 2,762,294,300 280,781,006 2,481,513,294	0 0	0 0	72,710 2,481,513,294	3,945.19
003	6,361 470,652,904 18,641,275 452,011,629	0 0	0 0	6,361 452,011,629	5,265.69
004	23,266 581,981,976 52,849,949 529,132,027	0 0	0 0	23,266 529,132,027	227.46
005	227 2,865,426 524,593 2,340,833	0 0	0 0	227 2,340,833	274.49
006	3,685 261,055,460 32,114,903 228,940,557	0 0	0 0	3,685 228,940,557	2,490.76
007	127 1,284,050 212,717 1,071,333	0 0	0 0	127 1,071,333	0.00
008	407 19,580,033 4,235,920 15,344,113	0 0	0 0	407 15,344,113	0.00
009	9,926 226,949,415 15,100,190 211,849,225	0 0	0 0	9,926 211,849,225	2,256.10
010	12,865 395,613,683 26,448,610 369,165,073	0 0	0 0	12,865 369,165,073	4,567.29
011	17,765 326,981,408 61,050,418 265,930,990	0 0	0 0	17,765 265,930,990	87,137.25
012	16,709 243,290,185 40,018,467 203,271,718	0 0	0 0	16,709 203,271,718	34,569.74
013	194 2,521,010 605,665 1,915,345	0 0	0 0	194 1,915,345	1,659.13
014	206 10,996,262 933,357 10,062,905	0 0	0 0	206 10,062,905	0.00
015	7,190 324,268,758 15,378,526 308,890,232	0 0	0 0	7,190 308,890,232	1,389.97
016	884 2,817,933 274,852 2,543,081	0 0	0 0	884 2,543,081	149.34
	172,522 5,633,152,803 549,170,448 5,083,982,355	0 0	0 0	172,522 5,083,982,355	143,932.41

Summary of Real Estate by Category

City	137,690	5,058,653,235	446,955,501	4,611,697,734
Rural	34,832	574,499,568	102,214,947	472,284,621
	172,522	5,633,152,803	549,170,448	5,083,982,355

Pulaski County, Arkansas
2014 Assessor's Abstract

District	Personal Property		Business		Totals		Utility		Grand Totals			
	Count	Automobiles	Other	Count	Valuation	Count	Valuation	Count	Valuation	Count	Valuation	Penalties
001	78622	253,178,375	132,720	7618	477,260,770	86240	730,571,865	63	254,988,205	86303	985,560,070	6,844,394
003	6842	44,579,575	36,520	422	19,471,090	7264	64,087,185	16	20,143,080	7280	84,230,265	807,408
004	24101	70,553,310	42,960	2041	86,635,115	26142	157,231,385	38	54,033,975	26180	211,265,360	2,198,166
005	142	338,595	0	13	31,570	155	370,165	10	2,158,410	165	2,528,575	5,581
006	3802	14,352,470	25,215	884	89,740,075	4686	104,117,760	16	5,199,445	4702	109,317,205	489,907
007	98	255,370	0	20	150,930	118	406,300	10	3,274,990	128	3,681,290	5,296
008	401	1,764,515	0	12	18,420	413	1,782,935	5	231,240	418	2,014,175	28,777
009	10602	33,658,720	6,105	737	24,626,160	11339	58,290,985	24	19,517,835	11363	77,808,820	642,621
010	13770	53,610,985	35,155	894	31,939,135	14664	85,585,275	0	0	14664	85,585,275	944,940
011	10525	44,337,910	25,795	637	31,438,935	11162	75,802,640	38	62,659,190	11200	138,461,830	733,786
012	11150	43,613,650	42,715	658	15,462,095	11808	59,118,460	0	0	11808	59,118,460	690,280
013	80	339,175	0	4	390	84	339,565	4	236,775	88	576,340	5,467
014	199	1,554,185	10,400	15	112,025	214	1,676,610	0	0	214	1,676,610	14,260
015	7941	40,303,055	46,510	490	35,366,725	8431	75,716,290	13	5,784,015	8444	81,500,305	609,208
016	312	800,825	0	28	89,070	340	889,895	5	383,705	345	1,273,600	13,511
Totals	168,587	603,240,715	404,095	14,473	812,342,505	83,060	1,415,987,315	242	428,610,865	183,302	1,844,598,180	14,033,602

✓ = NLRSD current tax dollar
 * = Add (currently PCSSD)

2014 Payable 2015

	01/31	02/02	03/03	04/34	05/35	05/36	07/37	08/38	09/39	10/40	11,12/41,42	13/43	14/44	15/45	16/46
Living in the city of:	LR	NONE	LR	NLR	NONE	NLR	ALEX	CANM	JACK	SHER	NONE	NONE	SHER	MAJIM	WRIGHT
Attending School in:	LRSD	LRSD	PCSSD	NLRSD	NLRSD	PCSSD	PCSSD	LRSD	PCSSD	PCSSD	PCSSD	EAST END	NLRSD	PCSSD	PCSSD
Rate Per Thousand	\$70.100	\$56.500	\$64.400	\$66.800	\$58.400	\$59.200	\$65.800	\$61.500	\$53.800	\$52.100	\$50.800	\$50.500	\$59.700	\$62.900	\$55.800
FUND															
PULASKI GENERAL	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000	0.005000
LIBRARY	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600	0.000600
COUNTY HOSPITAL	0.001450	0.002900	0.001450	0.001450	0.002900	0.001450	0.001450	0.001450	0.001450	0.001450	0.002900	0.002900	0.001450	0.001450	0.001450
ROAD FUND															
MUNICIPALITY															
GENERAL FUND	0.005000		0.005000	0.005000		0.005000	0.005000	0.005000						0.005000	0.005000
BOND & INTEREST	0.003000		0.003000											0.002100	
LIBRARY	0.003300		0.003300	0.003000		0.003000			0.001000						
POLICE PENSION	0.001000		0.001000	0.001000		0.001000			0.001000						
FIRE PENSION	0.001000		0.001000	0.001000		0.001000			0.001000						
PORT															
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	0.001900		0.001900							0.001300				0.001300	0.008600
ROAD	0.001450		0.001450	0.001450		0.001450	0.001450	0.001450	0.001450	0.001450				0.001450	0.001450
SCHOOL															
LITTLE ROCK	0.046400	0.046400						0.046400							
NORTH LITTLE ROCK				0.048300										0.048300	
PULASKI COUNTY			0.040700				0.040700		0.040700			0.040400		0.040700	0.040700
EAST END															
Millage Rate	0.070100	0.056500	0.064400	0.066800	0.058400	0.059200	0.055800	0.061500	0.053800	0.052100	0.050800	0.050500	0.059700	0.062900	0.055800
Effective Tax Rate %	1.40%	1.13%	1.29%	1.34%	1.17%	1.18%	1.12%	1.23%	1.08%	1.04%	1.02%	1.01%	1.19%	1.25%	1.12%

40.9
 1.1
 48.3

Change in 2014 Millage rates: Sherwood has a 1.3 millage dedicated to Library Capital Improvements

All rates have been equalized between real and personal property. The above rates are correct to the best of our knowledge

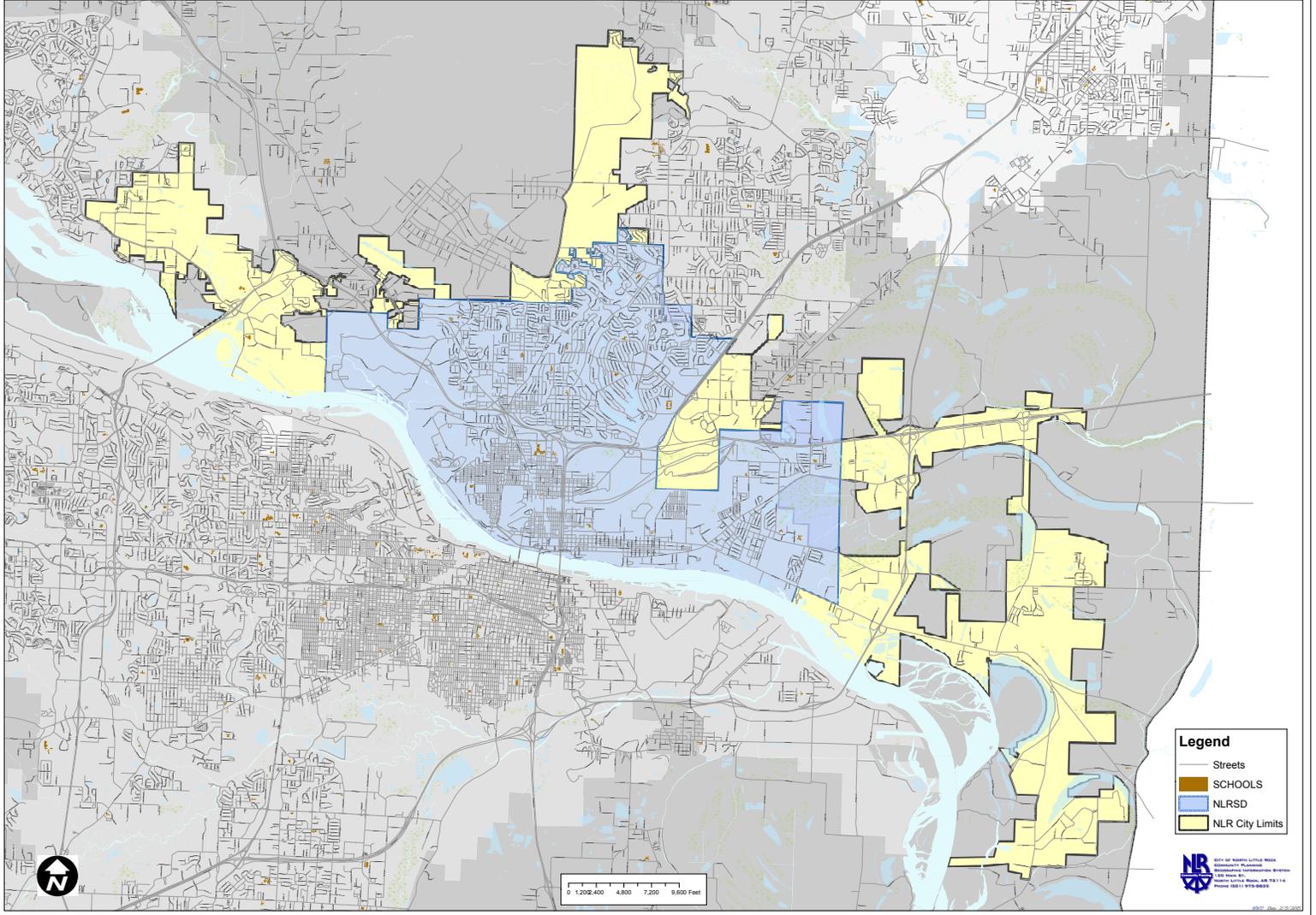
Ordinance No. 14-OR-53 establish Property Tax Rates in Pulaski County and may be obtained from the Pulaski County Clerk's Office

Jane Troutman Ward, Assessor
 Date 1/2/2015

Debra Buckner, Treasurer
 Date 1/2/2015

FILED 01/02/15 08:08:10
 LARRY CRANE PULASKI CIRCUIT CLERK

North Little Rock School District



Wes Havens
North Little Rock Community Member

Arkansas State Board of Education
Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study

April 8, 2015

Real Estate Valuation Disparities Between Districts

	2013/14 Total Real Estate Valuations *	2013/14 Average Daily Attendance **	2013/14 Per Capita Real Estate Valuations
LRSD	\$ 2,402,445,332	22,098	\$ 108,718
PCSSD	\$ 2,011,280,322	15,787	\$ 127,401
NLRSD	\$ 541,436,944	7,998	\$ 67,697

* Data taken from most recent ADE Assessment and 28% Pullback Report

** Data taken from ADE's 2013-2014 Annual Statistical Report

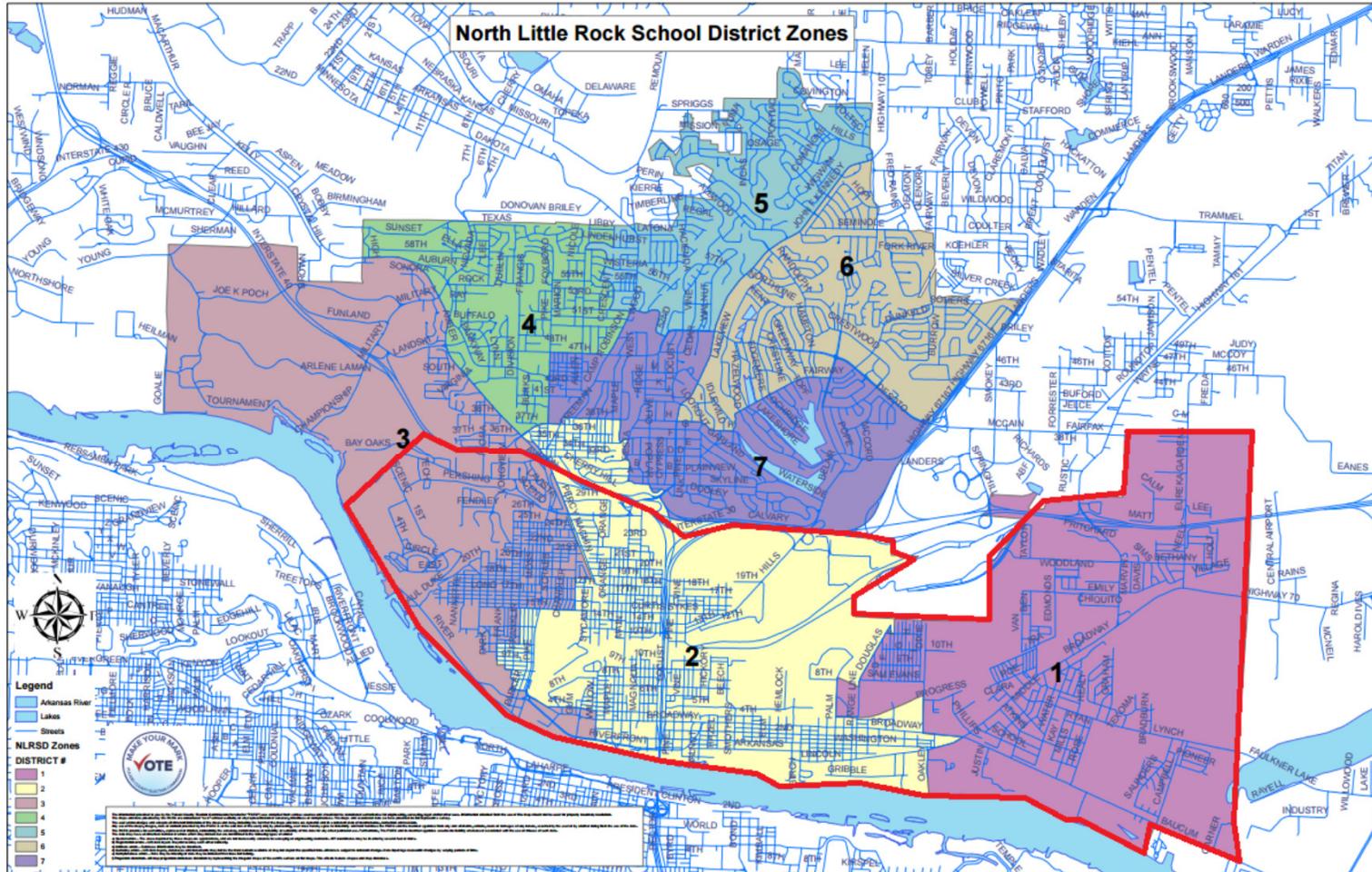
Residential Real Estate Valuation Disparities Between Districts

	Most Recent Non Residential Real Estate Valuations *	Estimated Most Recent Residential Real Estate Valuations **	Per Capita Residential Real Estate Valuations
LRSD	\$ 1,052,930,937	\$ 1,349,514,395	\$ 61,070
PCSSD	\$ 525,096,084	\$ 1,486,184,238	\$ 94,140
NLRSD	\$ 190,643,725	\$ 350,793,219	\$ 43,860

* Data taken from Pulaski County Assessors Office via ARCountyData.com

** Estimated Residential Value = Total Real Estate Value reported on Statistical Report – Non Residential data reported by Pulaski Co Assessors Office

Geographic Footprint of NLRSD



Non Residential Property Disparities Between Districts

	Most Recently Reported Non Residential Parcels *	Average Students per Non Residential Properties
LRSD	8,537	2.6
PCSSD	4,174	3.8
NLRSD	2,064	3.9

The NLRSD receives relatively less support from Non Residential Properties as it is confined to current district boundaries rather than more practical geographical or city related boundaries.

* Data taken from Pulaski County Assessors Office via ARCountyData.com

Shannon Hills

10401 High Road East
72103

A R K A N S A S

501-455-2003

www.shannonhills.ar.gov

Fax 501-455-3103

Mike Kemp
Mayor

Allen Spears
Police Chief

Mel Aldridge
Fire Chief

David Passmore
Public Works

Robin Baker
Recorder

Mary Meyers
Treasurer

February 19, 2015

Boundary Study Committee
Arkansas Board of Education
Little Rock, AR

Dear Committee:

It is wonderful to see someone finally deciding to examine the potential for improvement in the educational lives of Central Arkansas students and their families as it relates to jurisdictional boundaries. There is no doubt there are opportunities to better serve all with some adjustments that likely would involve a relative few.

Specifically, our situation in Shannon Hills is this: students and their families living west of Otter Creek are in Bryant School District, while those living east of Otter Creek are forced to be a part of Pulaski County Special School District.

Shannon Hills is entirely in Saline County. We have Robert L. Davis Elementary, of the Bryant School District in the middle of our community. PCSSD has never and is not likely to ever build any educational facility anywhere in Saline County, much less Shannon Hills.

A relatively small number of students living east of Otter Creek in Shannon Hills are at present bused miles away to PCCSD Schools on Dixon Road. Elementary students are forced to get up early in the morning to board a bus when there is a school close enough most could walk or ride their bikes. Additionally, PCSSD is forced to run buses longer distances for a relatively small number of students.

I know from first-hand experience the confusion caused when a Saline County voter attempted to vote in a PCSSD election, before the district was taken over by the State. I managed to inconveniently cast a ballot once only after determined persistent insistence. I certainly felt disenfranchised. I am confident statistical documentation of Saline County voter disenfranchisement could be easily seen by anyone examining historical voting records for past PCSSD elections.

The first two words are an indicator of a potential issue or concern for Shannon Hills residents; Pulaski County *not* Saline County. Property tax valuations are not synchronized across county lines, resulting in disparities between those residents of Saline County in PCSSD and residents of Pulaski County in PCSSD.

Shannon Hills

10401 High Road East
72103

A R K A N S A S

501-455-2003

www.shannonhills.ar.gov

Fax 501-455-3103

Mike Kemp
Mayor

Allen Spears
Police Chief

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Recorder

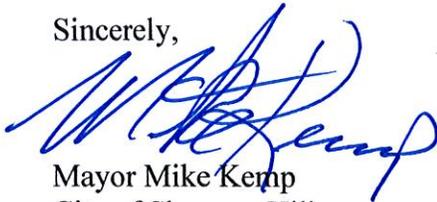
Mary Meyers
Treasurer

There are many reasons why it just makes sense for students, taxpayers, communities and school districts that we allow all of Shannon Hills to be part of the Bryant School District. Please find attached a resolution of support from the Shannon Hills City Council.

Maybe the best thing for everyone is to keep it simple and efficient. Let's just keep Saline County in Saline County and concentrate on life-long learning.

Please feel free to contact me. I am available at your convenience to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Mayor Mike Kemp
City of Shannon Hills

MK:mk

cc: Jay Barth
Sam Ledbetter
Diane Zook
Kim Davis
Dr. Jerry Guess, Superintendent PCSSD
Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Superintendent Bryant Schools
Michele Lewis, Principal Davis Elementary
Everette Hatcher, JP 2 Saline County
Shannon Hills City Council

Attachment: (1)

Monica Davidson
14325 N Brechen Dr
Shannon Hills, AR 72103

Dear Committee:

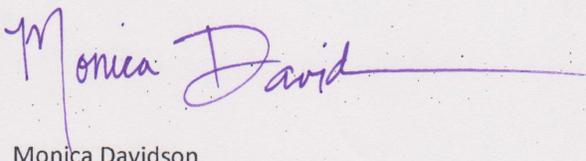
I am thrilled to hear that there is a possibility of redrawing the school district lines that affect Shannon Hills. For many years, those of us who live in the small portion of Shannon Hills that is in PCSSD have bemoaned the fact that children are being bussed an unnecessary distance, particularly for elementary school, when there are closer schools available. Davis Elementary, of Bryant School District, is a mere mile and a half from where I live, close enough to walk or bike if wanted, whereas Daisy Bates Elementary, of PCSSD, is almost nine miles away. This is an unnecessary usage of time and resources from both the school district and the families affected, such as mine. While my daughter is not yet of school age, I am already looking in to where she will be attending school someday, and I would like for Bryant School District to be a possibility. However, between zoning and the fact PCSSD continues to opt out of School Choice, the extremely convenient option of Davis Elementary is not available to us.

I would also like for my daughter to be able to benefit from the events held in our community that are centered around Davis Elementary, events which, while I may support and help with them, she won't benefit from due to being a PCSSD student, or private school student, not Bryant School District. Davis Elementary is a central part of the community in Shannon Hills, and the students there enjoy a wonderful relationship with our local police force, firefighters, and city officials. I would love for my daughter to have an opportunity to experience that, as I believe such experiences help foster a sense of community all too often lost today due to sprawling cities. Bryant School District also offers resources to its students that PCSSD does not, such as concurrent enrollment with UALR, in addition to AP Testing, a thriving sports and band program, and the support of the community of Bryant and its part of Saline County.

It is also bothersome to be living in Saline County but be in PCSSD. At least once, my mother has been called to jury duty within Pulaski County due to her name being on the PCSSD tax rosters. The burden of proof of her home being in Saline County, not Pulaski County as the school district would suggest, fell upon us to prevent her from being seen as not reporting to jury duty. As a Saline County resident, she is not eligible to serve jury duty in Pulaski County. Circumstances such as this surely cannot be convenient for the court system in Pulaski County either. Also, the tax rates between Saline County and Pulaski County vary, and therefore the residents of Saline County who are in PCSSD pay a different rate towards the district than residents of Pulaski County. This is neither good nor bad, but it is definitely not fair to whichever side is taxed more due to their county.

I am very much in support of the district lines being redrawn to include all of the city of Shannon Hills in Bryant School District. This redrawing would result in a very small loss of students on the part of PCSSD and an improvement in the utilization of resources on the part of both school districts. I believe that this change would ultimately benefit all involved, as well as make the district lines make a lot more sense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Monica David" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Monica Davidson

Jeff Arey



Saline County Judge

March 23, 2015

Boundary Study Committee
Arkansas Board of Education
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Committee:

I am writing in logical support of the most efficient and productive education of all central Arkansas students. It is with that in mind I enthusiastically encourage a district boundary change allowing Saline County students to attend Saline County schools especially as it relates to students in the Shannon Hills area.

Shannon Hills is fortunate to have Davis Elementary of the Bryant School District, but unfortunately only students on the west side of Otter Creek are allowed in classes there. Students on the east side of Otter Creek are bused miles away to a Pulaski County Special School District (PCSSD) facility, even though Davis Elementary is within walking distance.

There are a number of issues created as school district boundaries cross county lines, relating to voting in elections and tax assessments. We should work to eliminate those whenever possible in fairness to all taxpayers.

It is imperative that we build school systems and districts in a way that makes it easier for them to efficiently educate our young people and prepare them to compete in a global economy. PCSSD will never build a school in Shannon Hills or Saline County for that matter and such a move really would not be prudent. The same logic that dictates school location for PCSSD should also be applied to school district boundaries.

PCSSD increases its cost per student for a quality education by busing children from Saline County to Pulaski County. Our schools must operate efficiently to compete in a global economy and provide the best value for taxpayers.

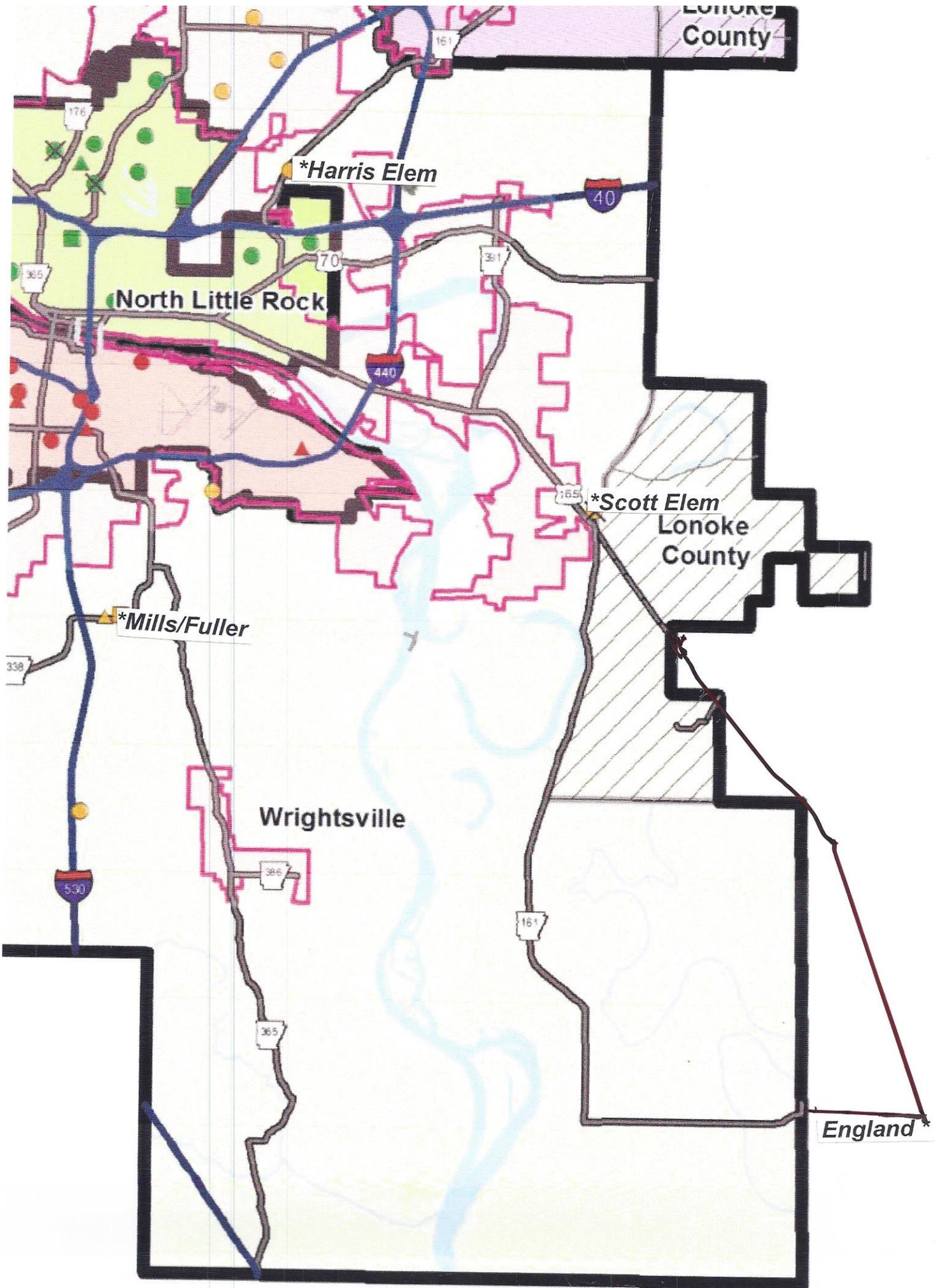
I encourage you to consider a logical solution to a long-standing problem. Allow Saline County students to attend Saline County schools.

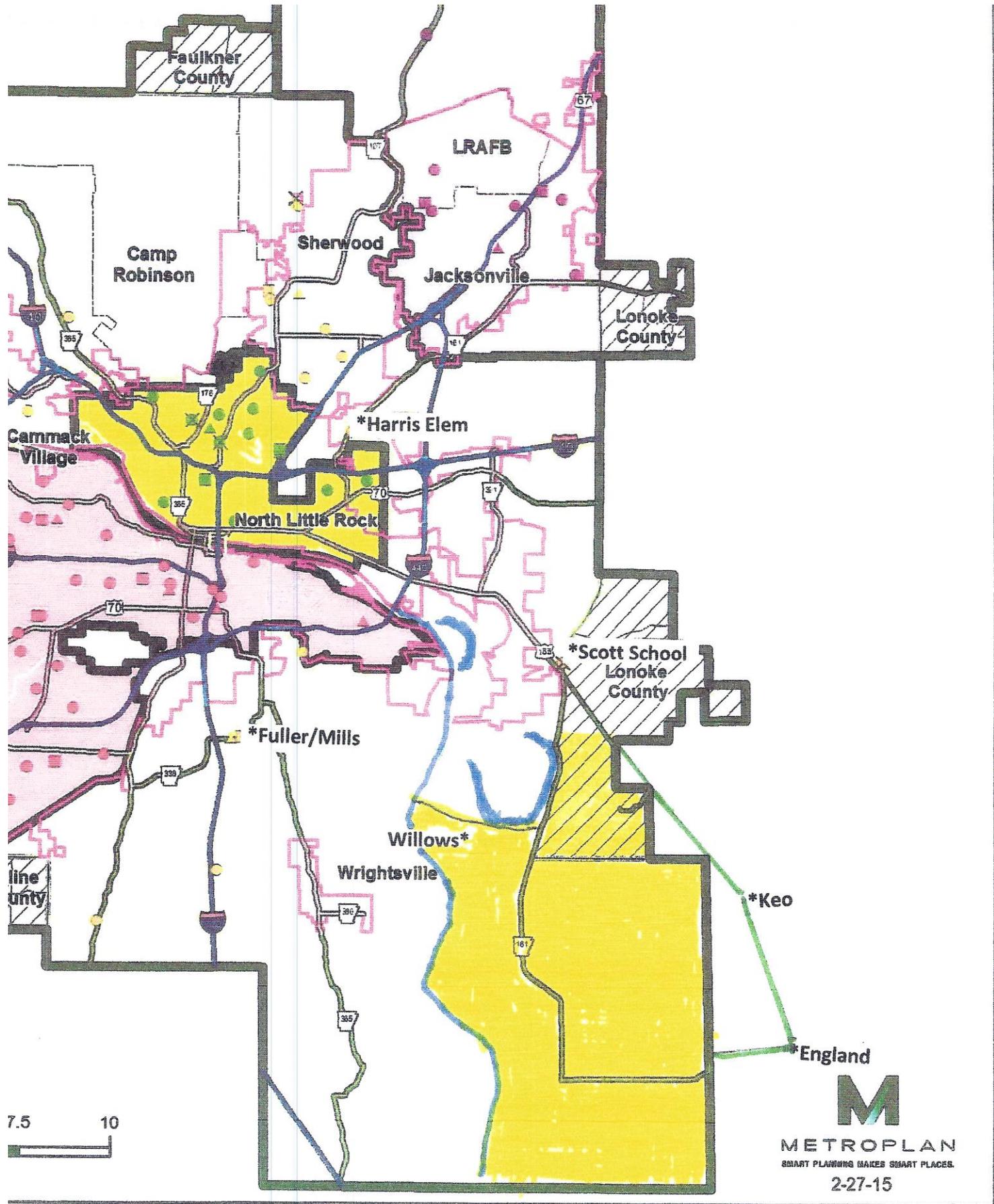
Please feel free to contact me at your convenience to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Jeff Arey
Saline County Judge

Saline County Courthouse, 200 North Main Street, Suite 117, Benton, AR 72015
501.303.5640
jeff.arey@salinecounty.org







RECEIVED
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
MAR 25 2015

STATE OF ARKANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

Julie Mayberry
3022 East Woodson Lateral Road
Hensley, Arkansas 72065-9169

501-888-8222 Business
julie-mayberry@atl.net

DISTRICT 27

Counties:
Part Saline
Part Pulaski

COMMITTEES:

Public Transportation
Chairperson,
Public Transportation and Rail
Subcommittee

Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative
and Military Affairs
Children and Youth Subcommittee

Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

March 23, 2015

Mr. Tony Wood, Commissioner
Arkansas State Board of Education
C/o Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Wood and Committee Members:

Thank you for taking the time to receive and review my correspondence. Although this is the Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study, the concern I write about primarily involves Saline County students, their families and other Saline County residents.

The boundary for Pulaski County Special School District extends into the extreme eastern portion of Saline County. That boundary actually cuts in-two the city of Shannon Hills. The very name of the district tends to alienate residents of Saline County, but the primary concern is what is best for students.

Shannon Hills elementary students in PCSSD are forced to get up early and arrive home late in order to ride a bus to a school miles away. It is because they live on the wrong side of Otter Creek. Davis Elementary is within walking distance for those students but in the Bryant School District. Bus rides do not help students learn and cost the school district money.

There are other issues as well caused by the district crossing county lines involving elections, taxes and other areas of concern. This Committee has the opportunity to make recommendations that can significantly improve education for all Central Arkansas students and increase efficiency for the benefit of all Central Arkansas residents.

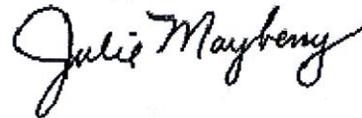
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It is with the above thoughts in mind that I respectfully suggest all Shannon Hills students be allowed to attend class in Bryant School District. Strong consideration should also be given to the efficient movement of all Saline County from PCSSD to Saline County school districts. It is my belief that this will not only improve the educational experience for children but also improve efficiency for the learning jurisdictions.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Mayberry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Mayberry
State Representative
District 27