



AGENDA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 27, 2015

Arkansas Department of Education

Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study - PCSSD

Administration Building

10:30 AM

[Back](#) [Print](#)

Consent Agenda

C-1 Minutes- May 13, 2015

Presenter: Deborah Coffman

Action Agenda

A-1 Public Comment

Presenter:

A-2 Consideration of Report to the State Board

The Special Committee will meet to revise and approve a report for the State Board meeting regularly scheduled for June 11, 2015.

Presenter: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair

Scott Community Report

State Board of Education Committee

May 13, 2015

At our last meeting, there was some confusion in regard to our maps as they did not clearly indicate the lines of the Scott School Attendance Zones and the areas that we were requesting to annex into the North Little Rock and England School Districts.

The area with the diagonal lines is that area that is in Lonoke County.

The attached maps should clear up that issue

We are requesting that 4 parents be allowed to speak at the May 13 meeting in support of our request.

Harry Simmons
Scott Ellis
Shannon Armand

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, PETITION TO ANNEX INTO THE
NORTH LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

NAME

ADDRESS

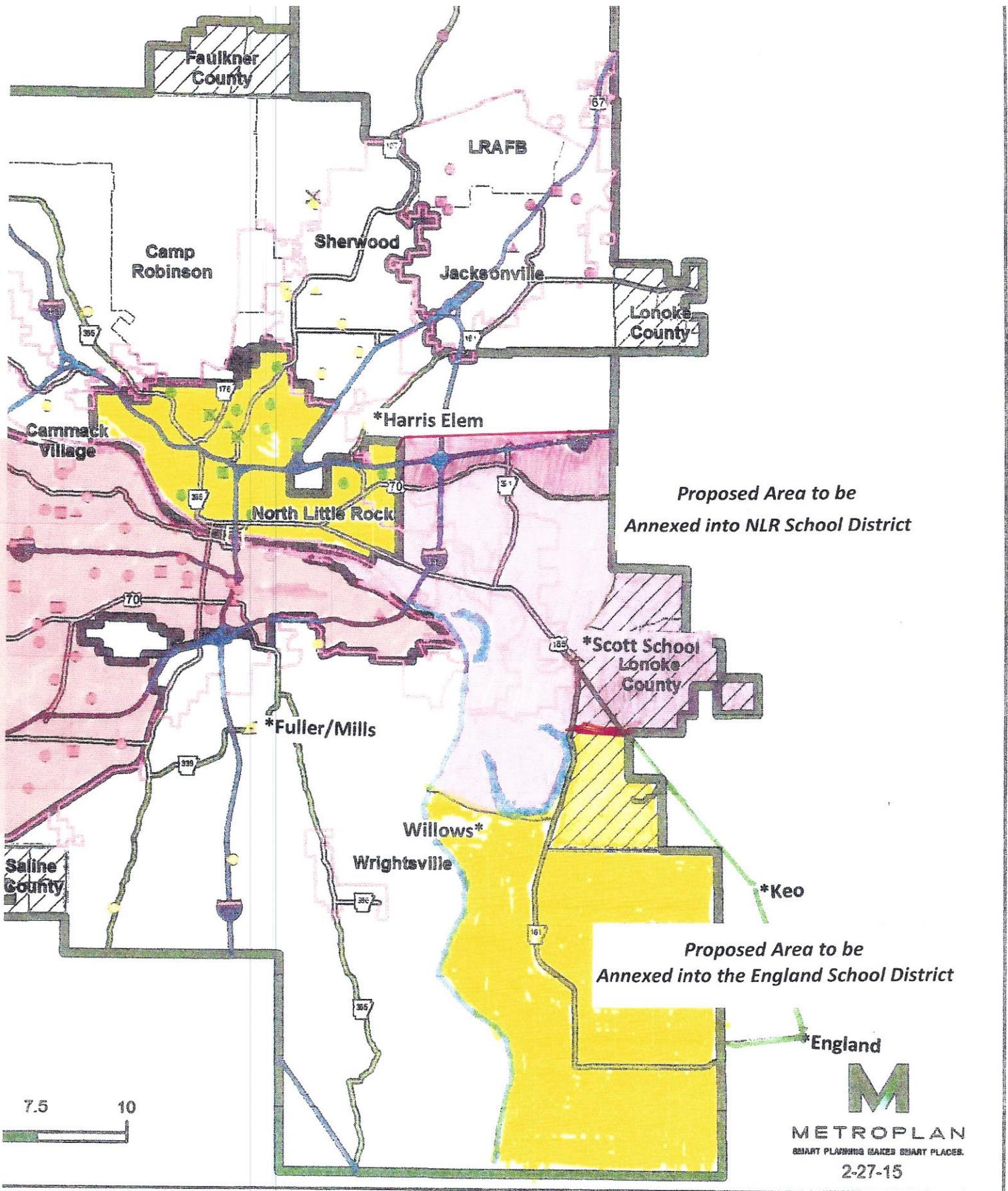
1. WARD A RUDOLPH 4607 Walkers Corner, Scott, AR 72142
2. GINDA GRIFFIN 13609 DOVER CV, NLR, 72117
3. Peggy Muncy 9525 Hwy 161, Scott, AR 72142
4. LEE MUNCY 9525 Hwy 161, Scott, AR 72142
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WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, PETITION TO ANNEX INTO THE
ENGLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

NAME

ADDRESS

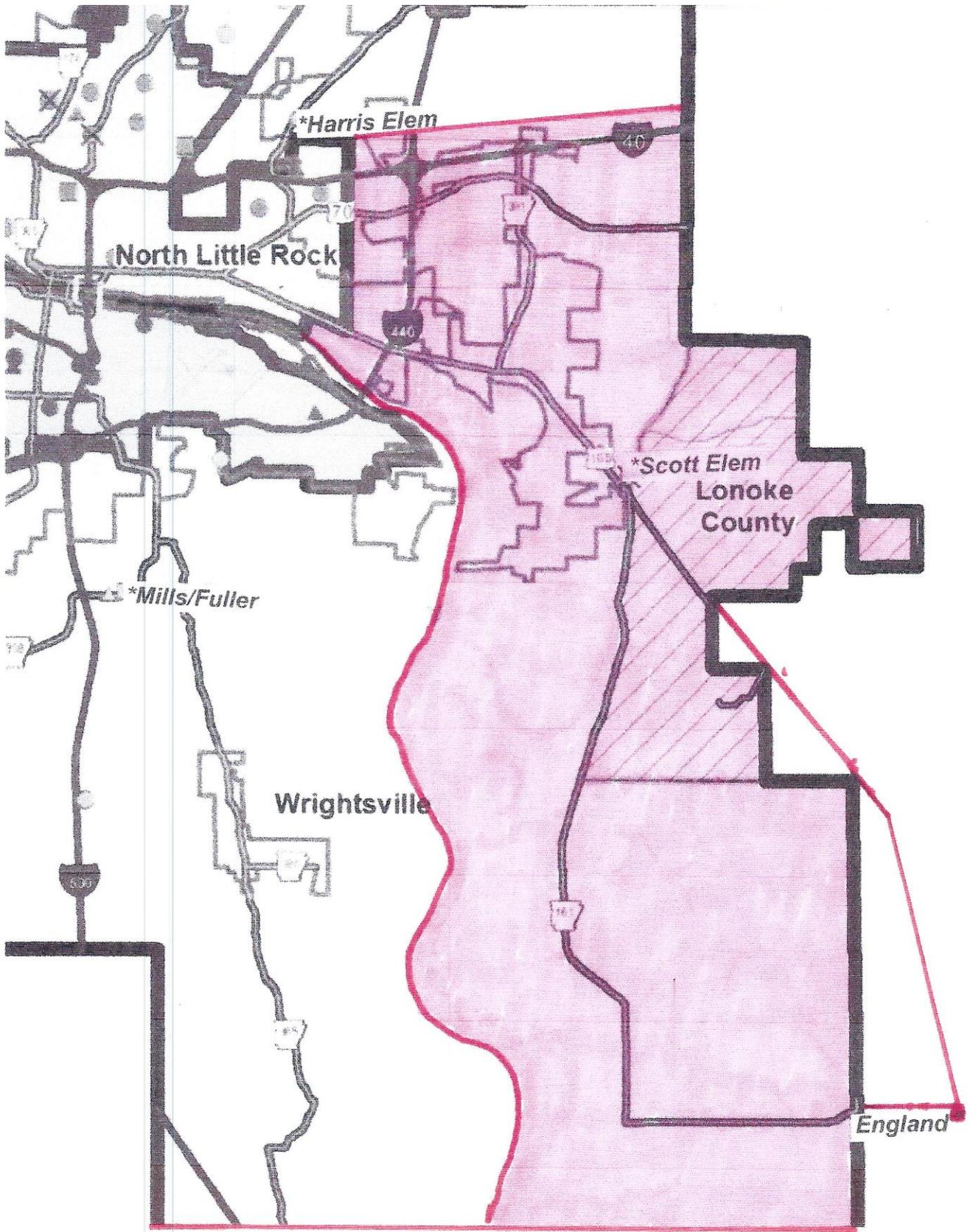
1. Mary Jo Bevis 30 Bevis Road Scott, Ar
2. Ron White 21905 Hwy 161 Road, Engal Ar.
3. Sam Selech 1756 Mauret Rd Scott, AR 72142
4. _____
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Proposed Area to be Annexed into NLR School District

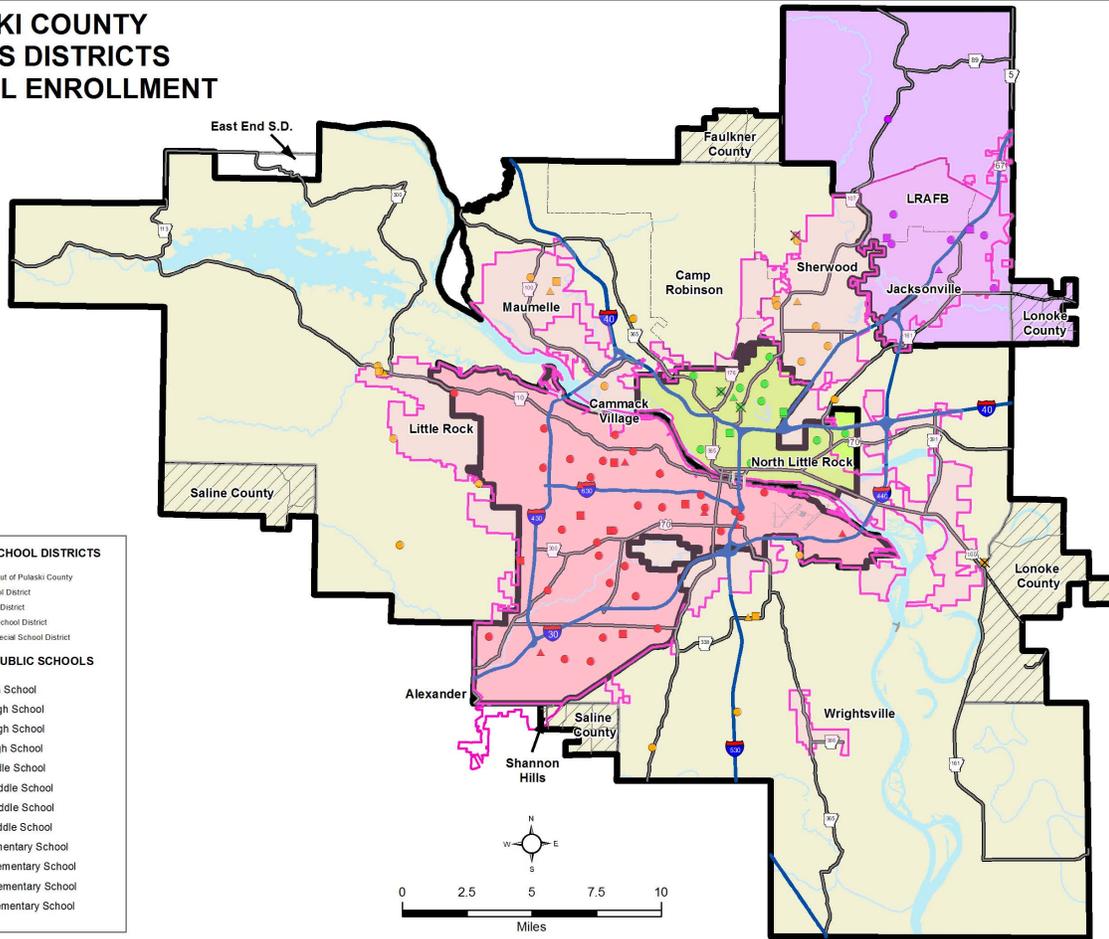
Proposed Area to be Annexed into the England School District



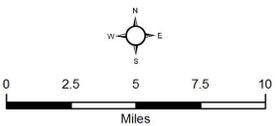


*Current
Scott School
Attendance Zone*

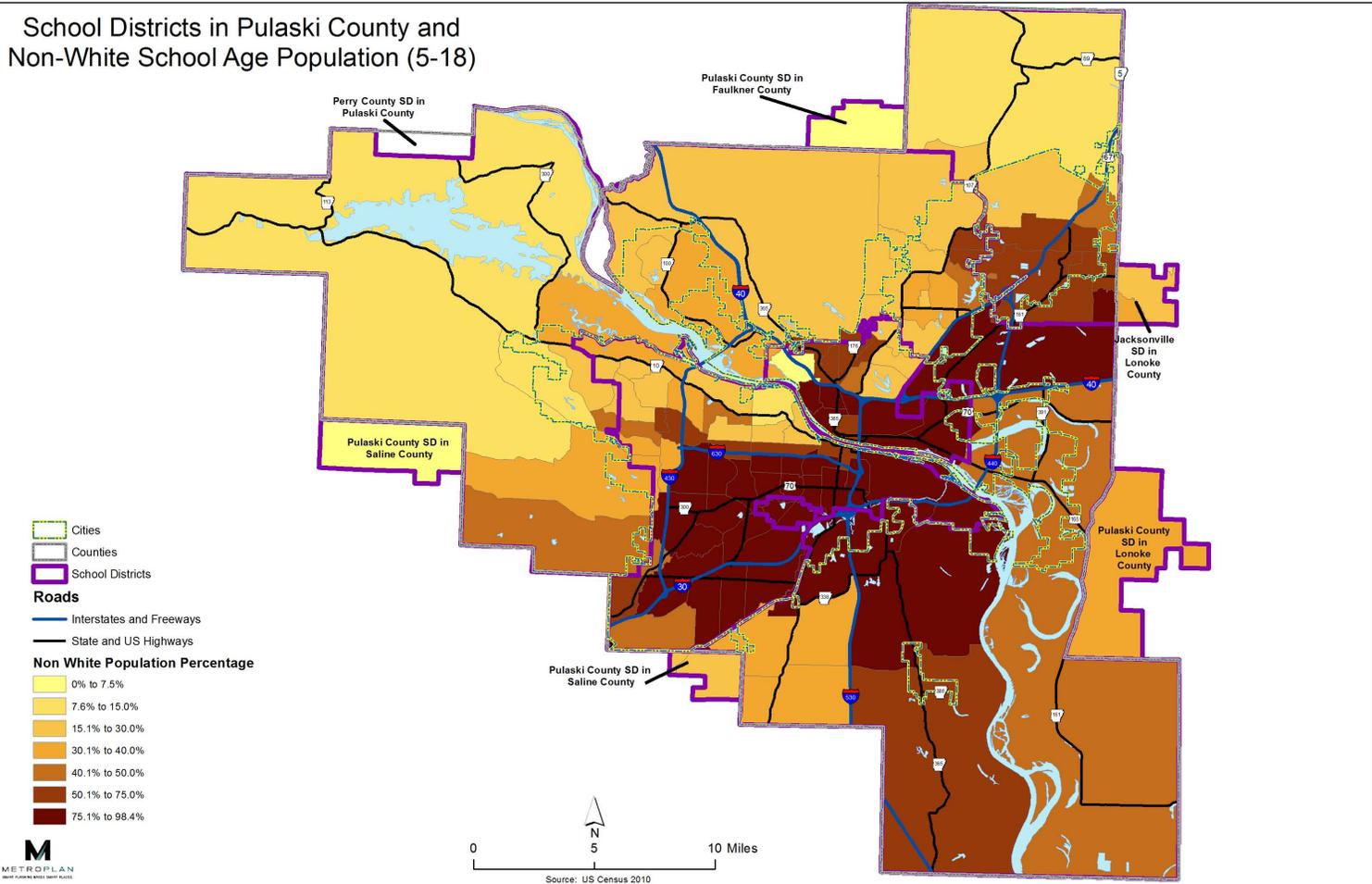
PULASKI COUNTY SCHOOLS DISTRICTS AND SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



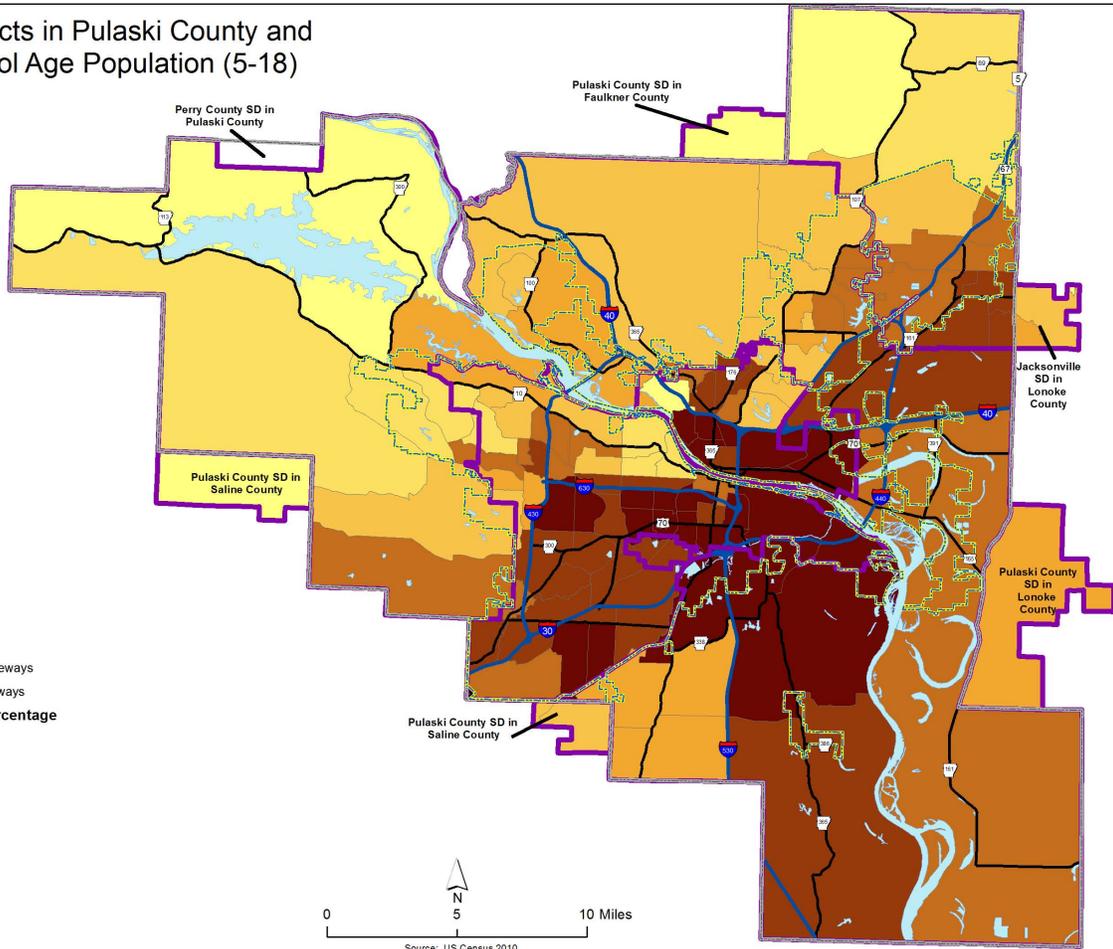
- PULASKI COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS**
- Portion of district out of Pulaski County
 - Jacksonville School District
 - Little Rock School District
 - North Little Rock School District
 - Pulaski County Special School District
- PULASKI COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
- LRSD High School
 - NLRSD High School
 - PCSSD High School
 - JNPSD High School
 - LRSD Middle School
 - NLRSD Middle School
 - PCSSD Middle School
 - JNPSD Middle School
 - LRSD Elementary School
 - NLRSD Elementary School
 - PCSSD Elementary School
 - JNPSD Elementary School



School Districts in Pulaski County and Non-White School Age Population (5-18)



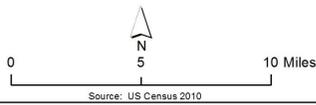
School Districts in Pulaski County and Black School Age Population (5-18)



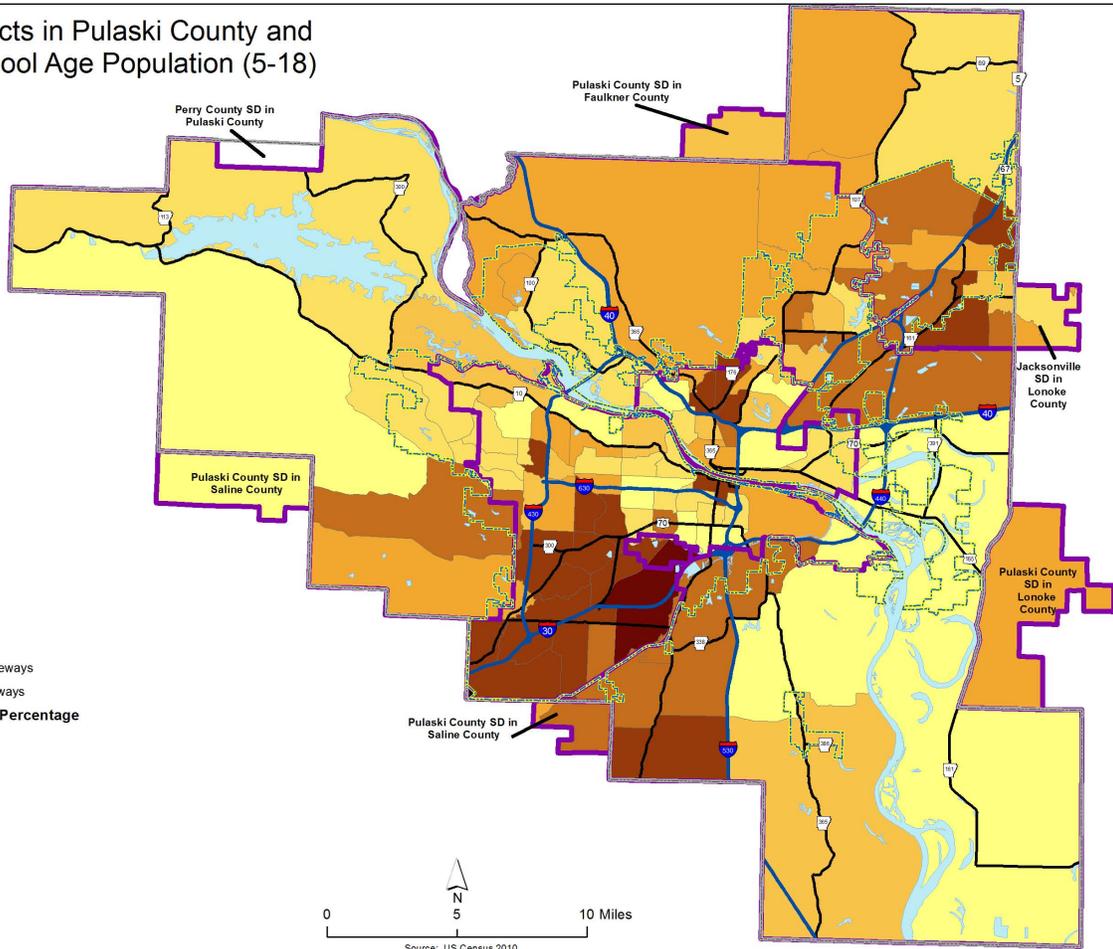
- Cities
- Counties
- School Districts

- Roads**
- Interstates and Freeways
 - State and US Highways

- Black Population Percentage**
- 0% to 5.0%
 - 5.1% to 10.0%
 - 10.1% to 20.0%
 - 20.1% to 30.0%
 - 30.1% to 50.0%
 - 50.1% to 75.0%
 - 75.1% to 95.3%



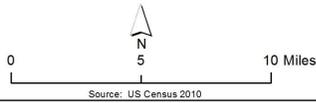
School Districts in Pulaski County and Hispanic School Age Population (5-18)



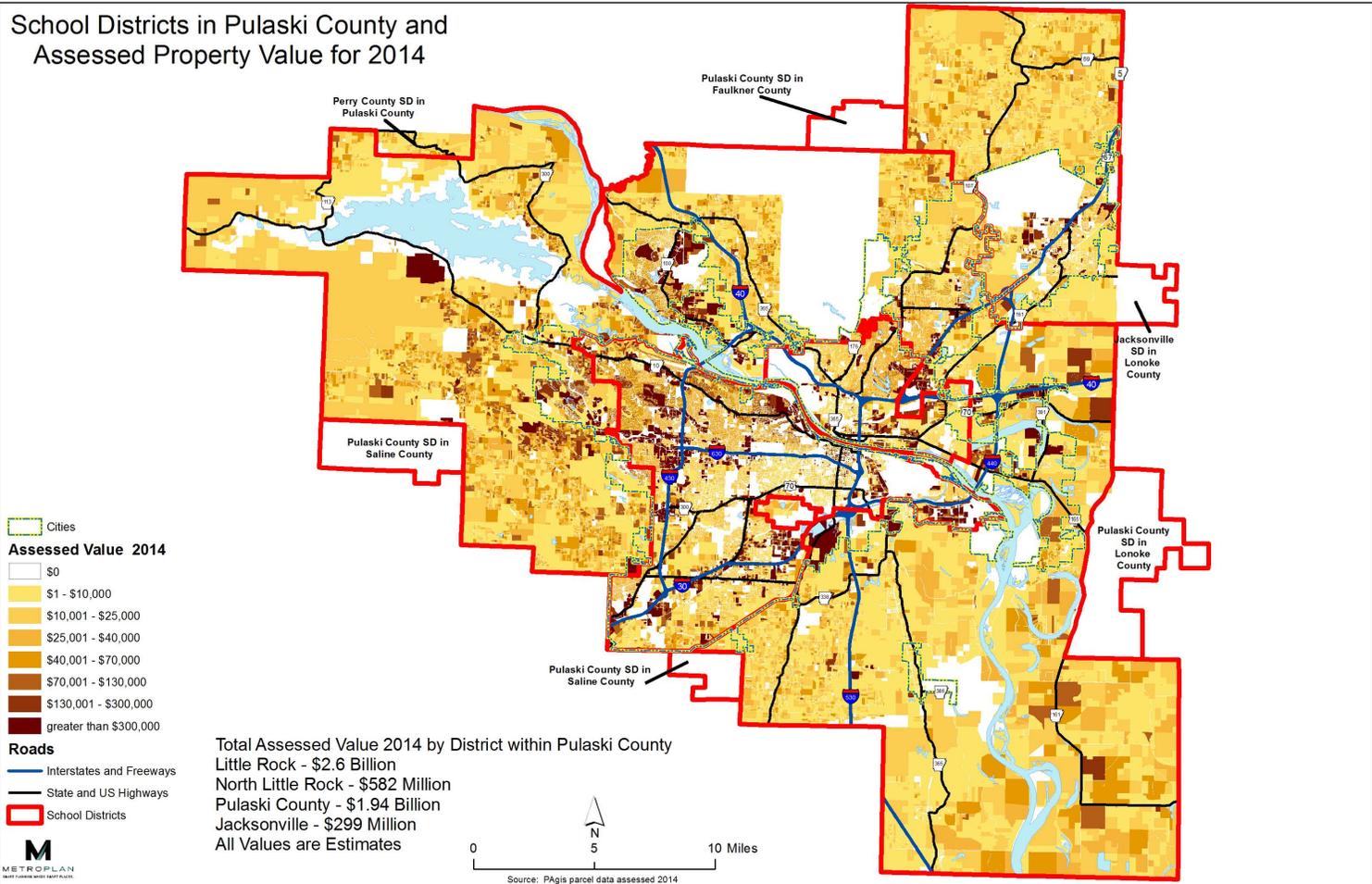
- Cities
- Counties
- School Districts

- Roads**
- Interstates and Freeways
 - State and US Highways

- Hispanic Population Percentage**
- 0% to 2.0%
 - 2.1% to 3.5%
 - 3.6% to 5.0%
 - 5.1% to 7.5%
 - 7.6% to 10.0%
 - 10.1% to 20.0%
 - 20.1% to 36.5%



School Districts in Pulaski County and Assessed Property Value for 2014



Perry County SD in Pulaski County

Pulaski County SD in Faulkner County

Pulaski County SD in Saline County

Jacksonville SD in Lonoke County

Pulaski County SD in Lonoke County

Pulaski County SD in Saline County

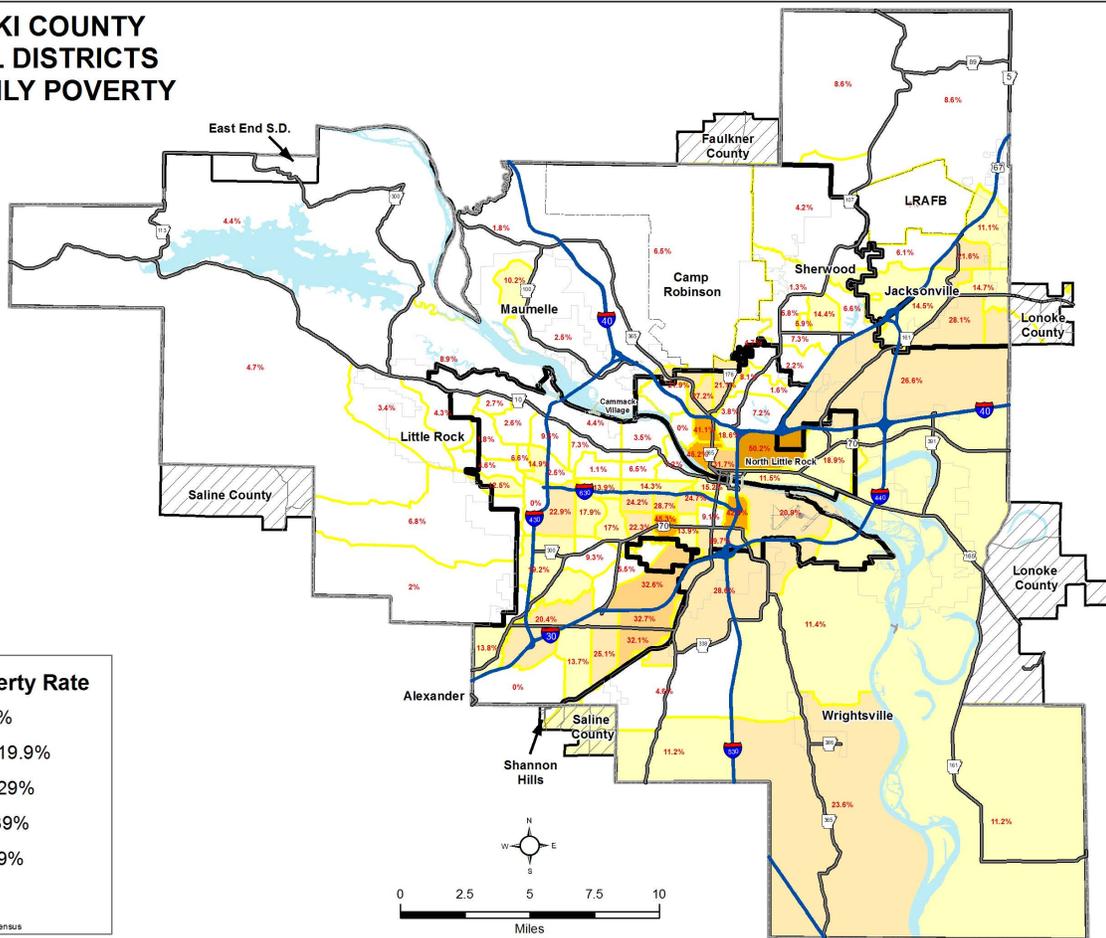
Cities

Assessed Value 2014

Roads



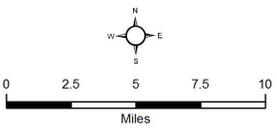
PULASKI COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND FAMILY POVERTY



Family Poverty Rate

- 0 - 9.9%
- 10% - 19.9%
- 20% - 29%
- 30% - 39%
- 40% - 49%
- 50% +

Source 2010 Census



Minutes
State Board of Education Special Committee
for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study
Friday, February 13, 2015

The State Board of Education Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study met Friday, February 13, 2015, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chairman Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

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

Work Session

Review the Charge of the Committee

Chairman Barth said on January 28, 2015, the State Board of Education passed a motion to establish a State Board committee charged with studying the appropriate school district lines within Pulaski County, taking into account communities of interest, student demographics, facilities, and property tax base with a report due back to the State Board no later than the June 2015, regularly scheduled meeting. State Board Chairman Sam Ledbetter appointed Dr. Jay Barth as chair. Committee members include Dr. Barth, Mr. Ledbetter, Ms. Zook, and Mr. Davis.

Department General Counsel Mr. Jeremy Lasiter said as a general matter, there are two broad ways in which the State Board of Education may change the boundary lines of a school district.

Mr. Lasiter said the first way, and the way you see most often, is through Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1414. That statute allows for the State Board of Education to consider a petition from a local board of directors of any school district that seeks an adjustment or change of boundary lines between its school district and an adjoining school district. Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1414, the Board may not order any change in school district boundaries that would hamper, delay, or in any manner negatively affects the desegregation efforts of the public school districts of the State.

Mr. Lasiter said the other way is more indirect. Under Arkansas laws related to the standards for accreditation, fiscal distress, academic distress, and facilities distress, the Board may consolidate, annex, or reconstitute a school district. In the Board order of consolidation or annexation, the Board may also include a provision that establishes the boundary lines of the new school districts.

Mr. Lasiter said Arkansas law states that the Board may not order any annexation or consolidation that hampers, delays, or in any manner negatively affects the desegregation efforts of a school district or school districts. Prior to entering such an order, the Board would also be required to get an advisory opinion from the Attorney General's Office concerning the desegregation issue.

Mr. Lasiter said with regard to Pulaski County, the Pulaski County Special School District remains under court supervision with regard to five areas in its desegregation plan: Discipline, Facilities, Staffing, Student Achievement, and Monitoring. Pursuant to an order issued in the early 2000s in the desegregation case, before taking any action relative to the boundaries of the Pulaski County Special School District, the Board would have to petition the presiding federal court for permission to do so. That order required any party that wanted to seek a change in the boundaries of the PCSSD to provide the court with a detailed feasibility study and specific data sufficient to allow the court to conduct an evidentiary hearing to determine whether the boundary change would substantially impact the student populations of each district and if such a change would better meet the educational needs of the students in the districts involved.

Dr. Barth said he understood that Central Arkansas Planning had mapped Pulaski County previously during the detachment process for the Jacksonville/North Pulaski School District. He said he would contact the organization for access to the maps for the next committee meeting.

Committee members discussed inviting the superintendents from the four districts in Pulaski County to provide their perspective on the current boundaries. The members also discussed inviting public comment at a later meeting.

The committee agreed to meet each month following the Friday State Board meeting with the understanding that a report is due back to the State Board by June 11, 2015. Due to a previous scheduling conflict, Dr. Barth suggested the committee select an alternative date in April.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.

**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.

**Minutes
State Board of Education Special Committee
for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study
Wednesday, April 8, 2015**

The State Board of Education Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study met Wednesday, April 8, 2015, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chairman Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

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

Reports

Report-1 Chair's Report

No report provided.

Consent Agenda

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

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes – March 11, 2015

Action Agenda

Consideration of Presentation from Metroplan

Presenter: Jeff Runder, GIS Planner for Metroplan

Mr. Jeff Runder, GIS Planner for Metroplan, presented maps for north of the river and south of the river. The maps included race (2010 census data) and property assessment.

Consideration of Perspective from Communities

Scott Community

Mr. Martin Gipson, Scott resident, said the PCSSD is closing the Scott Elementary. He said the Scott community is losing students because of the feeder patterns for middle school and high school. He said the community was requesting to send their students to England School District or North Little Rock School District according to the map submitted. He said the community wanted a feeder pattern that keeps the students together K-12.

Ms. Shannon Armand, parent, said her children attend a charter school. She said school options are critical to housing growth in the area.

Dr. Jerry Guess, Superintendent of the Pulaski County Special School District, said the PCSSD has future plans for a millage increase that would permit building in the district.

Shannon Hills Community

Mr. Mike Kemp, Mayor of Shannon Hills, said some of the students live in Saline County but attend PCSSD. He said these families are disenfranchised and have no representation. He said the most efficient and effective response would be to allow these students to attend the Bryant School District.

Dr. Guess said he supported this information but he would continue to serve PCSSD. He said once the district is unitary the district should be able to offer school choice.

Maumelle Community

Mr. Michael Watson, Mayor of Maumelle, said his community desired to have its own district in the future. He requested to keep the current PCSSD boundaries at this time for the Maumelle area. He said parents want choice for their students. He said he was concerned with any adjustment of the school boundaries to the city limits. Maumelle wanted to continue to include Oak Grove.

Representative Mark Lowery said Act 372 would allow Maumelle and Sherwood to detach when appropriate. He asked how the unitary status of PCSSD would be impacted by realignment and possible detachment.

Sherwood Community

Dr. Linda Remele and Ms. Beverly Williams, co-chairs of the Sherwood Public Education Foundation, said Sherwood is the fourteenth largest city in the state but does not have its own school district. Dr. Remele said the area between Jacksonville/North Pulaski School District and North Little Rock School District would be considered for the new Sherwood School District. She said the proposed district boundary would include students outside of Pulaski County. She said the feasibility study does not include the Scott community but the

foundation is willing to consider including Scott students. Ms. Williams presented tables showing a distribution of race percentages, free/reduced lunch percentages, SPED student percentages, assessment value of the Sherwood district in relation to PCSSD. She said the size of Sherwood district would compare to Russellville, Jonesboro and Benton. She asked the Special Committee to leave the current boundaries as to not harm the plan of the Sherwood Public Education Foundation to detach from PCSSD. Ms. Williams said the foundation supports the PCSSD millage increase.

Dr. Guess said a millage increase for PCSSD would provide new buildings in Sherwood. He said the PCSSD proposal for a millage increase would serve all of the students in PCSSD.

North Little Rock School District and Community

Mr. Kelly Rodgers, Superintendent of North Little Rock School District, said the NLRSD district building plan included room for growth in enrollment. He said the district staff is focused on preparing students for college and careers. He said the community, mayor, and chamber requests extending the boundaries to the city limits plus additional areas that want to come to the North Little Rock School District.

Ms. Sandy Campbell, NLRSD Board Member, said the district is working to meet the expectations of the community.

Mr. Wes Havens, Co-Chair of the NLRSD Capital Improvement Campaign (2012), said the NLRSD is providing the resources to compete. He said the millage increase, new administration, fiscal planning, facilities improvement are examples of how the district is working for the community. He said the NLRSD could be an example of a successful urban district. He asked the Special Committee to consider the data he submitted.

Mr. Isaac Henry, Special Assistant to the North Little Rock Mayor, read a prepared letter from Mayor Joe Smith, who was unable to attend the meeting. The mayor requested that the boundaries be adjusted so that students living in North Little Rock attend North Little Rock School District.

Consideration of Perspectives from Legislators

Senator Linda Chesterfield, Senate District 30, said the children must have the best education. She said she was concerned about the travel time for students. She said the students deserve state of the art educational facilities. She asked for districts that are made up of diversity. She encouraged parents and community members to be very involved in their schools.

Public Comment

Ms. Ruth Bell, League of Women Voters, said she is concerned about public input in this issue. She asked that once the committee proposal is crafted, that opportunities for public comment be considered.

Mr. Preston Lewis, Alderman for Maumelle, said he feels very positive about the working relationship between North Little Rock and Maumelle. He said this is a matter of sustainability and there are many inequities that need to be resolved. He said that he sees four options: 1.) make no change; 2.) create a county-wide district; 3.) make small changes on the margins; or 4.) take bold steps to provide local control and local participation.

Special Committee

Chairman Barth recommended that the special committee meet on May 13 at 1:00 p.m. for a committee work session and public comment. He clarified that a report is due to the State Board in June. However, the committee may need more time to construct a proposal. Committee members said that once a proposal is drafted an adequate public comment period would be provided.

Ms. Zook said this work should not interfere with the current efforts of districts to improve, pass a millage increase, and/or work for unitary status.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.

**Minutes
State Board of Education Special Committee
for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study
Wednesday, May 13, 2015**

The State Board of Education Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study met Wednesday, May 13, 2015, in the Board Room of the Pulaski County Special School District Administration Building. Chairman Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

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

Additional State Board Members present: Vicki Saviers

Absent: Sam Ledbetter

Reports

Chair's Report

Dr. Barth had no report.

Consent Agenda

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

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes - April 8, 2015

Action Agenda

Public Comment

The Special Committee heard public comments from the communities.

Little Rock

Little Rock School District Superintendent Baker Kurrus said the district needed to build a large circle of community to run the district efficiently. He said the community of interest was needed to win.

Mayor Mark Stodola said Ward 5 students attend PCSDD. He recommended

that area should be included in LRSD. He recommended that everything south of the river should be one district.

Vice Mayor Lance Hines said Ward 5 needed representation on the local school board. He recommended that everything south of the river should be one district. He recommended a new middle school and high school in west Little Rock. He said people would want to come to Little Rock if the schools are fixed.

North Little Rock

Mr. Danny Bradley, chief of staff for Mayor Joe Smith, said great cities make a great state. He said North Little Rock has a world-class school district. He recommended extending the boundaries of NLRSD to the NLR city limits. He said this would improve the economy and bring jobs to NLR. He said he does not object to extending the school district beyond the city limits.

Ms. Michelle Conner said her family moved to NLR and her children attend NLRSD. However, she said the boundary map shows two houses on her street are indicated as PCSSD. Although her children attend NLRSD, she said she could not vote in the school district or pay taxes to the district. Also, she will be unable to run for the school board. She said it would make more sense for zip codes and city limits to match the school district boundary.

Representative Eddie Armstrong said expedited recommendations would be helpful to these communities.

Scott Community

Mr. Martin Gibson said in reference to a question from last month, that he included a map of the Scott School attendance zone.

Ms. Shannon Armand said the Scott Community is concerned about PCCSD building plans. Ms. Armand lives within the NLR boundary and her children attend a public charter school because of long travel times. She said community parents want school choice for their children. She requested a quick recommendation from the subcommittee.

Mr. Harry Simmons said he lives eleven miles from England School District. He requested that his children attend the England School District. He requested to have school choice.

Representative Camille Bennett requested the committee make recommendations expeditiously.

Shannon Hills Mayor Mike Kemp said the millage vote was a vote of no confidence in the Pulaski County Special School District (PCSSD). He said it is

time for a new beginning. He said Shannon Hills students should not be bused to PCSSD. He said approximately twelve students live in Saline County but attend PCSSD.

Maumelle

Ms. Mary Peyton said she is a resident of Maumelle. She said in 1994 the city task force was tasked with bringing quality education to Maumelle. She said the Maumelle charter was approved in 2000. She said the students at Academics Plus are still attending school in portable buildings and a former strip mall. She said excellent teachers, an excellent board, and a strong superintendent is the key to success.

Alderman Preston Lewis said Maumelle is requesting to have its own district. He recommended Maumelle and Sherwood have the legal pathway to move forward with detachment. He also requested that Shannon Hills students be permitted to go to the Bryant School District. He also recommended choice for the Scott Community. He said the proposed Maumelle School District would have over 30% African American students.

Sherwood

Ms. Linda George, representing the Sherwood Public Education Foundation, said the group supported the PCSSD millage and continued to work forward toward a detachment for Sherwood.

Ms. Ruth Bell, League of Women Voters for Pulaski County, said her constituents recommended that districts should be financially adequate, including appropriate facilities, millage and assessed values; districts that can meet the needs of a diverse population of students; and districts that encourage community and involvement.

Consideration of Legal Guidance

Department Attorney Ms. Kendra Clay said there are two broad ways in which the State Board of Education may change the boundary lines of a school district. She said the first way is through Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1414. That statute allows for the State Board of Education to consider a petition from a local board of directors of any school district that seeks an adjustment or change or boundary lines between its school district and adjoining school district. She said under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1414, the Board may not order any change in school district boundaries that would hamper, delay, or in any manner negatively affect the desegregation efforts of the public school districts of the State.

Ms. Clay said the other way is more indirect. Under Arkansas laws related to the standards for accreditation, fiscal distress, academic distress, and facilities

distress, the Board may consolidate, annex, or reconstitute a school district. In an order of consolidation or annexation, the Board would include a provision that establishes the boundary lines of the new school districts. She said Arkansas law states that the Board may not order any annexation or consolidation that hampers, delays, or in any manner negatively affects the desegregation efforts of a school district or school districts. She said prior to entering such an order, the Board would also be required to get an advisory opinion from the Attorney General's Office concerning the desegregation issue.

Ms. Clay said with regard to Pulaski County, the Pulaski County Special School District remains under court supervision with regard to five areas in its desegregation plan: Discipline, Facilities, Staffing, Student Achievement, and Monitoring. She said pursuant to an order issued in the early 2000s in the desegregation case, before taking any action relative to the boundaries of the Pulaski County Special School District, the Board would have to petition the presiding federal court for permission to do so. That order required a party that wanted to seek a change in the boundaries of the PCSSD to provide the court with a detailed feasibility study and specific data sufficient to allow the court to conduct an evidentiary hearing to determine whether the boundary change would substantially impact the student populations of each district and if such a change would better meet the educational needs of the students in the districts involved.

Representative Bennett asked for the Scott School to remain open until the opportunity is available to petition for a boundary change. She said England School District and Lonoke School District are willing to accept these students.

Mayor Kemp said the Bryant School District is willing to accept the students that live in Saline County.

Work Session

Consideration of Data

Mr. Davis said some changes make sense.

Ms. Zook said the committee has heard from communities of interest that will work for excellent schools. She recommended one district for the area south of the river.

Dr. Barth said south of the river makes sense as one district. He said north of the river could be four districts – North Little Rock School District (NLRSD) should match the North Little Rock city limits, Maumelle and Sherwood could potentially detach from PCSSD and the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District (JNPSD).

Ms. Zook said Shannon Hills and the Scott Community issues are immediate.

Mr. Scott Miller recommended a collaborative conversation between Maumelle and North Little Rock to prepare for the Maumelle detachment process.

NLRSD Superintendent Mr. Kelly Rodgers said the NLRSD would be willing to have these community conversations. He said the unincorporated areas needed to be decided upfront.

Maumelle Mayor Mike Watson said the Camp Robinson area should not be a barrier to agreements.

The Committee discussed the information received from the public comments. The committee recommended:

South of the River

One district south of the river in Pulaski County, with the recommendation that Saline County students go to the Bryant School District.

North of the River

Scott – Upper Steel Bend Road to NLR and the area below Lower Steel Bend Road would go to England.

JNPSD – no alteration to the boundaries.

NLRSD and PCSSD will collaborate on appropriate boundaries to move forward with detachment of Sherwood and Maumelle that would make boundaries that are reflective of the communities of interest (to the degree possible). Local leaders agreed to collaborate on a peaceful decision-making process.

The Committee recognized the constraints placed on the State Board by previous federal court judgments.

Dr. Barth will draft a report to be submitted to Ms. Coffman by May 22. The Committee will meet either May 26 or May 27 to finalize the report for submission to the State Board. The report will be submitted to Ms. Coffman by June 1 for entry in the State Board Meeting scheduled for June 11, 2015.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.