

**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:

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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.



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair