

CREEDMOOR, NORTH CAROLINA
August 25, 2021

The Members of the Honorable Board of Commissioners of Granville County, North Carolina and the Granville County Board of Education met in a special joint meeting on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the Main Gymnasium, South Granville High School, 701 North Crescent Drive, Creedmoor. The purpose was to meet with the Granville County Board of Education for an initial meeting regarding redistricting.

Present were:

Chairman: Sue Hinman

Commissioners: Tony W. Cozart Jimmy Gooch
Zelodis Jay Timothy Karan
Russ May David T. Smith

County Manager: Michael S. Felts
County Attorney: James C. Wrenn, Jr.

News Reporters: Amanda Dixon – Butner-Creedmoor News

Present from the Granville County Board of Education were:

Chairman: David Richardson

Board Members: Ethel Anderson G. Thomas Houlihan
Amanda J. LaBrecque Gregory McKnight
Leonard E. Peace, Sr. Glenda Williams

Board of Education Attorney: Eva DuBuisson

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman David Richardson and Chair Sue Hinman called the joint meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Chairman Richardson then recognized Dr. Houlihan for the invocation and Chair Hinman recognized Commissioner May for the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME AND REMARKS

Chairman Richardson and Chair Hinman welcomed everyone to the meeting and made comments.

PRESENTATION REGARDING REDISTRICTING PROCESS

Attorneys Amanda Hawkins and Craig Schauer with Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, L.L.P. were present to begin the redistricting process.

Attorney Hawkins said the purpose of the meetings was for an overview of the redistricting process and to get feedback from the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education for a first

draft of the redistricting maps. She noted that the statutory deadline for redistricting for the Board of Commissioners is November 17th. The attorneys then spoke from a PowerPoint presentation.

Timeline for Redistricting

Critical Dates and Deadlines

- **August 16**
 - Initial Census data release (legacy file)
- **Mid-September**
 - Demographer will have initial draft
- **TBD**
 - Presentation of draft map
- **November 17**
 - Statutory deadline for resolution*
- **December 1**
 - Filing period opens
- **March 8, 2022**
 - Primaries



BROOKS PIERCE

Raleigh • Greensboro • Wilmington

PAGE 2

Can You Redraw Your District Maps?

Substantial Inequality

- **Statutory basis for redistricting**
 - Commissioners: Section 153A-22 (finding of substantial inequality)
 - School Board: Section 115C-37 (can revise for population imbalance)
- **Substantial Inequality Tests**
 - Ten percent: 10% combined deviations of largest and smallest districts
 - Five percent: Any district deviates by 5% from the ideal district (we will use this one)
- **Analysis**
 - Once census data is available, demographer will calculate deviations
- **Resolution**
 - Boards will pass resolutions with finding of fact of substantial inequality

BROOKS PIERCE

Raleigh • Greensboro • Wilmington

PAGE 3

Redistricting Considerations

Considerations when drawing new boundaries

- **Population Equality**
 - One person, one vote: substantial equality of district populations
- **Race**
 - Race cannot be a predominant factor for drawing lines
 - Except for when you must consider race to comply with the Voting Rights Act.
- **Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act**
 - Cannot dilute the voting power of minorities
 - Three preconditions:
 - Compactness
 - Political cohesiveness
 - Majority bloc voting
 - Plus totality of the circumstances
- **1989 Consent Decree**

BROOKS PIERCE

Raleigh • Greensboro • Wilmington

PAGE 4

Redistricting Considerations (cont.)

Considerations when drawing new boundaries

- **Incumbency**
 - Avoid having incumbent members in same district
- **Political affiliation**
 - Federal courts: U.S. Constitution does not prohibit political gerrymandering
 - North Carolina courts: twice, three-judge panel has struck down legislative maps for political gerrymandering as violating the N.C. Constitution
- **Communities of interest**
 - Retaining political subdivisions: precincts and municipalities
 - Communities of interest: compact populations with similar social, economic, and political interests (e.g., neighborhoods)
- **Compactness and contiguity**
- **Retaining existing districts (single map)**

Review

Considerations when drawing new boundaries

- **Population equality**
- **Race (VRA compliance; consent decree)**
- **Incumbency**
- **Political affiliation...?**
- **Communities of interest**
- **Compactness and contiguity**
- **Retaining existing districts (single map)**

Process

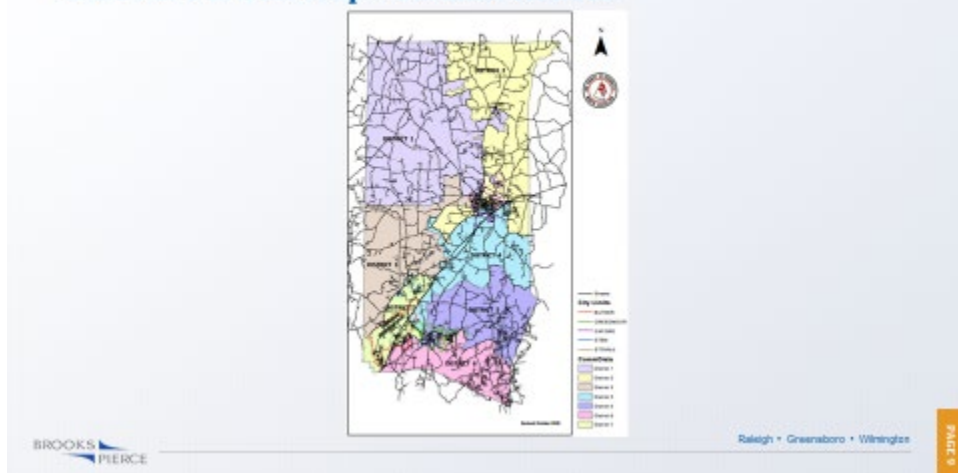
Where do we go from here?

- **Information in hand**
 - We have collected (1) map of current district, (2) map of precincts, and (3) incumbency information
- **Public involvement?**
 - No requirement, but benefits of transparency and inclusiveness.
 - Plaintiffs and their lawyers
- **Instruction from the Board**
- **Initial map presentation**
 - Confirm substantial inequality and discuss adjustments
- **Subsequent revisions**
- **Final resolution**
 - Due by November 17 (for Commissioners)

Current District Map - Board of Education



Current District Map - Commissioners



Board members asked questions and discussion ensued about how the Federal Prison, Murdoch and Central Regional Hospital affect the redistricting maps; compactness and contiguity; and objectives and priorities for drawing new maps including growth and minority representation. The consensus of the Boards was to use actual data and not projected growth for the first draft of the maps. The Attorneys agreed to research the prison population, Murdoch and Central Regional Hospital; to review minority population representation; and to have the demographer draw maps so that incumbents of the same board are not in the same district. It was noted that preclearance by the federal government is no longer required for the redistricting maps and that the Boards can decide if they wish to get public input on the redrawing of maps.

The question was asked if redistricting maps can be redrawn before the next census in 10 years if the district numbers changed significantly. The attorneys were not aware of a county doing this, but would check into the matter as the 10 year clause is based on statute.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The announcement was made that the next meeting regarding redistricting will be in September at a date to be determined. First draft maps will be made available as soon as the demographers have those ready.

Chairman Richardson announced the Joint Tour of Schools on September 9th beginning at 9:00 a.m. that included a redistricting discussion.

After noting that the proposed maps will not be ready then, Attorney Wrenn suggested cancelling the redistricting part of that meeting. It was decided that the meeting will be held September 9th for the school tours, but not for redistricting discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Leonard Peace, seconded by Mrs. Amanda J. LaBrecque, and unanimously carried, the Board of Education adjourned.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra A. Weary, NCCMC, CMC
Clerk to the Board