

AUGUSTA - RICHMOND COUNTY  
RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
AD HOC REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING

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COMMITTEE MEETING

Before Claire R. Netzler, CCR, CVR

At the Richmond County Board of Education Building

900 Broad Street, Augusta, Georgia

On August 18, 2021, commencing at 6:03 p.m.

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APPEARANCES

Board of Elections: Ms. Lynn Bailey

County Commissioners: Comm. Sean Frantom  
Comm. Ben Hasan  
Comm. Jordan Johnson\*

School Board Members: Mr. Jimmy Atkins  
Ms. Venus Cain  
Ms. Helen Minchew  
Rep. Brian Prince  
Mr. Charlie Hannah  
Ms. Helen Minchew  
Rep. Wayne Howard\*

Attorneys: Ms. Zena McClain-Haymon,  
City of Augusta

\*Attendance via livestream

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COURT REPORTER'S NOTES

An interruption, trailing off, and incomplete sentences are represented by -- in the body of the transcript.

Brackets [] are for clarification in the body of the transcript.

1 AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

2 RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION BUILDING

3 [Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 9-11-28(d), Claire R. Netzler has no  
4 contract with any of the parties or their counsel. The court  
5 reporter's charges are the usual and customary charges for  
6 services within the industry and are available upon request by  
7 either party, with no financial or services discount being  
8 given to any party named in this meeting.]

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10 MR. FRANTOM: We will start the Committee meeting here on  
11 August 18<sup>th</sup>. I want to recognize a couple individuals in the  
12 crowd. Doctor Bradshaw if you could please rise, please.  
13 Thank you, sir, for being here tonight. And, Administrator  
14 Donald, if you could please rise, right up here in front; can't  
15 miss him. Thank you for being here, sir, and your leadership.

16 Tonight's meeting, there won't be any form of Q and A and  
17 there won't be any form of statements from the public. It will  
18 be -- we'll start to have those public forums in late October -  
19 - mid- October when we'll talk about that.

20 As we get started here today, again, just like to say  
21 thank you to the Board of Education for your hospitality. We  
22 look forward to having multiple meetings here. We'll probably  
23 go back and forth between the Commission chambers and the  
24 school board to make sure that both entities, the School Board

1 people that are watching livestream, as well as the city  
2 government side, that are watching livestream on their side  
3 will -- hopefully we can get those connected in the future to  
4 make sure that if you're on either site will be able to watch  
5 these meetings moving forward, is one of the things that we  
6 discussed when we -- at the last meeting together.

7 All right, so we're going to follow our agenda. I think  
8 that they've passed out some to the crowd, as well.

9 Can I get a motion to adopt the agenda as stated?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

11 MR. FRANTOM: I have a motion, it's second. If you would  
12 please raise your right hand in favor. Any nays? Thank you.  
13 It passes unanimously.

14 The second Agenda item, we're going to reintroduce  
15 ourselves. We are joined virtually today by Representative  
16 Howard and Commissioner Jordan Johnson. We're going to start  
17 with them. If you could please come off mute, Commissioner  
18 Johnson and introduce yourself.

19 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Good evening, everyone. Jordan  
20 Johnson Commission District 1. Thank you all for giving me the  
21 opportunity to be helpful; happy to be here.

22 MR. FRANTOM: Thank you, sir. Representative Howard.  
23 You're on mute, sir.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD: Am I unmuted now?

1 MR. FRANTOM: We've got you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD: Okay. Good evening.

3 Representative Henry Wayne Howard, House District 124.

4 MR. FRANTOM: Thank you, sir, for being here. Ms.  
5 Minchew, we'll start with you.

6 MS. MINCHEW: I am Helen Minchew. I represent District 10  
7 at large, on the Richmond County School Board.

8 MR. ATKINS: Jimmy Atkins, District 8, Richmond County  
9 Board of Education.

10 MR. HANNAH: Charlie Hannah, District 2, Richmond County  
11 Board of Education.

12 Mr. FRANTOM: Sean FRANTOM, District 7, Chair of the Ad  
13 Hoc Committee.

14 MS. CAIN: Venus Cain, Richmond County Board of Education,  
15 District 9 and Vice Chair and before I go on, I'd like to take  
16 this opportunity to thank Ms. Charla, administrative assistant  
17 for ensuring the we have a nice dinner. Thank you, Charla for  
18 all your hard work.

19 MR. HASAN: Ben Hasan, Commissioner District 6.

20 MR. SIAS: Commissioner Sammy Sias, District 4, Augusta  
21 County Commission.

22 MR. FRANTOM: Alright. Still to join us, I think, tonight  
23 would be Representative Mark Newton and Representative Brian  
24 Prince. I think he is on the way, but this is the committee

1 that will be meeting on this Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee.

2 As we move on to number three here, can I get a motion to  
3 accept this information, the transcript for the July 20, 2021  
4 Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Seconded.

7 MR. FRANTOM: So moved and seconded. Please vote by  
8 raising your right hand. In favor? Thank you. Any nays?

9 That passes unanimously.

10 Alright, moving on to number four, the explanation and  
11 discussion of proposed Guiding Principles. I'm going to turn  
12 this over to Ms. Bailey.

13 MS. BAILEY: Thank you so much, Mr. Chair and I'd also  
14 like to follow the vice Chair's lead in thanking the School  
15 Board for their hospitality tonight, for the great meeting so  
16 far, and thank you for having us.

17 A couple of things, if I may, before we get to the Guiding  
18 Principles. I wanted to share some information with the group.  
19 Just general information. Many of you have likely already seen  
20 this information that we do know about Richmond County's census  
21 numbers are that Richmond County population grew by 6,058  
22 persons. Now, when you look at that, you see the numbers  
23 there, we had 200,549 in 2010 and 206,607 in 2020 so it might  
24 look like -- you might think like, gosh, we're not going to

1 have much of a change this year so we should see minimal impact  
2 here, but it's important to remember that at the end of the day  
3 when we draw all these district lines, the goal is to evenly  
4 disburse the population amongst the districts and so we'll have  
5 to take into account, of course, where we've seen areas of  
6 growth and areas of decline and alternate accordingly. But,  
7 according to this graph here, we are the seventh -- excuse me,  
8 the 11<sup>th</sup> largest county in the state following, just barely,  
9 under Muscogee County who came in 315 ahead of us, which we  
10 know by now, makes Augusta the third biggest city in Georgia.

11 I'll also just continue with a few little stats. Again,  
12 this stat shows that the population overall grew about three  
13 percent. The voting-age population of Richmond County grew  
14 about 6.4 percent so what that tells us is that we have fewer  
15 people under the age of 18 and more people over the age of 18  
16 percentage-wise than we had ten years ago. The ideal district  
17 size also grew about three percent and just as a kind of an  
18 afterthought, I drew the registered voter numbers just to show  
19 you how they've grown over the last ten years. Some of that  
20 has to do with the fact that our voting-age population has  
21 grown and a lot of it has to do with changes that were made at  
22 the Department of Driver Services. They have made it easier  
23 for people to register to vote when they have transactions at  
24 the Department of Driver Services so I think both of those

1 things have made a difference.

2 Okay, moving on to the Guiding Principles, I'd like to  
3 just give an overview of why we're looking at Guiding  
4 Principles, why they're important and then you should all --  
5 all the Committee members should have a draft of those Guiding  
6 Principles. I hope you've had an opportunity to review them.  
7 We can talk about any particular components that you would like  
8 as we go forward.

9 The Guiding Principles are important because they're going  
10 to set the foundation for how the Committee goes about making  
11 its decisions and the -- once we adopt Guiding Principles  
12 tonight, those principles, as stated in the description, will  
13 guide the process and by that I mean that the people that are  
14 drawing our district lines, whether that's the state  
15 legislative redistricting office or a consultant, they will use  
16 those principles to make sure that any plans that this  
17 Committee comes up with adheres to those Principles.

18 The Principles that are being proposed tonight are based  
19 on redistricting projects from the past, modified to include a  
20 couple of changes such as specifically stating that it would be  
21 the desire of this group to protect the core of each district,  
22 meaning that we would keep each district intact as much as we  
23 could going through the process and then also adding in  
24 protection of communities of interest whenever those things are



1 possible.

2           Okay. Alright, so you all have a copy of the draft. Are  
3 there any questions about anything that you see on this paper;  
4 anything that I can answer for you? I will tell you that the  
5 Principles that you see there on that draft have been reviewed  
6 by Pete Fletcher with the Board of Education and Ms. Zena  
7 McClain-Haymon with the Augusta Law Department and they have  
8 been deemed to meet the legal requirements that this Committee  
9 will need to follow. You know, just because we have listed  
10 these items, there's nothing magical about them. The Committee  
11 can add to or change them outside of the things that are legal  
12 requirements. You can change or add to or subtract from them  
13 as you see fit, but these are the things that we felt like was  
14 -- were the most appropriate for the Guiding Principles for  
15 this project.

16           MR. FRANTOM: Ms. Bailey, you stated in 2011 -- are these  
17 the same Guiding Principles except for one slight change? Is  
18 that what you're saying?

19           MS. BAILEY: There are a couple of changes. The main  
20 change is -- there are two, actually. The first item in the  
21 previous iteration stated that the goal of the Committee would  
22 be to keep the district sizes within plus or minus two percent  
23 of the ideal size. Rather than put an arbitrary number in  
24 there like that, we thought it would be best to just say hat

1 the Committee will do its best when practical to get the  
2 districts to as equal size as they can. I will say, though,  
3 that there are going to be times, as we go through this process  
4 that you're going to want to protect neighborhoods from being  
5 split and other things such as that that will cause you to --  
6 that will cause the district numbers to be slightly off from  
7 one district to the next.

8 MR. SIAS: Chairman, I have a question.

9 MR. FRANTOM: Mr. Sias.

10 MR. SIAS: This is for Ms. Bailey: As we expect to get  
11 the numbers from the state or whoever, will the census blocks -  
12 - the core census blocks, will they remain the same?

13 MS. BAILEY: It is my belief that they will, yes, sir.

14 MR. SIAS: Then those will be part of the challenge to  
15 reunite some communities of interest because if those census  
16 blocks doesn't change, then that's a challenge for us to put  
17 those communities of interest that have been separated back  
18 together. And that is the only reason I'm here; is to put  
19 those communities of interest back together. Thank you.

20 MS. BAILEY: You're welcome.

21 MR. FRANTOM: Ms. Venus Cain.

22 MS. CAIN: Ms. Bailey, how many -- I call them split  
23 neighborhoods or communities. How many split communities will  
24 we have or communities of interest that are split?

1 4<sup>th</sup>

2 MR. SIAS: And the 5<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, as well. The 5<sup>th</sup> is  
3 tied in there.

4 MS. BAILEY: I guess Woodlake is split between the 5<sup>th</sup> and  
5 the 4<sup>th</sup> and maybe part of Farrington or right over in that area  
6 where Farrington is, is also split between commission  
7 districts.

8 MR. SIAS: Quail Hollow -- Quail Ridge is also split.

9 MS. BAILEY: Okay.

10 MS. CAIN: So, we have several subdivisions that are  
11 split?

12 MR. SIAS: Yes.

13 MR. FRANTOM: Commissioner Hasan.

14 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Ms. Bailey, you may have mentioned  
15 that in two to three percent of differences on this  
16 presentation here now, so do we at some point in time get to  
17 the point that it becomes an acceptable number of differences  
18 from one precinct to another? We have to derive that when we  
19 get there?

20 MS. BAILEY: We do. That's a great question. The general  
21 standard through the Department of Justice is a total of ten  
22 percent, which would be five percent plus or minus; beyond that  
23 is unacceptable so we have to stay below that threshold. Now,  
24 it's desirable, though, to come lower than that. The Committee

1 -- well, the plan that we have in place right now has a  
2 deviation of plus or minus point five percent so, you know,  
3 that's a good number.

4 And, what this Committee will have to keep in mind when we  
5 do get district lines to look at, any time that you go over or  
6 under the ideal district, we're going to have to justify that  
7 and it's a certainly good justification would be, you know,  
8 we've gone over because we wanted to protect this neighborhood,  
9 which has caused this area to be under and so we have to think  
10 about that as we go forward to build our record.

11 COMMISSIONER HASAN: And, so, in doing that, some of those  
12 decisions will packing and stacking ever be taken into  
13 consideration?

14 MS. BAILEY: It absolutely will, yes, and we've talked  
15 about that down in number six on the Guiding Principles. We  
16 say that we want to -- to the extent we can, protect the  
17 damages of neighborhoods and precincts, to protect against  
18 compactness or to provide compactness in that the districts  
19 won't be long and meandering, they'll be, you know, generally  
20 of a good size. We want to make sure to take into  
21 consideration connections to public transportation links, to  
22 preserve the core of the district and preserve communities of  
23 interest but packing, as you describe it, and stacking are two  
24 forms of basic gerrymandering. The districts that are --

1 illegal, so we couldn't intentionally do those things to  
2 achieve an outcome.

3 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Thank you.

4 MR. FRANTOM: Ms. Minchew.

5 MS. MINCHEW: I have a question, Ms. Bailey. The  
6 connections to transportation links, now, how can that be  
7 figured in because so much of our county is not serviced by  
8 public transportation.

9 MS. BAILEY: No, you're exactly right and this is standard  
10 -- this is a new standard that we put in this year. It -- our  
11 studies show that this is what communities are generally  
12 considering so I think it would be more applicable to areas  
13 that are more in the urban parts of Richmond County as opposed  
14 to the suburban parts.

15 MS. CAIN: Okay.

16 MS. BAILEY: And mind you, too, this section that we're  
17 talking about here is things that should or could be  
18 considered. There's nothing mandatory about the things that  
19 should be contemplated by this group so that's not to say that  
20 they won't be split, because my bet is that bey the time this  
21 is over with, there will be split neighborhoods; there will  
22 have to be in some areas just because of the heavy residential  
23 population that we have congregated in certain areas of the  
24 county. So, in order to achieve all the other balances,

1 sometimes it's a necessary component of redistricting,  
2 unfortunately.

3 MR. FRANTOM: Thank you. Mr. Atkins.

4 MR. ATKINS: Ms. Bailey, just for curiosity, so from 2010  
5 to 2020, we grew 6,058 folks. Do you remember what the growth  
6 was from 2000 to 2010?

7 MS. BAILEY: In 2000 we came in right at 190,000, 189 and  
8 change and so that -- so we grew ten to --

9 MR. ATKINS: Not quite as much growth this time as we saw  
10 the last --

11 MS. BAILEY: That's correct.

12 MR. ATKINS: And, I mean, is it safe to assume that we  
13 would see less movement online this go 'round because of less  
14 growth, or is the initial number showing heavier growth in one  
15 part of the county versus the other?

16 MS. BAILEY: Well, we don't have the numbers yet to  
17 support any of this, but I will say just from my observation  
18 and knowing how our voting precincts have grown, we've seen  
19 tremendous growth out going west out toward Dyess Parkway,  
20 Belair Road area. Ten years ago, our huge area of growth was  
21 in the Windsor Spring and Tobacco Road area and so it's going  
22 to change from time to time, so what we may see is some type of  
23 a shift occurring within District 3, say, that would shift that  
24 boundary, perhaps further to the west or even down south to

1 offload some voters to neighboring districts to balance things  
2 out. Likewise, I haven't see the numbers, but again, just  
3 seeing the number of registered voters, I would say that  
4 District 2 may be -- could end up being our least under-  
5 populated district just because of urban blight. We've seen  
6 over years the demolitions and what not over I that area.

7 MR. ATKINS: Thank you.

8 MS. BAILEY: You're welcome.

9 MR. FRANTOM: Mr. Hannah.

10 MR. HANNAH: Thank you, Chairman. I just want to remind  
11 everybody these Principles that Ms. Bailey has provided now,  
12 they were not the principles used for the last 2010  
13 redistricting. They were not. They were on the table sort of,  
14 initially, but the last -- in 2010 the redistricting was done  
15 by a Federal judge and which,, they do not in that format, in  
16 that scenario, there's no compliance with these type of  
17 principles, communities of interest and everything; that is why  
18 we have some areas that are split that were not split before.  
19 The type of boundaries that this committee will consider, such  
20 as main streets or these kinds of things and rail lines and all  
21 these things that don't change, that did not apply in the 2010  
22 redistricting. The judge didn't -- Ms. Bailey can explain and  
23 I'll appreciate it if she would -- not knocking the judge or  
24 anything, but just saying that wasn't the principle that we

1 used in 2010.

2 MS. BAILEY: Well, that is true. As the Commissioner  
3 states, back in 2010, the Ad Hoc Committee unanimously voted  
4 for a plan but the plan wasn't able to be enacted and because  
5 of that, a lawsuit was brought against the city of Augusta to -  
6 - that took it to Federal court so at that point, it was out of  
7 the locals hands and it went off to the Federal Court judge to  
8 draw the lines but the Committee, when it did its work, had to  
9 set up Guiding Principles that were very similar to what you  
10 see before you.

11 MR. FRANTOM: Thank you. Mr. Hannah.

12 MR. HANNAH: Ms. Bailey, do you -- just piggybacking from  
13 Commissioner Sias, no matter what we come up with, we should  
14 try, as much as possible, to be within the Guidelines because -  
15 - correctly, you know, try and be on the same page with our  
16 state legislators simply because they do have the authority to  
17 redo what we present to them; am I correct?

18 MS. BAILEY: Well, I will kind of answer that question. I  
19 can tell you that the vehicle to enacting any plan flows  
20 through the General Assembly certainly for the Board of  
21 Education and now, the city of Augusta does have the option  
22 upon rule which means as a municipality they could build a  
23 separate path but they have decided to follow along the same  
24 path as the School Board and have this all flow through the



1 General Assembly so the plan that this committee comes up with  
2 will first be vetted by the state reapportionment office, they  
3 will make sure that it's in legal compliance and then they will  
4 take that plan and develop it into legislation that will then  
5 go to the General Assembly for consideration.

6 MR. HANNAH: And if they reject it, it comes back for us  
7 to review?

8 MS. BAILEY: Yeah, I would suppose so if it doesn't, if  
9 it's not inactive or maybe Representative Howard can address  
10 this or Representative Prince is in the room; maybe he can  
11 address it. I'm not sure what the protocol would be if the  
12 General Assembly decides to not enact a plan that the local  
13 community has developed. I believe if it's introduced as local  
14 legislation.

15 MR. HANNAH: That is correct.

16 MS. BAILEY: So, generally when local legislation is  
17 introduced like that, as long as the local delegation is  
18 supportive of it, it generally flows right through as a matter  
19 of course. Is that also correct?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, generally, yes.

21 MR. HANNAH: Okay, thank you. My question to Mr. Prince  
22 or Mr. Howard, so if for some reason it's not enacted, would  
23 you guys send it back to us with recommendations?

24 REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: If we come to that, yes. I mean,

1 that's why I think we're on this committees to be a part of the  
2 committee not just be on the outside looking in. As this plan  
3 goes up, you'll have our full support including being here, as  
4 well. Coming back with issues that the local delegation has  
5 issues, shouldn't even be an issue, I mean, it won't be an  
6 issue.

7 MR. FRANTOM: Commissioner Hasan.

8 MR. HASAN: Thank you. Mr. President, If you don't want  
9 the delegation to deal with it, you can kick it back to the  
10 Augusta Commission and we'll make sure everybody -- for the  
11 civil purpose and -- if the Augusta Commission can do it with  
12 you all's blessing, and it's done.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm trying to -- I think Mr. Hannah  
14 and I probably have the same thoughts and that's scary; we do  
15 that a lot and he puts it a lot more, I'm going to say  
16 delicate, than I do; not necessarily eloquent but delicate and  
17 maybe I need to ask Mr. Fletcher, you know, but -- because I  
18 don't want to put you on the spot, Ms. Bailey, but if you're  
19 comfortable answering it. I mean, what happened ten years ago,  
20 basically, if I'm -- I was on the committee but, if my memory  
21 serves correct, the committee that was four of the delegation,  
22 four Commissioners, four school board members, came up with a  
23 plan --

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Unanimously.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And then, somebody threw a hail  
2 Mary, a sitting senator at the time, threw a hail Mary with a  
3 different plan and that is why we ended up having to have Randy  
4 Hall draw the districts and not go based on what the Committee  
5 of ten years ago recommended. Am I saying that correctly?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I suspect that you are.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, to Mr. Hasan's point, I think  
8 we're all in agreement as long as we all work together and come  
9 up with something that's in the best interest of the citizens  
10 of Richmond County, not an individual commissioner, an  
11 individual school board member. If we come up with the best  
12 solution then we shouldn't -- there's no reason that our local  
13 delegation should have any issues with being able to get it  
14 passed for us in Atlanta.

15 MR. FRANTOM: Commissioner Hasan.

16 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Yes, I think this is a little -- the  
17 caveats are a part of that, as well, because after the  
18 committee voted unanimously to support it -- I can't say what  
19 happened on the school board side, I don't remember, but I can  
20 tell you being in the chambers when on the commission side, not  
21 as a commissioner, but as a citizen, the commission would not  
22 adopt it with the approval -- with the four members, approved  
23 and being a part of that body, that approved it unanimously,  
24 that the commission would not approve it. That's when it began

1 to fall apart. At some point in time, as you say, other  
2 players was introduced once it got to Atlanta but on the local  
3 level the commission would not approve with the total  
4 delegation that committee approved unanimously and it began to  
5 fall apart. I don't know what the school board did but it  
6 began to fall apart when other players were introduced.

7 MR FRANTOM: Thank you. Mr. Hannah.

8 MR. HANNAH: I just want to say thank you for clarifying  
9 that, Mr. Atkins. My comment was not to disrupt our body; I  
10 appreciate it.

11 MR. FRANTOM: Representative Howard, go ahead. You're on  
12 mute, you're on mute.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD: I just want to make sure we're  
14 clear that the delegation at that time wea not the culprit that  
15 stopped that. It was the delegation, as Representative Prince  
16 just mentioned or eluded to, you now, we're not here to disrupt  
17 or not adopt what this group has brought before us so let's  
18 just -- I just want to make sure we clear the air on that. I  
19 don't remember the delegation being the culprit that did not  
20 agree with that plan back in 2010.

21 MR. FRANTOM: Thank you for the clarity, sir. Ms. Bailey,  
22 did you have any more further --

23 MS. BAILEY: I was just going to add one more comment  
24 about the Guiding Principles. We were talking about things

1 that had changed from the plan -- from the Guiding Principles  
2 from 2010. The only other really big change is, you may  
3 notice, that the portion about the plan having to be pre-  
4 cleared by the Department of Justice is no longer a requirement  
5 so it's not included in these Guiding Principles.

6 MR. FRANTOM: Any other comments, questions, concerns or  
7 are we ready to adopt these Principles?

8 Can I get a motion to adopt these Principles as stated on  
9 the sheet in front of me?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

12 MR. FRANTOM: Got a motion and second. Please raise your  
13 hand if you're in favor. Alright, thank you. Raise your hand  
14 if you're against. That is unanimous support for -- thank you  
15 Mr. Howard, thank you, Commissioner Johnson for your votes, as  
16 well. They both voted in the yea. Alright, we'll move on to  
17 number five. This is a Committee request that a member of the  
18 Legislative Delegation authorize the Legislative Redistricting  
19 Office to work with the Richmond County Board of Elections, or  
20 their designee, in developing plans as required by law.

21 Representative Howard, do you want to speak on this for  
22 us?

23 REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD: Now, let me make sure I'm  
24 understanding it clear, are we -- is that something that we are

1 to assign a member to or would this body vote on that?

2 MR. FRANTOM: Ms. Bailey, I'll --

3 MS. BAILEY: If I may, that's a fairly new law that  
4 requires that before the Legislative Redistricting Office is  
5 permitted to work with the local government to draw their  
6 lines, they have to be authorized to do so by a member of the  
7 local delegation. So, it would benefit this Committee to have  
8 a member of the local delegation to go ahead and proactively  
9 reach out to Ms. Gina Wright at the Legislative Redistricting  
10 Office basically giving your approval for them to work directly  
11 with my office, say, to transfer plans back and forth for this  
12 Committee's consideration.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD: So we, as far as a delegation is  
14 concerned, whoever this Committee desires, if I -- we will work  
15 with whoever you choose to appoint to that position.

16 REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: Representative Howard, this is  
17 Representative Prince. I'll take that. I've got it.

18 MS. BAILEY: And, according to that law, and I'll be glad  
19 to send you a copy of that law, Representative Prince, so  
20 you'll have it.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: I don't need a copy of the law I  
22 just need to know -- draft a letter.

23 MS. BAILEY: Okay. I'll send you an email tomorrow with  
24 all the details, okay? Great.

1 MR. FRANTOM:A Do we need to make a motion on that? Can  
2 we get a motion -- Commissioner Hasan?

3 COMMISSIONER HASAN: To Ms. Bailey, is this member working  
4 on b behalf of this body as working --

5 MS. BAILEY: NO, sir, it's just an administrative step  
6 authorizing that State entity to work with the county saying  
7 that it -- their work with this government has a blessing of  
8 the local Legislative Delegation. It doesn't give the member  
9 that reaches out to them any privilege or any -- they will be  
10 treated no differently than any other Committee member it's  
11 just an administrative step that is now required by Georgia law  
12 to authorize that State agency to work with the local  
13 government.

14 COMMISSIONER HASAN: And my understanding is basically  
15 it's giving the Reapportionment Office the permission to work  
16 with us.

17 MS. BAILEY: That's exactly what it is. That's exactly  
18 what it is.

19 MR. FRANTOM: Representative Howard.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD: Going back to Commissioner Hasan's  
21 question, that was what I was kind of eluding to or maybe I  
22 didn't say this as strongly as I needed to, I think this  
23 Committee should decide who they want to work with from this  
24 delegation.

1 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Thank you, sir.

2 MR. HANNAH: I've got a question.

3 MR. FRANTOM: Mr. Hannah.

4 MR. HANNAH: So at this particular state we're just making  
5 the motion and Representative Prince has already agreed so we  
6 just moving forward.

7 MR. FRANTOM: Alright, so can I get a Motion?

8 MS. CAIN: So moved.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

10 MR. FRANTOM: The Motion is second for Mr. Prince. All in  
11 favor, raise your right hand. Okay, that is unanimous. Thank  
12 you. Thank you, Commissioner Johnson. Thank you, Mr. Prince -  
13 - Representative Prince.

14 Alright, moving on to number six, discussion of the  
15 Redistricting website. Ms. Bailey.

16 MS. BAILEY: Okay. I just want to give you an update on  
17 the Redistricting website. If we could get our support to  
18 click on that link and we want to show you where we are on our  
19 design. It's not public yet, but what you'll see here is just  
20 a general outline of how it will look and this can certainly be  
21 linked over to or even made a part of the Board of Education  
22 website if you choose to do that and I'll go ahead and get you  
23 to click on the 2021 Redistricting, please, and you can see  
24 there we've got the Committee members there to scan information



1 in there so far, but you can see the menu items there on the  
2 left-hand side of the types of information that we would be  
3 putting out there for the public to see; so it includes the  
4 Frequently Asked Questions, Information about the meetings  
5 including transcripts, livestreams, and what not, the Minutes  
6 and Agendas, any presentations, every iteration of any plan we  
7 do including statistics and maps and, you know, the whole deal.  
8 We'll put a tentative timeline including the public hearing  
9 schedule and then there will be a link built in here for public  
10 input so it should, I think, cover all the bases but having  
11 said that, if you as Committee members think of something else  
12 that you'd be interested in having out here or having the  
13 public see out here, please feel free to chime in at any time  
14 and we can make that happen.

15 And, I'd like to thank our Information Technology  
16 department, too, for putting this together for us. They've  
17 done a good job with it.

18 MR. FRANTOM: Ms. Bailey, I do have one question. Is the  
19 livestreams going to be on here? Did you say that?

20 MS. BAILEY: At least the link. I'll go over to you to --

21 MR. FRANTOM: And what about the presentations?

22 MS. BAILEY: Yes, all the presentations and the  
23 transcript, the meeting transcript, the agendas, any bit of  
24 information we have that's public information will be put out

1 here.

2 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Commissioner Sias.

3 COMMISSIONER SIAS: Thank you. Ms. Bailey, I just have  
4 one question about paragraph two where you mention -- where  
5 it's mentioned about eight single districts and two super  
6 districts. Do you think there might be a bit of confusion when  
7 folks think there will be ten districts divided up when there's  
8 actually only eight?

9 MS. BAILEY: Well, you know, it actually happens all the  
10 time so I don't know why this would be an exception that people  
11 wouldn't be confused by that because, you know, you all know  
12 what happened -- it's confusing so maybe we could explain it a  
13 little bit differently by specifying the single number  
14 districts that are contained within the super districts. Do  
15 you think that would be helpful if we specified that District 9  
16 was made up of Districts 1, 2, 4, and 5?

17 COMMISSIONER SIAS: That's true but that the Redistricting  
18 itself is based on 1 through 8.

19 MS. BAILEY: It is; that's correct.

20 COMMISSIONER SIAS: I think that would be helpful if it's  
21 actually in there.

22 MS. BAILEY: Okay. Well, we can --

23 COMMISSIONER SIAS: That would be the only change I would  
24 ask or recommend.

1 MS. BAILEY: Okay. Yes, we can sure put that in there.

2 MR. FRANTOM: And this will be prominent on the Augusta  
3 website like front-page center?

4 MS. BAILEY: It will.

5 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Atkins.

6 MR. ATKINS: Ms. Bailey, very minor. Can you change the  
7 spelling of my name?

8 MS. BAILEY: Oh, I see it. It jumped right out at me.  
9 Thank you very much. Well, you'll also be interested to know  
10 that in the transcripts you were listed as Timmy in one.

11 MR. ATKINS: Timmy?

12 MS. BAILEY: Timmy.

13 MR. ATKINS: And they probably want to call me Adkins,  
14 it's Atkins, so -- I've been called worse.

15 MS. BAILEY: Sure, you bet you.

16 MR. ATKINS: Thank you, Ms. Bailey.

17 MR. FRANTOM: Is there any questions from the livestream?  
18 Anybody raising their hand or anything; I can't see it.

19 Are you for any discussion following the discussion? Can  
20 it get a motion to receive this information?

21 MS. CAIN: So moved.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

23 MR. FRANTOM: Got a Motion and a second. Please raise  
24 your hand voting yea. All in favor; looks like it's unanimous.

1           Alright. Thank you, Commissioner Johnson.

2           Number 7, update on the search for a consultant. Ms.  
3           Bailey.

4           MS. BAILEY: If I could, before we move on, I wanted to  
5           show one other website that we have out here and it's really --  
6           it's the public portal, public input portal so let's get that  
7           up here fast and I will send you all a link to this. Now,  
8           obviously we are patterning our website off of what the Georgia  
9           General Assembly is using. It's pretty simple, we're asking  
10          for their name, their email address, their physical address,  
11          their county of residence which really isn't -- well, I guess  
12          maybe it's applicable, their phone number so if we need to have  
13          any follow up, if they're with any particular organization and  
14          then just a comment so it's just a basic public input form.  
15          They can use it to tell us anything that they want to tell. We  
16          will be monitoring that website, compiling that information,  
17          any public comments into a report and make that available to the  
18          Committee. So that's a plan at issue. I'll make sure I send  
19          you both of these links tomorrow so you can look at it, you  
20          know, on your own, in your quiet time and if you think of  
21          anything else that you would like to hear from people who are  
22          providing public comment, just let us know, but it's just a  
23          Google form so we can add anything  
24          that we want.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ms. Bailey, this is the Sate's  
2 website that I'm looking at here?

3 MS. BAILEY: Yes, sir.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And your proposal is to do what?

5 MS. BAILEY: Our proposal is to basically mirror what the  
6 State's done but change it to -- for Richmond County.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you're going to have it link to  
8 the first website that I saw?

9 MS. BAILEY: That's correct, yes, so where it says public  
10 comment, it would pop right straight to here; well, to our  
11 modified version of that.

12 MR. FRANTOM: Alright, Ms. Bailey, the consultant.

13 MS. BAILEY: Yes, sir. We -- today, the RFPs were all  
14 submitted and opened up at 11 o'clock today so next Friday our  
15 Procurement Committee will be meeting to review the submission  
16 or submissions that are going to be presented so we will keep  
17 you apprised of what we find out. We will have to first review  
18 any submissions to make sure that they meet the criteria for  
19 what we want tand then, of course, have to look at price and I  
20 think weigh our options. You know, we know from the last  
21 meeting that the Legislative Reapportion Office basically will  
22 provide many of the services that a consultant would but at no  
23 charge and I will tell you that every other county I've talked  
24 to around the state is depending on the Legislative

1 Redistricting Office and their local IT departments and law  
2 departments to help develop plans, and so, I think that, you  
3 know, this Committee, we were fortunate in 2010 and took  
4 advantage of having a ready-made consultant put in our lap who  
5 was freshly retired from the Legislative Redistricting Office  
6 so was -- it was a great convenience to us to have that. It's  
7 been our experience so far, thus far in the process this year,  
8 that consultants are few and far between and the ones we can  
9 find tend to come with a pretty hefty price tag so we'll keep  
10 you guys apprised and this Committee can decide how it wants to  
11 go on moving forward.

12 MR. FRANTOM: Commissioner Hasan.

13 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Yes, ma'am. Ms. Bailey when you  
14 mentioned that you're going to be vetting the consultants next  
15 week, who will be a part of that vetting process?

16 MS. BAILEY: it will be myself, Ms. McClain-Haymon, and  
17 Ms. Allen from the IT department will be the primary Committee  
18 members but I believe the Augusta Commission can sit in on  
19 those. I don't think you can participate but you can listen to  
20 those procurement discussions; at least that's my understanding  
21 of it.

22 COMMISSIONER HASAN: So our Chair and vice-Chair of this  
23 Committee will be there to --

24 MS. BAILEY: I don't know that the vice-Chair would have

1 access to it because the Augusta Commission could look at it  
2 just because I think that's the way procurement is structured  
3 but that's not to say that we couldn't request and possibly  
4 have that happen and I would have to let you know.

5 MR. FRANTOM: Representative Prince.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: Ms. Bailey, question: Do we, as a  
7 Committee, get to see the RFP, the request form of the  
8 consultant we are looking at for that person's qualities and  
9 things like that -- job description, I guess it would be  
10 called.

11 MS. BAILEY: I don't think it did. It just went straight  
12 from our Procurement Department out to the public. Now, we  
13 were able to -- we did have a few leads on consultants that we  
14 had gotten when we went to the National Conference of State  
15 Legislator training meeting earlier this summer so we had some  
16 possible leads with that; other than that, it just went out to  
17 the general public.

18 REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: So who would hire this person;  
19 would it be the Elections office, or?

20 MS. BAILEY: Right now, it's flowing through the city of  
21 Augusta.

22 REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: And the city of Augusta doesn't  
23 know what's on that job description or basically on it.

24 MS. BAILEY: Well, yeah, but this Committee just hasn't

1           been sent a copy of it. I'm sorry, I thought that was your  
2           question.

3           REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: I guess my point is, I would think  
4           we would sort of know what we're asking for before we send  
5           stuff out. It sounds like we're going to get somebody, then we  
6           have to vote on them.

7           MS. BAILEY: And that's -- that --

8           REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: That's the process?

9           MS. BAILEY: That is the process and the point of the  
10          Committee meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>, the three-person committee is to  
11          look at the RFPs that were submitted to make sure that they  
12          meet the criteria that was set forth when we sent them out to  
13          see how they responded back.

14          REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: Can I get a copy of that criteria?

15          MS. BAILEY: Yes, yes sure, yes, you sure can; no problem.  
16          I'll mention to our Procurement Department about Committee  
17          members sitting in on the -- these Committee members sitting in  
18          on the Procurement Committee to see if there's any type of a  
19          conflict because you are sitting on this Committee. You know,  
20          I don't know how that would work so give me a minute to bounce  
21          that off of law and the Procurement Department. I'll get back  
22          with you and let you know exactly what to expect moving forward  
23          but I think the bigger takeaway is sometime by around the first  
24          of September we should have information and be in a position to



1 possibly have some choices on consultants who may or may not be  
2 coming to work for this Committee.

3 MR. FRANTOM: Thank you. Vice-Chairman Cain.

4 MS. CAIN: Ms. Bailey, when we first are going to select  
5 or Procurement selects, do they select and then we vote on it  
6 or do we get to see everyone who placed a bid? I know we do  
7 things differently than you all but normally we see everyone  
8 who has placed a bid, and then we're required to go with by law  
9 with what was better so well, if there's five people or five  
10 companies will we see all five companies listed, how much money  
11 they're charging and if we're going with the lowest bidder, will  
12 we see that?

13 MS. BAILEY: I believe so. I believe we will see that. I  
14 think the first pass at it is to make sure that the RFP that  
15 was submitted by the vendor meets the criteria that we've set  
16 forth in the RFP. Is what they presented even what we're  
17 asking for and all of those that meet that initial round of  
18 criteria, it will be at that point that we'll actually see  
19 who's the lowest bidder or what they've bid or anything. So,  
20 the very first step -- it's my understanding the very first  
21 step is to first verify that the submission meets the necessary  
22 requirement and again we do that blind. We don't know -- we  
23 know the name I think of the company or the person but we don't  
24 know how much they're charging.

1 MS. CAIN: I think for me personally, I can't speak for  
2 the other members or colleagues, but I would prefer if anyone  
3 sees it, our two attorneys from the Board of Education and the  
4 city to make sure everything is done to the letter of the law  
5 and that what we -- what is in the criteria behind is actually  
6 what services they are bringing. Me personally, I don't want  
7 to sit on any opening of the bids. I want to see what you  
8 bring before me and then your recommendation, but I, me  
9 personally, I would prefer the two attorneys decide to make  
10 sure whoever the Committee is, have followed the letter of the  
11 law because I don't want to get us to the point to where when  
12 we make a decision as to -- for our community, that it's  
13 challenged in any way so the best way I feel to do it is if  
14 we're going to do it right, put our attorneys that's what -- we  
15 have a darn good attorney. I'm going to speak very highly of  
16 our attorney. Make sure we do everything to the letter of the  
17 law; that would be my recommendation unless someone has  
18 something different.

19 Do I need to do a motion?

20 MR. FRANTOM: Let's see if there's more discussion. Ms.  
21 Minchew?

22 MS. MINCHEW: I have a question. Is there a salary range  
23 in which -- and also, the cost of a consultant, is that to be  
24 shared among sections of this Committee, the Board of

1 Education, county Commission, Legislative? I mean, who would  
2 be funding this?

3 MS. BAILEY: Those are all very good questions. I can  
4 tell you in 2010 -- I can't remember exactly; do you remember?  
5 I can't remember exactly, but I know the cost of the consultant  
6 in 2010 was \$4,000 or something like that. It wasn't an  
7 extremely exorbitant amount but I can't remember if we split  
8 that with the school board or if the city just picked it up. I  
9 honestly don't remember.

10 MS. MINCHEW: I think we might need to know that.

11 MS. BAILEY: Well, we definitely need to know what we're  
12 getting ourselves into because some of the consultants that we  
13 talked to when we were at that raining back in July. One  
14 person I spoke with who had submitted a bid for redistricting  
15 to a county in Virginia, a little bigger than us; I think they  
16 had a total population of 350,000 or so, but their -- this  
17 person's bid was around \$200,000 and others I've talked to were  
18 \$300 an hour, \$500 an hour, so I can't overstate how very, very  
19 fortunate we were in 2010 to have that just fall in our lap and  
20 I would like for the Committee to be, you know, cognizant of  
21 the fact that we are, in my opinion, we may not have a  
22 consultant this time. We may have to depend on the State staff  
23 and the local staff to help you get these District lines done  
24 and to help you with support from the technical aspect and I --

1 you know, so that's the way I feel about it so we'll have to  
2 see. I have absolutely no idea what the cost is being proposed  
3 in these proposals and we won't know until we have looked  
4 through them and first made sure that they even meet the  
5 criteria of what it is we're looking for and it is at that  
6 point that we'll be -- that we'll look at the cost and so on.

7 MR. FRANTOM: Thank you. Commissioner Hasan.

8 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Thank you, sir. Ms. Bailey, is it  
9 possible -- or to the Committee, is it possible that at the  
10 end, just say we go through the process of vendor, a consultant  
11 is selected at that point in time you come back, you may say,  
12 the size corporation is to -- is the vendor of choice that the  
13 body is recommended but you also at that point give us a  
14 perspective at that particular time what the spec would look  
15 like, as well, so we'll put those two together and make a  
16 decision whether we want to go with this spec or whether we  
17 want to go with this vendor.

18 MS. BAILEY: Sure, and when you say comparing what are we  
19 comparing? Are we comparing the service provided or the cost  
20 or what are we comparing?

21 COMMISSIONER HASAN: All of the above.

22 MS. BAILEY: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER HASAN: All of the above because I heard Ms.  
24 Cain mention -- and I want to say for the record to Ms. Cain,

1 we have good attorneys, as well. But, just those things I  
2 think ought to be considered. All of that should be considered  
3 whether it's the finances or whether it's just to be more  
4 convenient because you did mention most of the counties you  
5 spoke of thus far -- they are used to doing State business  
6 based on who -- interviewing that you had. And we look at this  
7 and you compare what do you feel from your experience. And  
8 what was the cost last time for what was it Ms. Megis, what was  
9 her name?

10 MS. BAILEY: Ms. Megers.

11 COMMISSIONER HASAN: What did we pay for her last time; do  
12 you remember?

13 MS. BAILEY: I want to say it was -- the whole service she  
14 provided was around \$4,000.

15 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Each meeting?

16 MS. BAILEY: No, the total. Her total services.

17 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Good gracious. Yeah, we won't get  
18 that will we?

19 MS. BAILEY: No, no.

20 COMMISSIONER HASAN: That had to be a dozen meetings, I  
21 think.

22 MS. BAILEY: Oh, at least. And that doesn't count her  
23 time offline if she, you know, she pre-plans and does other  
24 things so, no. I think we most certainly will not be that

1 fortunate again.

2 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Okay. I just wanted to do a  
3 comparison based on what we think given the time based on the  
4 things we've run across the state versus the person we've  
5 looked at. Because a lot of times at the end of the day you  
6 don't have what you want and you just have to settle so at  
7 least we have those options still.

8 MS. BAILEY: That's right. I totally agree and yes, so  
9 I'll do my best to keep the Committee informed. I think we'll  
10 know a lot better in a week or so after we actually look and go  
11 through the procurement process because there are very strict  
12 rules in place to make sure that things are done properly and  
13 fairly and as I've said before, an example of that is before we  
14 can even look at how much it will cost us from a provider, we  
15 have to first determine if said provider even meets the  
16 criteria we set out so in other words we can't qualify a person  
17 as a possible recipient of the contract based on price. We  
18 have to base it on the service that they are -- and how they've  
19 prepared their reply to us and it is only then after we know  
20 that they have met the criteria that we can begin looking at  
21 price as a criteria.

22 MR. FRANTOM: Vice-Chairman Cain.

23 MS. CAIN: My Motion is that both the city attorney and  
24 the school board attorney sit on the Committee, the selection

1 process for our Redistricting consultant.

2 MR. FRANTOM: I second that. Got a Motion, it's seconded.  
3 Any more discussion on this?

4 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Yeah, one question.

5 MR. FRANTOM: Commissioner Hasan.

6 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Ms. Bailey, are you satisfied that  
7 your Committee is as narrow as you would like it or is it  
8 starting to grow to be -- I don't want to use the word  
9 difficult, but cumbersome.

10 MS. BAILEY: No, I don't think so. I think it's fine. I  
11 know that, for instance, we already have a person on the  
12 Committee, Ms. McClain-Haymon here is our city attorney and  
13 representing us in this matter and she is a part of that  
14 Committee so right now it was just myself and Ms. Allen and Ms.  
15 McClain-Haymon but, you know, I would have to talk with Ms.  
16 Samms to see how the city's procurement procedures work and how  
17 the policy -- she's a stickler and she should be for the rules  
18 of procurement but I will definitely speak with her and do my  
19 best to get Mr. Fletcher in on the Committee. I think it's  
20 appropriate that he's there and I would be glad to do that.

21 COMMISSIONER SIAS: So, since the city's there, do you  
22 care to amend your Motion to say add the school attorneys --  
23 the school board attorney?

24 MS. CAIN: That's fine. Mr. Sias, I have no problem with

1 that.

2 COMMISSIONER HASAN: We can change that to do that, I  
3 think, and you'll second and agree?

4 MR. FRANTOM: So the Motion is basically just to add Keith  
5 Fletcher.

6 Alright, if you could raise your hand for yea. Raise your hand  
7 for nay. Looks like we are unanimous. I'm not sure.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

9 MR. FRANTOM: Alright. Number 8, Discussion of Public  
10 Hearing Format, Ms. Bailey.

11 MS. BAILEY: Okay. On your handout, I think you got -- on  
12 your handout down at the bottom of page one, it's he one that  
13 says Redistricting Committee at the top and it's got Guiding  
14 Principles and then Redistricting Website and there's some  
15 general notes on there. Down at the bottom of that page I've  
16 given you a schedule of what we did in 2011 in terms of the  
17 regular meetings that we had and public hearings that were  
18 conducted and I put that there just to help get a conversation  
19 started but based on what we did in 2011, we're recommending,  
20 staff is recommending the following: It's my belief that once  
21 the proper permissions are in place at the Legislative  
22 Redistricting Office that they will have a plan to us to look  
23 at around the middle to the end of September. Based on that  
24 information, I'm recommending that we designate the weeks of



1       October the 4<sup>th</sup> and October the 11<sup>th</sup>, while not specifying dates  
2       specific, but sometime in that two-week range that we set the  
3       dates for public hearings. That would be after a plan is  
4       available so the public would have something to look at and  
5       provide input on and as we go through the series of public  
6       hearings, if something -- if the plan should be changed by this  
7       Committee as we go through that two-week period of time, then  
8       the Committee would feature whatever plan was the most recently  
9       looked at plan by this Committee.

10       I'm also recommending that we consider Wednesday, September the  
11       22<sup>nd</sup> as a possible date, a tentative date, very soft date, for  
12       the next Committee meeting followed by meetings -- we'll take a  
13       break from Committee meetings during the time the public  
14       hearings are going on. Also, we'll respect the fact that we  
15       have a county-wide election on November the 2<sup>nd</sup> so we'll give us  
16       a little buffer time to throw and election in so we're going to  
17       recommend Wednesday, October the 20<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, November the  
18       10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December the 1<sup>st</sup> as the next series of  
19       Committee meetings.

20               COMMISSIONER SIAS: Can you repeat those?

21               MS. BAILEY: I can. So, the next date, the only one  
22       that's a little soft to me is the September the 22<sup>nd</sup> date  
23       because it -- we really I don't think need to get back together  
24       until we have a plan to look at and then the other dates were

1           October the 20<sup>th</sup>, November 10<sup>th</sup> and December the 1<sup>st</sup>.

2           MR. FRANTOM:   Mr. Atkins.

3           MR. ATKINS:   Thank you, Commissioner FRANTOM.  Ms. Bailey,

4           MS. BAILEY:   Yes.

5           MR. ATKINS:   That December the 1<sup>st</sup> will not work for the  
6           school board members because that is the dates of our annual  
7           conference and we're required to attend for our training so --  
8           am I right, that is the dates, correct?  So we -- that whole  
9           week, basically, all of us including the attorney will be out  
10          of town.

11          MS. BAILEY:   Okay.  Maybe we can push hat to December 8<sup>th</sup>  
12          then.  Would that work?

13          MR. ATKINS:   Sounds good to me.

14          MR. FRANTOM:   Ms. Bailey, on the -- are you done?  I'm  
15          sorry.  On the public hearings aspect, can we talk about the --  
16          it's a different world now, about the virtual aspect of that?  
17          Like, what does that look like in your mind?  I feel like we  
18          have to have something virtual just because of the way the  
19          world is right now.  What does that look like in your mind?  
20          How do people sign up?  Can you talk a little bit about what  
21          you think?

22          MS. BAILEY:   Sure.  I'd say we could talk about a couple  
23          of different scenarios with public hearings.

1           First of all, the Committee should decide and I think this  
2           is the -- one of the things that needs to be decided by the  
3           Committee is how you want to conduct your public hearings. Do  
4           you want to go out into the community or do you want to do them  
5           virtually or do you want to go out into the community and have  
6           them virtually at the same time. These days, maybe a  
7           combination of both may work. I would suggest that we have at  
8           least three public hearings. The school board at our previous  
9           meeting offered up a couple of venues that they felt like were  
10          both out in the community and could be fairly easily adapted to  
11          a virtually streamed meeting, as well.

12          I know at meetings that I've attended in the past, public  
13          hearings that I've attended in the past virtually, you have a  
14          period of time to sign up. You sign up and I think the  
15          Commission meeting does this, too, where people sign up ahead  
16          of time and then they're kind of let into the meeting one at  
17          the time to say their piece or whatever it is that they wanted  
18          to talk about so it's possible we could do something like that  
19          and accommodate virtual attendees and real-life attendees in  
20          these different settings.

21          Another combination could be to have a couple out in the  
22          community and maybe have one that's all virtual so you all will  
23          just have to decide how you want to proceed with that.

1 I don't know that it's anything that needs to be decided  
2 tonight in particular but, you know, within the next, you know,  
3 month or so certainly by the next meeting if we could get a  
4 schedule of at least the meeting dates and then you all can  
5 decide on the format or maybe perhaps we could do them --  
6 decide on the meeting dates to be held sometime during those  
7 two weeks to give the public at least that much advance notice  
8 and determine the format later.

9 MR. FRANTOM: Commissioner Sias.

10 COMMISSIONER SIAS: Real quick; I just think we should have a  
11 meeting west, central, southwest, south central and west; either way  
12 you put it we should have -- cover those meetings. In 2010 we went  
13 from one end of the county to the other one so I would strongly  
14 suggest unless we're really -- unless COVID gets worse, that we  
15 should plan for three meetings or south, central, and west.

16 MS. BAILEY: COVID is the wild card so.

17 MR. FRANTOM: Mr. Atkins.

18 MR. ATKINS: In reference to the suggestion that we may --  
19 before I came back and mentioned that I -- we've got three of our IT  
20 folks sitting over there. If we decide to do this it may be -- and  
21 I'm just throwing two that come in mind, Belair K-8, Richmond Hill K-  
22 8, those are newer facilities, more up to date stuff or -- number  
23 one, I see you nodding your head. Is that -- are those two good  
24 facilities and would you guys be able to accommodate what they're

1 talking about? I mean, I know we've done it here in the boardroom;  
2 can we do it virtual and take it?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

4 MR. ATKINS: Okay. With that being said then, if it's  
5 appropriate, I'll make a Motion that during the weeks of 10/4 and  
6 10/11 we have virtual meetings, I guess, on those Wednesday nights  
7 because we seem to be doing everything around Wednesdays because I  
8 know we have stuff going on on Tuesdays, y'all have Tuesdays,  
9 Mondays, so is Wednesday -- does anyone object to doing it on the  
10 Wednesdays?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Name those schools, again.

12 MR. ATKINS: It would be Richmond Hill K-8, which is the old  
13 Sego in south Augusta, and then Belair K-8 which is west Augusta  
14 right outside of Fort Gordon on Jimmy Dyess. That covers two of the  
15 areas and I'm open for suggestions on a -- Ms. Bailey said a third or  
16 if we want to do a third or if we want to do a third strictly virtual  
17 but I'm just throwing out there and making sure our IT department  
18 agrees those are two good locations if we could just settle on dates.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second the Motion.

20 MR. FRANTOM: We've got a second over here.

21 MR. HANNAH: I would recommend that we hold off on naming  
22 places and things right now; just know that we want to do it three  
23 times, three different places and then maybe we'll -- again, I know

1 you thought about it but that third place we just don't know right  
2 now.

3 MR. ATKINS: Jason I want to ask you one more question. I can  
4 see you more clearly than anyone. If we make a decision on Wednesday  
5 the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September and we're wanting to do the week of the 4<sup>th</sup>,  
6 does that give you -- that gives you guys like two weeks. Is that  
7 enough time to get done what we'd need to do to have it there?

8 JASON : Yes, sir.

9 MR. ATKINS: Okay. So I'm okay with -- let's hold off until  
10 the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

11 MR. FRANTOM: Ms. Minchew.

12 MS. MINCHEW: For clarification, are we talking about virtual  
13 and also in person?

14 MR. FRANTOM: Yes; right. So, if you can rescind your Motion  
15 or change your Motion, we're going to -- let's just vote on what's on  
16 our papers here and then we'll come back.

17 MR. ATKINS: I'll just rescind the Motion at this time.

18 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Alright. Any other discussion on this  
19 topic and then we'll get a Motion to approve what's stated on the  
20 page. Any other discussion, comments?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Motion to approve.

22 MR. FRANTOM: So we've got a Motion to approve. Can I get a  
23 second?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

2 MR. FRANTOM: I've got a Motion to approve and a second that we  
3 will change the one date, is changed on the paper to 12/8 as stated  
4 on the sheet in front of you. All in favor please raise your right  
5 hand by the right hand.

6 It is unanimous. Thank you, Committee.

7 With that, that did set our next meeting date for 9/22 so we  
8 are good with that. Is there any other business from the Committee  
9 tonight? Ms. Bailey.

10 MS. BAILEY: Mr. Chair, just if I could call off two other  
11 things on the timeline if that's okay.

12 MR. FRANTOM: Okay.

13 MS. BAILEY: Okay, so just to carry forward the timeline to its  
14 end, we would like to see if the last Committee meeting is on  
15 December the 8<sup>th</sup>, that would be great but we would definitely want to  
16 make sure that we set a goal for having the plan adopted by this  
17 Committee sent to the two respective governing authorities for their  
18 approval and to try and get that done by the end of the year so that  
19 we can get the plan to the Legislative Redistricting office because  
20 regardless of whether it's drawn by the State or whether it's drawn  
21 by a consultant, ultimately the plan needs to flow through the  
22 Legislative Redistricting Office for their review to make sure that  
23 it meets the legal requirements and again I just reiterate they will  
24 also take that plan and transfer it to law by putting the census

1 tracks that are contained within each District and all the legal  
2 descriptions in that so that's what the Committee should strive for  
3 is to be finished with their work by that December meeting so we can  
4 get this on to the Legislative Delegation as soon as we can. Thank  
5 you.

6 MR. FRANTOM: Thank you, Ms. Bailey.

7 Alright, if there's no further business, I just want to say  
8 thank you to the Committee for your time tonight. I want to thank  
9 the Board of Education yet again for your southern hospitality which  
10 y'all have shown here tonight. We look forward to coming back again  
11 in the future and this meeting is adjourned.

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13 WHEREUPON, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF RICHMOND

I hereby certify that I was authorized to and did attend and report verbatim the above-mentioned proceedings held at the time and place aforesaid, and that the foregoing pages 5 through 48 contained herein constitute a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings as held therein.

I further certify that I bear no statutorily prohibitive relationship to any of the parties in this cause, that I am not of counsel and have no personal or financial interest in the pending events or the outcome of this matter.

In witness whereof, I affix my hand and official seal this the 29th day of September, 2021.



/s/ Claire R. Netzler

CLAIRE R. NETZLER, CCR-2814  
Certified Court Reporter and Notary  
Public