

RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING
Committee Meeting on 10/13/2021

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STATE OF GEORGIA
RICHMOND COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

AD HOC REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING
(Digitally Recorded)

HEARING BEFORE: SEAN FRANTOM, CHAIRMAN
DATE TAKEN: October 13, 2021
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
PLACE TAKEN Board of Elections Office
535 Telfair Street, Suite 500,
Augusta, GA.
TRANSCRIBED BY: JOANNE AUGER
TYPIST

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Election Board Members:

Sean Frantom, Augusta-Richmond County Commission District 7,
Chairman

Lynn Bailey, Executive Director, Board of Elections

Alvin Mason, August-Richmond County Commission District 4.

Jimmy Atkins, Richmond County Board of Education District 8

Venus Cain, Richmond County Board of Education District 9

Francine Scott, Richmond County Commission District 9

Charlie Hannah, Richmond County School Board District 2

Ben Hasan, Richmond County Commission District 6

Brian Prince, State Representative, House District 127

Also present:

Helen Minchew, Richmond County Board of Education District
10.

Henry Howard, Georgia House of Representatives, District 124

Mark Newton, Georgia House of Representatives, District 123

Pete Fletcher, Attorney

Wayne Brown, Attorney

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Committee, if we -- make sure you
3 really speak into the mics. They're not as hot as on the
4 Commission days.

5 All right. I want to welcome everyone to our third Ad
6 Hoc Redistricting Committee here. I want to thank everyone
7 for being here tonight, those steaming live as well.

8 Also I just want to let everybody know the kind of the
9 ground rules tonight. We will be getting presentations to
10 the Committee. We'll be seeing some things on video, but
11 there will be no public input sessions tonight from the
12 crowd. Those will start next week after this Committee
13 determines where we're going.

14 Before we get started, I just want a, kind of a public
15 statement about where we are as a Committee. The draft that
16 the community has seen is a draft status redistricting map.
17 This map was created by the redistricting office in Atlanta
18 and though we've begin to start to receive feedback from the
19 community, we've gotten all those. We'll talk about that
20 later in the meeting. Just want to let everybody know that
21 the map has not been developed. There is lots of work still
22 to be done and this is just a start.

23 This entire process that this Committee has agreed to do
24 is, is going to take time. Whether we agree to three to four
25 public meetings tonight, that's also going to take four or

1 five meetings of this body up here to discuss the changes.

2 So by no means is this map the map that is going to end up.

3 And I want to make sure that everybody understands this.

4 Again, this is a draft. This is a starting point
5 developed by someone in Atlanta who didn't know the different
6 communities and, and he just -- it was a numbers aspect.

7 Also I want everybody to understand that this Committee
8 is held to guiding principles. They're -- a copy of the
9 guiding principles up front that we have to be held to in how
10 we develop the census blocks and, and as a Committee, we're
11 going to do our best to keep the neighborhoods together. But
12 at the end of the day, as it was in 2010, 2011, there were
13 neighborhoods that split. And that's just the reality of
14 things.

15 We also can't change the population demographics of
16 these, of these, of Richmond County either. Things have
17 changed and we all have to understand that as well.

18 Lastly, there is a document as well that shows the
19 population of, of each district and the population summary
20 that this Committee went through last time.

21 I think, Ms. Bailey, is that on the website as well?

22 MS. BAILEY: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay. That is on the website as
24 well. I, I offer that all citizens, you know, you want to
25 look at that to educate yourselves on kind of where things

1 are, where they were drawn differently, so that everybody
2 kind of -- can, can educate as we go through this process.

3 Lastly, this Committee has agreed that we will make no
4 changes nor discuss any changes until we go through the
5 public meetings aspect. This is the citizens' input to make
6 sure that we get it right as a body. So no decisions have
7 been made and we're going to listen to you. So don't think
8 that you're not going to be heard by this Committee.

9 All right. Also, as, as we'll go through tonight, you
10 will see that there's different census blocks. There will be
11 changes that sometimes we cannot make because of our guiding
12 principles or was there reasons why we did this? So again,
13 as we go through this, don't be afraid to ask questions once
14 we're in the public meetings. Don't be afraid to give your
15 public feedback because, again, this is going to be a whole
16 education process for the entire community to understand
17 this. This is not something that's done. So I want to
18 reiterate that tonight as we get started.

19 Does any of my colleagues have any comments that they
20 would like to say before we start this? Okay. All right.

21 We're going to start. Can I get a motion to approve the
22 agenda in front of you?

23 COMMISSIONER MASON: So moved.

24 COMMISSIONER CAIN: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Got a motion and a second. Please

1 raise your hand and yea. That is unanimous. Is there anyone
2 on the YouTube? Okay. All right.

3 Our first agenda item is we will introduce the Committee
4 members. We'll start to my left with Commissioner Alvin
5 Mason.

6 COMMISSIONER MASON: Good evening. I'm Commissioner
7 Alvin Mason representing August-Richmond County Commission
8 District 4. Thank you.

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

11 COMMISSIONER CAIN: Venus Cain, Richmond County Board of
12 Education District 9.

13 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Sean Frantom, District 7,
14 Commissioner, Chair.

15 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Francine Scott, District 9,
16 Richmond County Commission.

17 COMMISSIONER HANNAH: Charlie Hannah, District 2,
18 Richmond County School Board.

19 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Ben Hasan, Commission District 6.

20 COMMISSIONER PRINCE: Brian Prince, House District 127,
21 the State Rep.

22 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Again, I, I just want to take a
23 moment and say thank you, committee members. This is a huge
24 task in front of us. I will want to mention the members that
25 are not in attendance are from the school board, Ms. Helen

1 Minchew, Representative Howard, Representative Newton, and
2 Senator Jones are not in attendance yet. We do expect them,
3 but again, just want to thank all of you for your time coming
4 out to make this better for our community.

5 All right. Moving on to number 2, is the discussion of
6 the public hearing schedule and we'll turn it over to Ms.
7 Bailey. Your mic's not on.

8 MS. BAILEY: Hello.

9 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Hey.

10 MS. BAILEY: There we go. Thank you. So in an email
11 sent to you yesterday, I informed you that the Board of
12 Education had identified four facilities that they felt would
13 well accommodate our public hearing. And they took into
14 consideration the fact that we'll be -- there will be virtual
15 participation in those meetings and they wanted to make sure
16 that the facility that we used had the best Wi-Fi possible to
17 support the public coming into the meeting and providing
18 input.

19 The four facilities that were chosen were the Belair K-8
20 School, which is out on Harper Franklin Avenue in far west
21 Augusta; the Academy of Richmond County, which is on Russell
22 Street, that could serve parts -- the more eastern part of,
23 of the city; Wheelless Road Elementary, which would serve the
24 central part of this county, city; and then the Hephzibah
25 High School for the most southern portions. Those were the

1 four that were identified.

2 At those four facilities, the Board of Education has
3 reserved the following dates for these public hearings, and
4 it's on your email, so for the public who's out here, those
5 dates are Monday -- this coming Monday, October the 18th;
6 this coming Wednesday, October the 20th; the following
7 Monday, October 25th; and the following Wednesday, on October
8 the 27th. So those are our options.

9 At the last meeting, the Committee approved conducting
10 three public hearings with one alternate date for a total of
11 four. So at this point, staff would need direction on
12 whether or not these facilities are agreeable. We would also
13 need a start time for the public hearings so we could set
14 about advertising and making the arrangements with the Board
15 of Education.

16 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: I appreciate that. Commissioner,
17 Commissioner Mason.

18 COMMISSIONER MASON: Am I on? There we go. Thank you,
19 Mr. Chairman.

20 And I'm not really sure who this is addressed to, but I
21 hear that you say those are the four that they came back with
22 as being like the most amenable to a public hearing. I would
23 hope that we would reconsider and take a look at pulling
24 Hephzibah, which is deep, deep south and is only -- I'm
25 looking at the location. I'm thinking Diamond Lakes Ele --

1 Diamond Lakes --

2 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah --

3 COMMISSIONER MASON: -- would be, would be more central
4 to 4, 6, 8, and 5 for that matter.

5 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah, and to follow up on that, based
6 on a conversation we had, the reason those were chosen is
7 because I guess Diamond Lakes Elementary didn't have the Wi-
8 Fi capabilities for the meeting.

9 COMMISSIONER MASON: Humm.

10 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Now, I would ask is there any other
11 school within that region that possibly or is that going to
12 be it I guess would be.

13 MS. BAILEY: And, and that's a question that I don't
14 have an answer to and I doubt that -- Mr. Fletcher, you may
15 have some information, but it's possible that we would need
16 to talk with staff a little more about that.

17 MR. FLETCHER: Yeah. I submitted the ten names you all
18 had or nine names --

19 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Speak a little bit closer to the mic
20 for us.

21 MR. FLETCHER: I submitted all of the schools that you
22 all suggested and, and they checked on dates and they came
23 back, and their concern was being able to do the electronics
24 and the streaming you wanted. And so they eliminated the
25 others. I'm happy to go back and, and ask them to reconsider

1 any you want us to, but, but Diamond Lakes was on the list
2 initially and, and they're the ones that eliminated it.

3 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay. We'll go to -- Mr. Hannah.

4 COMMISSIONER HANNAH: I'm sorry. Mr. Fletcher, can you
5 go ahead and check on that for us? Let's, let's go ahead and
6 look at Diamond Lakes and if it's possible, then just let Ms.
7 Bailey know, but I would, I would prefer Diamond Lakes if
8 possible.

9 MR. FLETCHER: I, I'll check on that first thing in the
10 morning. Let, let her know tomorrow.

11 COMMISSIONER HANNAH: Yes, sir. Thank you, Sir.

12 MS. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I make a suggestion --

13 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Sure.

14 MS. BAILEY: If we are going to not use one of these
15 locations, I would suggest that we schedule the first three
16 at locations that are known and save the unknown for last to
17 give us time to work out these details.

18 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: That sounds great idea.

19 Mr. Atkins.

20 COMMISSIONER ATKINS: Just one, one thing.

21 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Mic on. There you go.

22 COMMISSIONER ATKINS: There we go. So one thing I can
23 say that Belair K-8 School on Wheelless Road I feel certain
24 they were chosen because they are two of our newest
25 buildings. Therefore, being the most up-to-date with the

1 technology. We've just did a huge renovation over at
2 Richmond Academy, so that issue probably was addressed there
3 and the same at Hephzibah High School, you know. And I do
4 know Diamond Lakes Elementary being an older school, and I
5 can't think of another school in that general area where
6 we're going to have that kind of technology.

7 Now, if you guys have it at the Diamond Lakes Community
8 Center, maybe that's an option to have it there. But as far
9 as the school system goes, in the, in the southern part of
10 the county, the only other place I can think of is the
11 Richmond Hill K-8 School, which was the old Segoe, but that's
12 not that far from Wheelless Road. That's a stone, a stone's
13 throw from Wheelless.

14 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: The IT department's saying they can
15 make Diamond Lakes happen if that's --

16 COMMISSIONER ATKINS: I, I think they probably can.
17 It's just -- if you want my opinion, because they're good
18 staff and they're used to holding public hearings when we do
19 rezonings, but I'll just have to ask and get permission.
20 But, but I'm sure they can support it as, as could the city,
21 so I'm sure.

22 MS. BAILEY: Okay. So, so what I'm hearing is we could
23 possibly have two different options. So, you know, again, if
24 we could save that option --

25 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yup.

1 MS. BAILEY: -- for the last date.

2 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay.

3 MS. BAILEY: And let us work together, whether that's in
4 a school or at the Diamond Lakes Community Center.

5 COMMISSIONER MASON: I'm fine.

6 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER CAIN: I guess my concern is with Diamond
8 Lakes Community Center. Will we be able to provide enough
9 seating and get in enough chairs for everyone to sit at?

10 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah, I mean, I think we can get
11 Parks and Rec involved. I think we can make that happen.

12 MS. BAILEY: Well, obviously, in my opinion, at least
13 the school would have a, a bigger venue --

14 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah.

15 MS. BAILEY: -- so, you know, again, we'll check with
16 the, with the support staff over there to see if they can
17 support the technology and, and if not, then we'll regroup
18 and see what we can work out.

19 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay. All right.

20 Mr. Hannah.

21 COMMISSIONER HANNAH: We, we do have three schools that,
22 that's ready to go, so we're basically just trying to decide
23 what the alternate's going to be, right?

24 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: That's correct.

25 COMMISSIONER HANNAH: Okay. So I think we can go ahead

1 and move forward then.

2 MS. BAILEY: May I make one more comment, please?

3 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Sure.

4 MS. BAILEY: I've just been reminded by Travis that we
5 do have an election coming up on November 2nd. We're going
6 to be advance voting at Diamond Lakes --

7 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay.

8 MS. BAILEY: -- during that last week. So that's going
9 to, that's going to knock us out of the community center. So
10 here's hoping we can work something out at the, at the
11 elementary school over there and it just won't be an issue.

12 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay. Thank you. All right.
13 Committee, so I guess let's talk about and we'll do it all in
14 one motion. Time, we need to set a time; is that correct?
15 Do we want to do six o'clock? Six o'clock?

16 Mr. Hannah, coming back to you.

17 COMMISSIONER HANNAH: We're trying to figure out all --
18 alternate school, but have we set forth the criteria where we
19 -- at what point in time we may need it? It's a contingency
20 for what?

21 MS. BAILEY: It's sounding to me from what I'm hearing
22 is that there will be now four meetings that will be held
23 instead of three and an alternative. We're going to go ahead
24 and take that alternate date and implement it as part of the
25 schedule so we get full coverage of the county. That is my

1 understanding from what I've heard tonight.

2 COMMISSIONER HANNAH: That's -- okay. I just want to
3 make sure --

4 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: That's correct.

5 COMMISSIONER HANNAH: Okay. Just want to be sure.

6 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah. And with the dates already --
7 those four dates, it can help us kind of get this all -- ball
8 moving in the community.

9 So we've got six o'clock, as far as speaking, people
10 would be allowed to get there 30 minutes in advance and sign
11 up to speak, have to have signed up to speaking by a certain
12 time, Ms. Bailey? Is that kind of --

13 MS. BAILEY: That's a suggestion based on, frankly based
14 on a Redistricting Committee meeting that I went to out in
15 Evans that the State committees did. That was their format.
16 That's also the format that the State Election Board uses in
17 their meetings where they allow public input. You allow a
18 period of time for, for folks to sign up and everyone who
19 signs up will be recognized and will be allowed to -- be
20 permitted to speak for two minutes, whether that's virtually
21 or in person.

22 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: And then people will be allowed to
23 come in via Zoom to state their two minutes, correct?

24 MS. BAILEY: That is correct. And, and at the same
25 time, the meeting will be live streamed, so anyone not in

1 attendance can watch as if they were there with us.

2 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay. And, Commissioner Hasan.

3 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Yes. And for clarity for myself, I
4 understand the ones that are in the meeting sign up 30
5 minutes, within that 30-minute timeframe, so what about the
6 ones on line? How do we know -- how do we, how do we, how do
7 we gauge them?

8 MS. BAILEY: That is to be determined. But I'm told it
9 could be -- it can happen. We just have to set up the
10 structure. They would go I guess to a website and sign up.
11 The website signup would open up at a certain time specific
12 and it would close at a time specific.

13 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Would we give them the same 30
14 minutes --

15 MS. BAILEY: That's right.

16 COMMISSIONER HASAN: -- and both, both have --

17 MS. BAILEY: They get the same 30 minutes.

18 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: I think --

19 COMMISSIONER HASAN: -- it shuts off only at that time?

20 MS. BAILEY: That's right. And so by the time the
21 meeting starts, we should have a comprehensive list in
22 writing from those who signed up there in person and from
23 those who signed up virtually.

24 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: All right.

1 Ms. Cain, did you --

2 COMMISSIONER CAIN: That's what I -- I wanted to answer
3 Commissioner Hasan. We do have the capability, so people can
4 -- in, in our schools that they can call in and voice their
5 concerns. So our IT people, if I'm not mistaken, they did
6 that when we had our budget hearing. People signed up ahead
7 of time and then we rolled over to where they could -- we
8 would put them on line, they could speak, everyone could hear
9 them, and they would get, you know, get to speak their peace.
10 So our schools do have that capability.

11 MS. BAILEY: I'm just curious. Was it just audio; do
12 you recall? Or was it -- yes, that's correct.

13 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER CAIN: Right.

15 (Indiscernible background voice.)

16 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Mr. Atkins.

17 COMMISSIONER ATKINS: Well, that's, that's exactly what
18 I was going to say, but what they do is they call into like a
19 queue and we had someone who could talk with them before,
20 before just making them go live because you never know what
21 somebody's going to say in a, in a live setting like that.
22 So that was a little bit of a control measure and that they
23 understood they had to state their name, their address, and
24 they had two minutes to speak.

25 So it was a buffer I guess you would say in between the

1 caller and the, and the Board.

2 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay. Commissioner Hasan.

3 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Yes, sir. But at the end of the
4 day with the amount of persons coming in and the ones on
5 line, do we want to set a timeframe, not so much for them to
6 speak, but how long we're going to take to listen to
7 comments? Hour? Hour and a half? Or what? Because most
8 likely, we would, we would not be doing a whole lot of -- I
9 think Ms. Bailey probably, I'm assuming, I'm just give them
10 an outline --

11 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Gotcha.

12 COMMISSIONER HASAN: it may not be exactly right, but
13 she would give the audience what they're looking at. And at
14 that point, from there, any comments from us to add on to
15 that, and at that point, you open it for persons for
16 comments. And so the question becomes do we want to have a
17 length of time, whether it's an hour, an hour and a half to
18 receive comments?

19 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: I, I don't think you can. I think
20 you got to give everybody their chance to speak. I mean --

21 COMMISSIONER HASAN: You sure about that?

22 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: -- that, that's just my thought. I
23 mean, if, if we're only going to allow 30 minutes to sign up,
24 I mean -- that's just my, my thought.

25 Commissioner Mason.

1 COMMISSIONER MASON: Yeah. I'm kind of with you there,
2 Mr. Chairman. From this perspective, I think it's important
3 for us to note that we're there to listen to the community.
4 We're not there to state what we believe, think, feel, or
5 otherwise. And that's important to note. Just like there's
6 no room for tonight for public opinion.

7 What -- when it comes to the public stating what they
8 want to say, it's not room for us to agree, disagree, or
9 anything like that. There, there's not communications going
10 on like that. So this is, in fact, their opportunity to
11 speak and for us to get that down on the record so that when
12 we do come back to deliberate, we'll have those notes and
13 that information at that point.

14 I wanted to just stress really clear that's not for us
15 to get into any debates, any, any back and forth, or anything
16 like that because they have a right to speak and a right to
17 say whatever it is that they want to say at that time.
18 Whether we agree or disagree is not relevant at that point.
19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Very, very true. We won't be taking
21 questions. I envision that Ms. Bailey will kick off the
22 meeting, maybe a ten-minute presentation on -- with some
23 slides and the maps explaining things to people that might be
24 the first time they've ever seen it. And then we'll go
25 straight into the, to the, to the feedback where people have

1 signed up for two minutes.

2 COMMISSIONER MASON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Mr. Hannah?

4 COMMISSIONER HANNAH: Therefore, if we're -- and, and I
5 do agree with you, Commissioner Mason. With that being said,
6 I don't see where we need to exercise the option for the, the
7 one-minute follow up. We just take the exact two minutes and
8 move on to a next person. So, so I think we need to go ahead
9 and adjust that, the one-minute follow-up, just kill it.

10 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Two minutes.

11 COMMISSIONER HANNAH: Two minutes exact, yeah.

12 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay. Any other further discussion
13 on this? Mr. Attorney.

14 MR. FLETCHER: I was just going to say, I, I usually
15 conduct a lot of public hearings with Rhoda Benements
16 (phonetic) and even though commissioners came or in this case
17 your committee members came, if Ms. Bailey was served as a
18 moderator for the day, for the Commissioners are not
19 necessarily engaged where you are tonight, if she served as a
20 moderator for today to take the comments and you will simply
21 be here to hear the comments and take them in, I think you
22 probably facilitate the meeting more. I think this is just
23 an idea.

24 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Commissioner Hasan.

25 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I want, I want

1 to back up for a minute now and I apologize. And this is for
2 clarity once again for myself. Ms. Bailey brought to our
3 attention about her attention about an election was going on
4 in Diamond Lakes. We are talking about the school and not
5 the gym. Does, does -- do you use the school for that?

6 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: You're talking about the gym and the
7 Diamond Lakes Community Center as well?

8 MS. BAILEY: We talked -- the school board was going to
9 look -- Mr. Fletcher was going to check on the elementary
10 school --

11 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Okay.

12 MS. BAILEY: -- and if -- and so the Diamond Lakes
13 Community Center gym would be backup.

14 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: And, and on that same vein, like
16 could we not go to Diamond Lakes Community Center next week
17 if -- because the election's not till the following week; is
18 that right?

19 MS. BAILEY: We could.

20 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: So that kind of does open it up just
21 to start down there and do it one of those --

22 MS. BAILEY: Mr. Fletcher, do you think we can get a
23 resolution tomorrow? Or a decision tomorrow?

24 MR. FLETCHER: Yeah, I, I will call Dr. Bradshaw on the
25 way home and he'll get somebody working on it first thing in

1 the morning.

2 MS. BAILEY: Here we go then. All right. So should,
3 shouldn't be a problem.

4 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: All right. So I need a motion --
5 let's see. Is there any more discussion about -- everybody
6 understands that the agendas, the meetings, 6:00 p.m., two
7 minutes, the four locations that we've discussed?

8 Mr. Atkins.

9 COMMISSIONER ATKINS: One other item. When we --
10 normally when we do public hearings in reference to rezoning
11 school districts and we have those meetings, you know, out in
12 the community like we're talking about, we don't put the, the
13 Board members, you know, on display. And if, if -- I think
14 if us as Committee members sat in the crowd with everyone
15 else, that's going to actually eliminate some of that --

16 (Indiscernible Background Voice.)

17 COMMISSIONER ATKINS: Yes. I, I -- more than, you know,
18 if, if we were up front or something cause --

19 (Indiscernible Background Voice.)

20 COMMISSIONER ATKINS: I mean, that's just a suggestion.
21 But Mr. Fletcher, I'm correct in that, right? I know that my
22 memory's not getting any better, but, but that's normally how
23 we do it, right? We don't -- I don't really remember us
24 sitting up front.

25 MR. FLETCHER: I mean, we, we, we're rezoning schools,

1 but we have the consultant, which I would call Lynn in this
2 instance, the expert, moderate and we had the superintendent
3 with, with the moderator and the Board members just sit and
4 observe just like they were part of the audience.

5 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah. I guess my, my only thought
6 was that I think the community wants to know who's on the
7 committee. So I don't know how that would be portrayed or,
8 you know, as in a presentation, whatever. But I do feel like
9 the community needs to know who's on the committee.

10 COMMISSIONER ATKINS: Well, maybe an introduction at the
11 beginning and we just stand up. Cause that's -- I think we
12 do -- that's what we do, you know, so that they know that the
13 Board members are in attendance. You know, but at the
14 beginning, and they see that we are sitting with the
15 community members.

16 MS. BAILEY: I've -- I might make a suggestion. Perhaps
17 the Chair could open up the meeting, introduce all the
18 Committee members irregardless of where they're sitting. I,
19 I'm fine with moderating. Typically you say the
20 superintendent sits with the moderator. Perhaps you two
21 could serve as a superintendents or, you know, whatever to,
22 to help with that process if we, if we need someone there or
23 maybe the Administrator Donald, and I guess it would Dr.
24 Bradshaw would be his contemporary. So we can --

25 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah. I think we can flesh that out

1 before next week. I don't know for sure.

2 Commissioner Scott.

3 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Commissioner Mason, how did they do
4 it last -- ten years ago?

5 COMMISSIONER MASON: Well, we were up here or we're at
6 school board on a number of occasions and I'm glad that you
7 asked that because one of the things that I would be
8 concerned with is that already there's some anxiousness out
9 in the community, right? And I for one do not want anyone to
10 think that I'm not serious about my duties. And I'm not
11 saying it would necessarily be portrayed that way, but I'm
12 serious about my duties and my responsibility to the
13 community.

14 So for me, I want you to see me. I want you to hold me
15 accountable, to be transparent and accountable in this
16 process. I don't want to be, quote, unquote, ``hiding in the,
17 in the rafters out here,`` right, when I know at the end of
18 the day, I'm part of the team that's responsible for making
19 this happen. I'm only saying that because of the fact that
20 we, we have to be careful about how everything is portrayed
21 because it's already started off in somewhat of a negative
22 connotation. And I wouldn't want it to continue going in
23 that vein.

24 So we are the ones that have been chosen from our
25 respective -- the, the State, the school board, and the city.

1 And I also don't want it to appear as though -- and, and I
2 know this is not the intent, that we're putting Ms. Bailey
3 on, on the hot seat herself. Because that to me would be
4 unfair as well. We want to take whatever heat, we'll take
5 whatever glory -- there's probably not going to be much of
6 that -- but we're going to take whatever heat that, that it
7 takes because this is what we were tasked to do. So I'm
8 prepared already to do what we've been tasked to do and stand
9 and be wherever we need to be as a group so that they'll know
10 that we, we are the ones that are responsible for, for
11 getting this done. And you can look us in the eye and, and,
12 and hold us accountable for what, what it is that we're
13 trying to do, what we're supposed to do, we're tasked to do.

14 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: I appreciate those words and I agree
15 with you.

16 Commissioner Hasan.

17 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Yes. I, I concur with what my
18 colleague just said because I think if a person has some kind
19 of real concern, almost an angst for lack of a better term,
20 just to make my point, I'd rather see them looking at us up
21 front and speaking directly to us as opposed to looking back
22 at me and pointing at me in the crowd as though I'm hiding.

23 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah. Yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER HASAN: You know? And so I, I'd rather
25 just be up front and we just take it on the chin like men and

1 women do as we, we're listening. We're not trying to go back
2 and forth with them. I think that's the best. I attended
3 those meetings in 2011, as well, and I think is the best
4 thing to do is just to look them in the eye and they look us
5 in the eye and we take their comments very serious.

6 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Ms. Cain?

7 COMMISSIONER CAIN: For me, I want to echo what everyone
8 else has said. I think our biggest problem in our community
9 if we, we're really honest about anything that we do, is the
10 lack of communication and understanding the process. When
11 you don't understand the process, that creates havoc in our
12 community. And, and anyone that knows me on the school
13 board, I'm adamant people need to understand the process.
14 When people understand the process, you may not like the end
15 result, but when you have the numbers there and the numbers
16 say this, you can't deviate from those numbers.

17 So it's important to me that everyone understands the
18 process and not think anyone is going to do anything crooked
19 or trying to get over or sabotage the process because you
20 can't. And personally, me, like I told Commissioner Frantom,
21 I, I, I like to drink a glass of wine and I can't do that in
22 jail. So we're going to do the right thing and understand
23 and hope that the community, we all work together to draw the
24 best map. We're not going to make everyone happy, but darn,
25 if we all work together and stop looking at it as a black or

1 white is what we need to do to move our community forward, we
2 will be victorious. We will be victorious.

3 But the community needs to understand the process. Do
4 your own homework, quit listening to the people in your ear
5 that have already made up their mind, that don't understand
6 what's really going on. Do your own homework, do your own
7 research. You look at the numbers and if we make sure
8 everyone understands the process, we shouldn't have any
9 problems with getting a good map that majority of the city
10 will be happy with.

11 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Cain.
12 Mr. Atkins.

13 COMMISSIONER ATKINS: I, I'm, I'm good. I don't -- I'll
14 sit wherever you tell me to. But I'm just saying, I don't
15 think it makes a hill of beans where we're sitting. If it's
16 up front, I mean, we're making too much out of the issue.
17 Whether we're sitting up front -- I'd rather would -- I would
18 prefer to be with the constituents and not put up on a
19 pedestal and that was all I was saying. So.

20 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: All right. All right. Any other
21 comments about this? We're going to move forward on this.

22 Ms. Bailey, on the four dates that we have, the Monday,
23 Wednesday for the next two weeks, 18, 20, 25th, and 27th, if
24 we were to choose the 20th as the Diamond Lakes Elementary or
25 Diamond Lakes Community Center, would that work?

1 MS. BAILEY: It should work.

2 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: That way we make sure we're down
3 there and then if, if it's in com -- we can make it work,
4 Parks and Rec can make it work. If he -- the IT department
5 says we can make it work, I think that we should look at the
6 20th for Diamond Lakes whether it's the elementary school, if
7 they can do it, or the community center because that is such
8 a major area between 4, 6, 8, you know.

9 And then just going in the order, next Monday is Belair
10 K-8, the 18th. And then we had Richmond Academy on Monday
11 the 25th, and then Wednesday the 27th is Wheelless Road
12 Elementary School.

13 (Indiscernible background voice.)

14 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah, we're going to go to Diamond
15 Lakes based on the conversation that we've had. It just
16 makes sense. It's more centralized.

17 Does that -- does the Committee good with those to move
18 forward?

19 (Indiscernible background voice.)

20 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: The 20th. And then I'm going to ask
21 for a motion on what I just said here in just a second. Two
22 minutes to speak, no follow up, 6:00 p.m., 30 minutes to sign
23 up virtually, 30 minutes to sign up in person, starting 30
24 minutes before the meeting. Does that sound good to the
25 Committee?

1 Can I get a motion to approve as stated?

2 COMMISSIONER CAIN: So moved.

3 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: And a motion and a second --

5 MS. BAILEY: See that it was Ms. Cain on the motion.

6 Who was on the second?

7 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Mr. Hasan.

8 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Mr. Hasan.

9 MS. BAILEY: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: All in favor please raise your hand,
11 the right hand. That is a unanimous support to move forward
12 with those public hearings.

13 Ms. Bailey, we will have those in the newspaper. What,
14 what form will be get that out to the community?

15 MS. BAILEY: Yes, sir. With these dates certain, my
16 plan was to go forward with the display ad in the Augusta
17 Chronical, which is as soon as we can get it in there.
18 Usually you can get them in there the very next day, so that
19 shouldn't be a, be a problem. We'll first nail down the
20 final location and go from there. And then we'll also take
21 advantage of any social media that we can get our hands on to
22 get it out there.

23 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Great.

24 Ms. Cain.

25 COMMISSIONER CAIN: Will that also be sent to all news

1 media outlets as far as the --

2 MS. BAILEY: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER CAIN: -- television stations?

4 MS. BAILEY: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. We'll do the standard
5 --

6 COMMISSIONER CAIN: -- television and radio?

7 MS. BAILEY: Standard press release. In fact, I'd like
8 to get with the public information officer with the school
9 board and then with our public information officer here with
10 the city and, and help -- have them help us to get the words
11 out as well as we can.

12 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: All right. Thank you. All right.

13 You all got sent the transcript from the August 19th
14 meeting. Did anyone have any concerns about it or anything
15 that they didn't see that was accurate within the minutes
16 that were sent? Because I know you all have read them. Can
17 I get a motion to approve the transcript from the August 19th
18 meeting?

19 COMMISSIONER CAIN: So moved.

20 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Got a motion. Ms. Cain. Second,
21 Commissioner Hasan. Those in favor, please raise your right
22 hand as in the yea status. That vote is unanimous.

23 All right. Moving on to the fun stuff. The public
24 portal submissions and the demonstration.

25 MS. BAILEY: Sure. So the public portal submissions, I

1 provided all the members with a report showing the comments
2 that we've gotten so far. The report reflects all activity
3 starting on October the 6th and going up through 12:00 noon
4 today. So the next report you'll get will pick up from that
5 point and, and move forward.

6 So the, the comments are there in your report. Read
7 them at your pleasure. And so we'll just pass that along as
8 information.

9 For the public who's out there and interested, just a
10 reminder that that public portal, we're, we're going to talk
11 about the website in just a few minutes and I'll go through
12 and we can demonstrate for those live streaming and those in
13 the room, exactly how the public portal works and how you
14 gain easy access to that.

15 I will say that, that staff is monitoring those. We had
16 one, one submission a few days ago that asked a question. It
17 wanted to know -- it wasn't a comment, it was an actual
18 question about how to access the maps and things. And so --
19 and we responded back to them and informed them where they
20 could get the information they were seeking and whatnot. So
21 those that are actual in the, in the form of questions, we'll
22 answer them to the extent that we can and those that are
23 comments, we'll just come to you for your information.

24 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay. Thank you. Any questions on
25 that? I appreciate all that. Appreciate all the feedback

1 from the citizens as well.

2 All right. The demonstration of the redistricting
3 website.

4 MS. BAILEY: Okay. I want to start off, if we can click
5 on -- so the, first of all, the web address is
6 augustaga.gov/redistricting. And when you enter that into
7 your search engine, this is what you're going to see there on
8 the screen. You've got two blocks there on the left, 2021
9 redistricting and 2011 redistricting. We've had a lot of
10 inquiries about things that happened in 2011 and so by
11 clicking on the 2011 box, it will take you to maps and plans
12 and transcripts of meetings and all the information that we
13 had and gathered from the 2011 process.

14 But let's focus on 2021 for now. And I'm going to take
15 you down the left rail real fast. There's a calendar of
16 vents -- of events, which we know will be updated tomorrow
17 with the public hearings and the future of meetings of this
18 Committee will go on as they are decided upon.

19 Then the citizen input if you can click on that, please.

20 You can see it's just a simple form where the person
21 enters in their name, their contact information, the county
22 of residence, and, and so on and then they can -- it's free
23 form. They can put anything they want to in the comment box
24 and submit it. When that happens, it sets off a series of
25 emails. One goes back to the person who made the submission

1 and it includes a pdf of their submission so they have a
2 record of what it is they submitted. And it also goes to
3 various staff members so we can gather that information and,
4 and put it in report form for the Committee.

5 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Commissioner Mason.

6 COMMISSIONER MASON: Yeah. Before you go on there, if
7 we pop -- yeah, pop back here. I think this is important to
8 note here for everyone that if you did not come to one of the
9 meetings, or even if you were not a part of Zoom, you don't
10 have to wait to any particular timeframe to make your
11 comments. So that at any given point, whether it's after a
12 first meeting, the second meeting, the third meeting, or if
13 you didn't come to any meeting, but you saw what was
14 happening and you had some comments to make or you had some
15 suggestions, this would be a perfect time.

16 You could come and put it in right here and you wouldn't
17 have to worry about making any particular meeting or anything
18 like that and we would still be able to take that into
19 consideration when we start our deliberations on all the
20 facts from the various meetings that we go to.

21 So I just wanted to pause there for a moment to make
22 sure that we emphasize that that's a good point for people to
23 go to at any given point and put in any type of information
24 or suggestions that they had.

25 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Thank you. Appreciate that.

1 All right. Next up, I guess we're going to see the
2 redistricting website.

3 MS. BAILEY: Yes. Just, just a couple of other things
4 down the rail. Just to point out the, the resources that are
5 available out there should the community want to contact one
6 of the Committee members directly, either we click on that,
7 the email addresses for the Committee members are there. So
8 it's there for people to use as they would like.

9 Frequently asked questions, we don't have any yet
10 because we're fairly new into the process, but those will
11 come -- will be posted as we, as we move along, possibly
12 based on some of the comments even that we receive to the
13 public portal.

14 The guiding principles are posted out there. The
15 guiding principles are, are really important for people to
16 see because it gives the, the basis upon which this Committee
17 will make its decision. You know, we stated in the guiding
18 principles you all have stated that you will try to keep
19 communities of interest together, you'll try to refrain from
20 splitting neighborhoods, you'll try to refrain from splitting
21 voting precincts to the extent you can. We know that that's
22 -- none of those things are always possible, but, you know,
23 you keep those things in mind. And, and then trying to keep
24 the districts of, of fairly equal size and then other things
25 that are listed in the guiding principles.

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Commissioner Hasan. Can you speak in
2 the mic? Could you --

3 COMMISSIONER HASAN: I'm sorry. Thank you, sir. On the
4 guiding principles, and this is for the, for the attorneys
5 per se for the most part, as well as Ms. Bailey. These are
6 guiding principles based on what we would like to do and like
7 I say our community look like in terms of that, but also from
8 a legal perspective. Things like in, in packing and cracking
9 and those kinds of things. Could that information be added
10 thereto as well as something because we get through these
11 conversations, people are going to potentially look at this
12 and don't see it and we come and say, but that's not on your
13 party of guiding principles. That may be -- will be more a
14 federal criteria or State criteria and I think in some form
15 or fashion those -- that type of information should be there
16 as well in some form or fashion.

17 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Who wants to speak to this? Mr.
18 Fletcher.

19 MR. FLETCHER: I, I mean, it really -- I, I really think
20 they're embedded in what we got. I mean, these are based on
21 cases that have been decided and based on guidance. I don't
22 know if we could flesh out number 2 a little more, but --
23 which, which is the -- going to the Voting Rights Act, which
24 is one man, one vote, and the fact we supposed to look at
25 minorities and, and make sure that they're not discriminated

1 against.

2 But Mr. -- and, and Wayne may disagree with me, but I
3 think for the most part, you know, these, these things embody
4 all of those, those concerns.

5 MR. BROWN: I do agree with Pete, Mr. Fletcher. I do
6 think, though, if you wanted more of an explanation of what 2
7 is, maybe in more plain English, I think we could expand on,
8 on 2 so that it's in a conversational manner so people
9 understand what it means. What's referenced in 2 is actually
10 correct, but I could understand that maybe the general public
11 may not understand all what that means in terms of
12 redistricting. So if there's no objection from the Board of
13 Elections person, Peter and I could work on that and have
14 that ready by the next meeting.

15 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: (Indiscernible).

16 COMMISSIONER HASAN: (Indiscernible) I just, I just
17 wanted to bring it up and I do agree it's become like, it's
18 in there, but I just wanted to put it out there so that we
19 won't be bombarded say we never saw that anywhere. So they
20 can defend it, our two attorneys can, can defend it if it
21 come up. I'm fine with that.

22 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Representative Prince.

23 COMMISSIONER PRINCE: Yes. Thanks. The question
24 referenced 2 and 3 on the guiding principles. What's the
25 difference there?

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: You mean what are --

2 COMMISSIONER PRINCE: Are we saying almost the same
3 thing?

4 MS. BAILEY: We are, in fact, saying the same thing.

5 COMMISSIONER PRINCE: Just a recommendation that we sort
6 of message that a little bit, make it maybe 1 and then
7 possibly going to what Commissioner Hasan was sort --
8 hopefully alluding to was that the voting rights -- let's use
9 that example. Voting Rights Act of 1965, have a link on
10 there, you know, how you, you click on that and bam, it takes
11 you to that document.

12 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah, I think that's a great idea.
13 No, I know, yeah.

14 COMMISSIONER PRINCE: That way they, you know, if they
15 want more detail, bam, it's already in. Not sort of
16 highlight, but have a hyperlink to that document.

17 MS. BAILEY: So hyperlink it in the guiding principles
18 and --

19 COMMISSIONER PRINCE: If you're going to post them on
20 the website. Again, just a recommendation.

21 MS. BAILEY: And then also I think we may have just
22 found our first FAQ.

23 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah. That makes sense. I think
24 that -- (indiscernible).

25 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Following up with what

1 Representative Prince just spoke about.

2 Mr. Prince, do you think it's necessary for us to have
3 Item 3 in this document? Because it is basically being
4 repeated, shadowing number 2. I think number 3 should be
5 struck.

6 COMMISSIONER PRINCE: Well, I, I --

7 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Or combined.

8 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Combined with 2 and 3?

9 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER PRINCE: Yeah, that's what I sort of
11 recommending that we sort of massage it and make it one, one
12 type of vote.

13 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Can we get that --

14 COMMISSIONER PRINCE: With highlights. I'm sorry, sir.

15 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Can we get that in a motion?

16 COMMISSIONER PRINCE: Well, I make a motion that the
17 general principles Items 2 and 3 be merged together.

18 COMMISSIONER HASAN: I second that.

19 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Can we, can we also add into that
20 motion that the explanation of number 2 be in the FAQ so that
21 people will, you know, kind of see? We add that to the
22 motion as well?

23 COMMISSIONER PRINCE: So amended.

24 COMMISSIONER HASAN: I second it.

25 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Ms. Bailey, you have that motion?

1 MS. BAILEY: I do. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Got a motion and a second to make
3 those -- those voting yea status, please raise your right
4 hand. That vote is unanimous.

5 MS. BAILEY: That sounds great and I'll get with our
6 attorneys to assist with the formation of the frequently
7 asked question wording and whatnot.

8 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Thank you all. That's great. That's
9 awesome.

10 Okay.

11 MS. BAILEY: Okay. Great. Let's get maps for right
12 this second and let's go to the, the meeting videos are
13 there. We are recording tonight and it will be posted when
14 our meeting is finished. Transcripts and agendas likewise
15 are posted as we get them in. And then there is a link to
16 the U.S. Census Bureau that contains different information
17 pertaining to redistricting.

18 Okay. And let's, Alex, let's move back up to maps.

19 Before we go to the interactive map, I want to take just
20 a moment and talk about the documents that are posted out
21 here. The documents include the statistics on the current
22 lines. What this shows, and, and again I'll, I'll call your
23 attention just because it, it jumps right out at you,
24 District 3, if you look at that on the map, you can see that
25 the, with the current districts, with the current census data

1 applied to it, the District 3 is fifty-four hundred ninety
2 people overpopulated or 21.26 percent. And, and likewise,
3 the numbers up above and down below show how the other
4 districts have either lost population or gained population
5 compared to the perfect sized district. So that information
6 is out there.

7 Likewise, the, the next document talks about the -- when
8 you look at -- when we get to looking at census tracts and
9 census blocks, you have all these demographic codes that are
10 on there and this explains what all those codes mean.

11 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Ms. Bailey, can you go back to the
12 previous slide --

13 MS. BAILEY: Yes, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: -- Mr. Cain -- Ms. Cain has a
15 question on that slide.

16 MS. BAILEY: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER CAIN: Ms. Bailey, I know in this slide is
18 showing how we're either over or under.

19 MS. BAILEY: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER CAIN: So to give someone comparison, could
21 you also add another slide showing what it was ten years ago
22 so people can really see --

23 MS. BAILEY: Sure. It's under the 2011 information --

24 COMMISSIONER CAIN: Yes, if we can add this --

25 MS. BAILEY: But we can, we can cert -- we can move it

1 up there.

2 COMMISSIONER CAIN: So to make it easier for people to
3 see, even though it says 5,000 is over, people need to see
4 what we worked with last year so -- like I'm going between
5 the three charts to really look at the difference. So we're
6 not that --

7 MS. BAILEY: So the three -- there are three charts
8 would be the plan that was approved by the federal court in
9 2011, how, how it looked, what size, how the districts looked
10 in 2011, how the districts, the, the districts that were
11 implemented in 2011 looked with the new census data applied
12 to it, which is what you're seeing here --

13 COMMISSIONER CAIN: Yes.

14 MS. BAILEY: -- and then also this draft district --

15 COMMISSIONER CAIN: Yes.

16 MS. BAILEY: -- with how that looks --

17 COMMISSIONER CAIN: Yes.

18 MS. BAILEY: -- with the new census data.

19 COMMISSIONER CAIN: Yes. I think that will help make
20 some clarification.

21 MS. BAILEY: Yes, sure. And we'll -- and I think we'll
22 organize it a little better, too, so that it's -- all the
23 statistics are right there together. It will be easy for
24 people to find. Yup. No problem.

25 COMMISSIONER CAIN: You know, if Ms. Bailey, if you

1 could somehow do a spreadsheet that shows 2011, what it was
2 for 2011 and all the comparisons so they don't have to flip.
3 It's all right there. I know with, with us on the, on the
4 school board, we usually maybe have a graft (sic) where you
5 can see what it was for 2011, what it is for 2021, and what
6 the proposed in the graph so you can see a graph-wise, but
7 you can see it all on one sheet of paper.

8 MS. BAILEY: I bet we can do that.

9 COMMISSIONER CAIN: Does that make sense?

10 MS. BAILEY: I bet we can.

11 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: All right. Great suggestions. Thank
12 you. All right.

13 MS. BAILEY: Okay. Then other things with the existing
14 districts, there's a report out there that shows what
15 subdivisions were split under the current plan, so if, if you
16 would like to see that, likewise, there's a document that --

17 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Representative Newton's trying to get
18 in to -- can we admit him?

19 MS. BAILEY: Let's see. Okay. So these are the
20 subdivisions that are split currently under the plan that's
21 in place right now. Likewise, we have a companion document
22 that shows any additional subdivisions that were split as a
23 result of this draft districts.

24 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Mr., Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Commissioner Hasan.

1 COMMISSIONER HASAN: If I'm not mistaken, I just want to
2 ask, wasn't Wood Lake, isn't Wood Lake split?

3 MS. BAILEY: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Is it on there? Did I miss it?

5 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah.

6 MS. BAILEY: No, it's not on there.

7 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Where is it?

8 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Wood Lakes is split between 4 and
9 5.

10 MS. BAILEY: Pardon me?

11 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Wood Lake, Wood Lake is split
12 between 4 and 5.

13 MS. BAILEY: Split between 4 and 5? Okay. We'll, we'll
14 take a look at it. Okay. Thank you for the input for that.

15 Okay. Then moving -- so the other document here,
16 there's, you know, there's always discussion about the fact
17 that Fort Gordon has, it has 9,000 or so citizens it reported
18 from the census living at Fort Gordon. But when you look at
19 actually registered voters, there are only a couple of
20 hundred people who are actually registered to vote from Fort
21 Gordon. And that makes a difference in some peoples' minds
22 as to how the district should be structured. So the
23 population figures for Fort Gordon are here. These are the
24 current figures right now of the people that reported in the
25 2021 census, 50 -- 5,959 reported in what is now District 4

1 and 2,396 reported in what is now District 8. Just as a
2 point of reference.

3 COMMISSIONER MASON: Ms., Ms. Bailey, can we go back --
4 okay, so that doesn't go into a little bit more detail
5 because when you start talking about who actually is voting,
6 say for instance, out of that District 4 piece, it's only a
7 couple of hundred, but it looks like from what I saw in one,
8 in one chart, it's talked about the amount that were
9 actually, that 2,396 were actual voters in 8. I don't, I
10 don't recall exactly how that went. Can you clear that up
11 for a little bit?

12 MS. BAILEY: I can. The, the way these, the way the
13 precinct lines were drawn ten years ago, the portion of what
14 were in this District 8 was drawn as one separate precinct,
15 as Precinct 803. 803. And so we can easily look at that and
16 say 803, okay, there are a hundred and twenty people
17 registered from District 803 or whatever it is. Precinct
18 803.

19 4 is a little bit different, though, because the voters
20 in Fort Gordon that are a part of District 4 are included in
21 Precinct 402, which also contains all the voters in McDuffie
22 Woods. So it, it's hard to -- it's more challenging to pull
23 out the precise number of registered voters that are in
24 District 4, that are in Fort Gordon. Okay.

25 But it's, you know, obviously, most of the people that

1 are at Fort Gordon are transitional, but we know when the
2 census is taken, people report where you are. If you're on a
3 military base, if you're at college, if you're in prison, I
4 mean, wherever you are, is where you report. And, and that's
5 where you're counted. Whether it's your resident or not is
6 irrelevant.

7 Okay. Just a couple of things. Moving down to the
8 documents pertaining specifically to the minimal change draft
9 districts that we have been looking at. Right now, that's
10 where the stats are for that, but we'll move those into a
11 stats area on here. The county-wide map is up there and
12 that's the same map that you received copies of last week.
13 And then the individual --

14 Just click on one of the individual districts, Alex, it
15 doesn't matter. Just pick one.

16 So you can see the, the -- it, it's still a pdf, so
17 you're not going to be able to drill down and see a whole lot
18 of street detail, but they're there. It's, you know, it's
19 easy to print them out if you want extra copies or, or we can
20 print them for you and, and the same for the public. The
21 maps are there for, for anyone to look at who would like to.

22 The other documents at the bottom talk about the
23 population changes per district. I think that's -- should be
24 that same -- okay, so this is taken basically from that stat
25 sheet that shows the plus or minus of the population changes

1 that occurred in those -- in the various districts.

2 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Commissioner Hasan.

3 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Ms. Bailey, and, and I apologize that we haven't gotten
5 there yet. If I -- I can just wait until we get there if I'm
6 ahead of everybody else. Are we going to have this -- this
7 map is going to be interactive at some point that we can move
8 and see how many people have been moving --

9 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: It's coming.

10 COMMISSIONER HASAN: It's coming?

11 MS. BAILEY: We're getting there. I'm taking the slow
12 route. My apologies.

13 COMMISSIONER HASAN: Okay. All right. Thank you,
14 ma'am. Thank you.

15 MS. BAILEY: You're welcome.

16 COMMISSIONER HASAN: I been known to be called
17 impatient.

18 MS. BAILEY: It's okay. I get it.

19 So I think at this point, unless I go up to the
20 interactive map. And Evelyn Chanti from our information
21 technology department is the brains behind this whole thing.
22 So she's going to show us how it's used.

23 And so, Evelyn, if you could be sure and hit on the --
24 and I'm sure you will -- be sure and hit on the information
25 icon that tells them what it is they're looking at, how to

1 use it, and then especially on how to app -- lay the layers
2 down and see, see how it changes the map.

3 MS. CHANTI: Yes, ma'am. Okay.

4 So when you first open up the map, you'll see the
5 disclaimer that pops up. On here, the public will also have
6 the ability to go straight into that public input form.

7 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Can you turn the mic on? Okay.

8 MS. CHANTI: It is on. Sorry. I got in closer.

9 This is the same input form that we just looked at
10 before. So it's the same link and will take you to that same
11 form. Just in case somebody wants to go directly into that
12 form, they can do so from here. Otherwise, you can just
13 click on the okay. Which one of these isn't working? Okay.
14 All right. Just click okay.

15 When you first go into the map, the legend will be open,
16 so by default, only the incumbents and that minimal change
17 draft turn -- is turned on along with the existing county
18 districts. On the left-hand side, you'll have the ability to
19 search an address anywhere in the county. Right underneath
20 that you'll have three icons. The middle icon is the one
21 that Ms. Bailey was just talking about. If you click on
22 that, it will give you just short instructions on how to use
23 the map.

24 If you keep scrolling down, it will highlight basically
25 the most important parts of the map and where to click. And

1 at the bottom, also, we'll have another link to the same form
2 for the public input just in case they missed it on that
3 disclaimer in the front.

4 On the right-hand side, and this thing -- can I hide
5 this thing? You'll see the legend, which is already turned
6 on. Right next to that, you'll see another icon that says
7 ``Layer list.'' If you click on that, all the layers that are
8 available to the map are on there for you to be able to turn
9 them on and off. For example, you can turn on the census
10 tracts. They'll come on. Once you zoom in a little bit, the
11 population for that tract will come on. If you want to see
12 the census blocks, you can just turn those on. By default,
13 the label will come on when you zoom in a little bit more.
14 So if you would choose them down and you don't see it, just
15 zoom in a little bit and you'll see the population for each
16 block.

17 MS. BAILEY: Evelyn, may I ask a question, please?

18 MS. CHANTI: Uh-huh.

19 MS. BAILEY: At what point -- do, do they zoom in
20 further to see the statistics that belong to that census
21 tract?

22 MS. CHANTI: If they click on it?

23 MS. BAILEY: That's it. So if you click on it, you can
24 see --

25 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: That's awesome.

1 MS. BAILEY: -- you know, all the information that lives
2 in that census tract. And keep in mind, just as a little
3 caveat, keep in mind the census tracts are the, the mother
4 units and the census blocks reside within the census tracts.
5 The census blocks are the smallest unit that you can move
6 when you, when you go to -- so you can go inside the census
7 block and pick out -- excuse me. You can go inside the
8 census tract --

9 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Inside the census tract.

10 MS. BAILEY: -- and pick out blocks out of that to move
11 around.

12 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER MASON: Well, this is how neighborhoods can
14 be split?

15 MS. BAILEY: Correct. It's exactly how it happens.
16 Yes, because, you know, when it gets down to the nitty-
17 gritty, and you, you got to figure out how to make two
18 districts more balanced and you've done everything you can
19 do, sometimes as we know, it becomes necessary to dive down
20 into neighborhoods and scoop out people because a census
21 block or the census block will generally be all or part of a
22 neighborhood. Yes, sir.

23 MS. CHANTI: And as you can -- as you saw in the legend
24 before, when you see the little dots, those are where the
25 incumbents' houses are. If you click on the dot, it will

1 tell you the number of the district and the name. When you
2 see those little arrow right here that I'm pointing to on top
3 of that pop-up window, if you see an arrow, that means that
4 there's more layers of information underneath it. So you can
5 click through each one and it will show you -- the label on
6 the top will show you which district it is existing. The
7 census block right under I clicked and then the minimal
8 change draft.

9 If you click too close between two blocks, it's going to
10 show you both blocks. It doesn't mean that they're stacked
11 on top of each other. It's just that I guess the map knows
12 that you clicked too close to a line and it says, ''Did you
13 mean this one or this one?'' So it gives you both and that's
14 why you saw both of them pop up on that one right there.

15 Other than that, we also have a layer here with
16 subdivisions that were split by this draft. And the voting
17 precincts that were also split by the draft. We also have a
18 layer that shows all of the subdivisions that we have in the
19 county, so when you're looking at the census blocks, you can
20 see which subdivisions, which blocks are covering each
21 subdivision.

22 They're a little bit hard to see, but it's so many
23 layers sitting on top of each other that we can make them a
24 little bit darker, but that's as -- probably the best that we
25 can do.

1 Over here on the right-hand side, you can also change
2 the transparency. So I'm looking at the minimal change draft
3 and I can change the transparency, kind of go a little bit
4 lighter on it. That way I can see the subdivisions a little
5 bit better.

6 And we also have the polling places, census tracts like
7 I said, and the existing voting districts -- precincts right
8 at the bottom. I do have a roads layer. The map already has
9 the roads labeled and that's by default because of the base
10 map, but just in case you get to an area where these roads
11 are coming from our vendor, so we might have some new roads
12 that we have in our system that they don't have, and that's
13 where those would come in handy for you to turn those on,
14 those roads on.

15 And other than that, on the left-hand side, you have the
16 ability to change your base map. Just in case you don't like
17 how that looks, you can turn your imagery on or just
18 different types of base maps. And you also have the ability
19 to print to a pdf document and it will print what you have on
20 the screen as a map.

21 Any questions?

22 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: So do you, do you have the ability to
23 take a block and put it in another district in this map?

24 MS. BAILEY: We do. Staff does with, with the software,
25 in fact, we just had a training session yesterday on how to

1 use it. And with that software, we'll have the ability --
2 you guys come back and say okay, we're interested in, in
3 trying to move this, this, this, and this to here. So we can
4 find those, rope them in, move them over, and generate new
5 stats. So yes, that's a -- that is the software that we've
6 just purchased and, and are using. And that software is you
7 might recall produced by the Ezra Company, which is the same
8 company that we used to manage our whole GIS system. So our
9 IT staff is very familiar with the feel of that software.

10 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Awesome. All right. I really
11 appreciate. This is a great start. Any comments?

12 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: (Indiscernible).

13 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Great, great start. Thank you, IT
14 apartment (sic). Appreciate you all, all your hard work
15 again. Couldn't be here without you, so thank you all and
16 all that. And I think definitely and that direct link is on
17 the front of the websites, both school board and commission
18 -- I mean, Augustaga.gov pages. Like at the --

19 MS. BAILEY: It is on Augusta's.

20 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay.

21 MS. BAILEY: And it, it should be on the school board's.
22 So if it's not, it will be.

23 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay. Great. Cause it -- no, that's
24 prefect.

25 All right. Do I need to receive that as information?

1 Can I just get a motion to receive that as information,
2 please?

3 COMMISSIONER PRINCE: Motion.

4 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Got a motion. And a second?

5 MS. BAILEY: That is Hasan and Ms. Cain?

6 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Representative Prince.

7 MS. BAILEY: Prince?

8 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Representative Prince.

9 MS. BAILEY: Made the motion and Ms. Cain seconded?

10 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: That's correct.

11 MS. BAILEY: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: All in favor, raise your right hand
13 by voting yea. That is unanimous. All right.

14 Other business. Is there any colleagues that have any
15 because I do have something we need to talk about.

16 MR. HOWARD: Question.

17 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Representative Howard.

18 MR. HOWARD: Just for my information. Is there a number
19 we communicate with the map lady, if you got questions while
20 you're navigating and because she's not going to remember
21 everything that she just said.

22 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah. Can we get some form of
23 communication for the Committee members?

24 MS. BAILEY: Yeah, how would, how would you all like to
25 handle that? If there, if, if one of the Committee members

1 needs support?

2 MS. CHANTI: (Indiscernible) help desk number for IT and
3 there's a (indiscernible).

4 MR. HOWARD: That'll work. Ms. Bailey, we know how to
5 do that one.

6 MS. BAILEY: Okay. So, so we'll, we'll get you all --

7 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Please send us a direct number --

8 MR. HOWARD: Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. BAILEY: -- We'll get you all some information on
10 how to make that happen. It, it may be -- we'll, we'll
11 figure it out. We'll, we'll let you guys know.

12 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Appreciate that. All right.

13 So other business. We need to set our next meeting.
14 Based on the fact the next two weeks we're going to be going
15 on the road two days and then as we get all this feedback
16 between the 27th, the next week we have an election, out of
17 respect for that department and all that they have to do, I
18 think that if we could look to possibly meet on the 10th.
19 Again as being our next meeting. If we meet on Wednesday the
20 10th, by meeting on the 10th, that still gives us five
21 basically working sessions to make our December 15th
22 deadline. That would be November 10th, November 17th,
23 December 1st, December 8th, and December 15th.

24 Does anybody have any thoughts on that? That's just
25 kind of where I think we need to give them time to get all

1 the information together. We said we're going to meet every
2 -- on Wednesdays at six o'clock and that kind of fits what
3 we've discussed before.

4 MR. HOWARD: Just a reminder that December 1st the
5 school board members will be in training in Atlanta.

6 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Okay. Okay.

7 MR. HOWARD: The whole week from a Tuesday to a Friday
8 of that week.

9 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: We'll need to find another date then,
10 on the 10th or 17th for you all for sure so we can have a
11 meeting that week. So we'll definitely have that discussion.

12 But as far as like meeting again on the 10th, is that --

13 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE VOICE: That's November 10th?

14 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Yeah. Just to give them time -- that
15 gives them basically ten days to get all the information
16 together. We have an election the week of the 3rd, 2nd and
17 3rd where they've got a lot going on. So I think that would
18 work best for the Committee. Understanding we got to find a
19 new date that week based on the school board not being here
20 for sure.

21 So can I get a motion to make our next meeting on
22 November 10th at 6:00 p.m.?

23 (Indiscernible background voices.)

24 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Got a motion. A second? Do you all
25 want -- I should have asked. Did you all want to do the

1 school board? We'll go back to the school board? We'll go
2 back to the school board. Is everybody good with that one?
3 All right.

4 So we had a motion. A second. Please raise your right
5 hand voting in a yea. That vote is unanimous.

6 MS. BAILEY: Mr. Chair, if I could ask, who, who was the
7 motion maker and the second on that one?

8 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: Mr. Hannah and Ms. Cain -- and, and
9 Mr. Hasan, Commissioner Hasan.

10 MS. BAILEY: Thank you so much.

11 CHAIRMAN FRANTOM: All right. Any further business
12 today? All right. I want to thank the Committees. I want
13 to thank IT department. I want to thank Ms. Bailey and her
14 team and the attorneys. Thank you all for all being here and
15 we will see you all next week on the road. Thank you all.

16 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Thank you. Great meeting.
17 Appreciate it.

18 (End of recording.)

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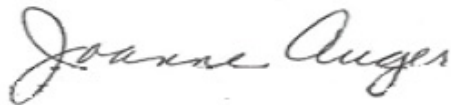
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 55 pages are a complete and accurate transcription to the best of my ability of the electronic sound recording of the AD HOC REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Board of Elections Office, Augusta, Georgia, recorded on October 13, 2021.



Joanne Auger, Transcriber Date: October 20, 2021

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