

**NEW HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REDISTRICTING WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 23, 2018**

The New Hanover County Board of Education met for its Redistricting Work Session on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Center.

Redistricting Work Session  
January 23, 2018

At 5:32 p.m., Chairman Edward Higgins called the meeting to order. The following were present:

Called to Order

Edward B. Higgins, Jr., Chairman	Dr. Tim Markley, Superintendent
Jeannette S. Nichols, Vice Chairwoman	Dr. Rick Holliday, Deputy Superintendent
Janice A. Cavanaugh, Board Member	Wayne Bullard, General Counsel
Lisa Estep, Board Member	
Donald S. Hayes, Board Member	Tabitha Adams, Administrative Assistant
Bruce T. Shell, Board Member	
David L. Wortman, Board Member	

Under Approval of the Agenda, Board Member Janice Cavanaugh made a motion to approve the agenda. Board Member Donald Hayes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda

Under Redistricting Overview, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Eddie Anderson presented the Guiding Principles, Redistricting Timeline and the top three comments from the public.

Redistricting Overview

Mr. Anderson proposed to keep study areas 202 and 203 in the New Hanover High School district, to maintain the existing Hoggard satellite and consider options to expand the Hoggard district to increase enrollment. Mr. Anderson stated that the proposed plan would have minimal impact on Free and Reduce numbers at New Hanover High School. He also shared that the Sheriff's Gang Taskforce confirms the high school redistricting proposal will not create problems with rival gangs at any of our schools.

Proposal

Two maps will be forthcoming – one will implement the above recommendations and the second will look at moving Landfall residence to New Hanover High School.

Action

**Public Forum**

Public Forum

- Angela Davis lives 2.5 miles from Hoggard. Her district is NHHS, which is 3.6 miles away. The proposed map has her going to Ashley. The distance to Ashley is 8.6 miles, which is too far.
- Dr. John Creasy's daughter is 14 and she currently attends Laney High School. The family lives in Covil Farms. The proposed map places the student at NHHS. The family wishes to stay at Laney. Dr. Creasy would like the Board to remember that the students are not dots on the map; they are children.



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- Gina Fimble would like to see equitable distribution. She believes NHHS is carrying a heavier burden than the other three traditional high schools. She also stated that Freeman Elementary School is 85 % black and Hispanic. The school has a 71 % suspension rate.
- Marrio Jeter is with Community in Schools. The original proposal caused concerns, but after seeing the proposed revisions those concerns have been addressed.
- Charles Baldwin lives on Princeton Drive. He has two NHHS students. They are in the 203 study area. He thanked the Board for considering public input. He stated that his school community is committed to NHHS. They are active and involved. He stated that other neighborhoods are also committed to their neighborhood school. He asked that the Board not to split-up neighborhoods; to divide along main roads; and ensure diversity in all schools. He asked that Open Enrollment be able to continue.
- Linda McCourtie is from the Kings Grant community. She is concerned that her child will now be districted for NHHS instead of Laney.
- Carla Knob has a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at NHHS who is not currently in a specialty program. The student is planning to participate in the Lyceum Program in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. She is not sure if her student will be able to stay at NHHS. The proposal is scaring people away from the school. She asked that the Board send a message that Open Choice is still alive and well.
- John Skelton is an Ashley High School student. He would like the choice to stay at the school where he started his high school career. He would like other students to have the same opportunity, and he asked that the Board treat students as people not numbers.
- Hamilton Hicks endorses staff's recommendations for NHHS.
- Amie Lombardi lives in Covil Estates. She asked why a small part of her neighborhood was impacted by the current map instead of looking at the Landfall area. She would like her student to continue at Laney.
- William Condon has a student at Ashley High School. The proposal puts her at Hoggard. She is involved in the Nursing Program at Ashley. He supports her staying at Ashley.



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- Deirdre Condon moved from New York. Ashley is the best fit for her family. She has bought a house in the Ashley district and would like to stay there. She shared this is the worst time to move the 9% of students. She would like to see all currently enrolled student be allowed to stay at his or her school. The current proposal will have her student going to Hoggard.
- Sarah Bailey stated that changing lines effect the students and their families. Other counties are looking at what NHCS is doing because we are leaders. Eyes are on us. Be careful were you draw the lines.
- Lynore Young has concerns regarding the proposed plan. She stated that Mr. McAdams served NHHS well, but this plan fails the current administration, teachers, staff and students. The Board needs to seek a solution that provides better balance without increasing the disadvantage numbers.
- Philip Maginns has a 9<sup>th</sup> grader districted for NHHS. For 25 years, he has planned for his children to attend Ogden, Noble, and Laney. This was always the plan for his children. He bought a home in a location that was conducive to his plan. The Board has jumped over Landfall and pulled from Covil Estate, which he said is not fair.

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Under New Hanover County Board of Education Provides Input on Redistricting Plan. Board statements:

Board Comments

Board Member Bruce Shell

We started down this path because of overcrowding at Laney High School. Staff generated a plan, a draft that has had strong reaction from the public. Clearly, changes need to be made. Several times someone has said to us look at this objectively. The staff has looked at it objectively. I understand the public better after tonight. The challenge that I see when you try to fix overcrowding is that not all will be pleased. I do think we made some errors. We need to look at improving the maps. All seven Board Members want to come up with a solution to overcrowding. In addition, we believe in neighborhood schools. I encourage the public to continue to provide feedback on all plans.

Board Member Donald Hayes

This is a starting point, and I want to say that I do not support splitting up neighborhoods. The New Hanover County Board of Education does not have taxing authority and is unable to provide its own funding. The school system relies on the County. I appreciate the comments, and the Board will look at the concerns expressed. The Board will honor those attending schools under Open Choice.



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Board Comments

Board Member Janice Cavenaugh

Board members have children or grandchildren in schools here in NHC. We are well aware of problems and the negative effects redistricting can have on students. I have taken copious notes; your comments are important, but I am concerned with the anger and hostility that some have had during tonight's meeting. I would like to make this process as easy for students as possible. I asked administration to make changes that are fair and equitable. My goal has always been to redistrict using neighborhood schools. We are trying to serve all. Please continue to provide input.

Board Member Lisa Estep

Emotions run high and it is hard to stay objective when you are dealing with students. These maps are a starting point. Your feedback will help us make our decisions. We want to make good decisions and do the best job that we can. Thank you for coming. Please continue to provide feedback.

Board Member David Wortman

This is an emotional process. We have heard a lot from the public regarding redistricting. It is clear that you have passion for your children and for all students. I encourage you to continue to post comments. I read all of them, and they do make a difference. We want all students to have a good education.

Board Vice-Chairwoman Jeannette Nichols

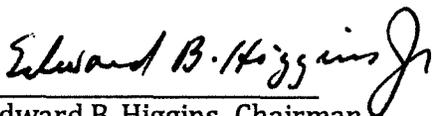
Parents whose children are in a focus program - those students will be able to remain there. At the Policy Committee meeting, we spoke about needing a pathway to all of those programs and administration will work on that. This redistricting process started with a computer-generated map and now we have people who have shared how this will affect them. I pledge to do my very best to help the numbers with as little disruption as possible.

Board Chairman Edward Higgins

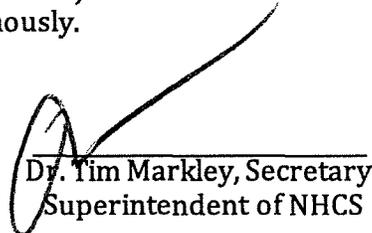
Thank you for coming tonight. We appreciate your comments. We can edit the proposal. Overcrowding at Laney is a fact. We are not out to make your children unhappy but we do want to fix the overcrowding issue. Your input is valued and considered. We are here to do what we believe is best for the school system.

At 7:17 p.m., Board Member Janice Cavenaugh moved to adjourn. Board Member Donald Hayes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Adjournment



Edward B. Higgins, Chairman  
NHC Board of Education



Dr. Tim Markley, Secretary  
Superintendent of NHCS

