

The **BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOARD)** of the **RANKIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (RCSD)**, took up for consideration the matter of adopting new board of education trustee districts for RCSD. After a discussion of the subject, Trustee and Board Member David Dyess offered and moved the adoption of the following **RESOLUTION**:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROCESS OF
REDISTRICTING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICTS FOR THE
RANKIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-103 (2015), the Board acting by and through its duly elected Trustees has full jurisdiction, power and authority, as any regular meeting thereof or at any special meeting called for that purpose, to change or alter the boundaries of any board of education district, and has decided to change or alter the boundaries of the five board of education districts in order to comply with applicable state and federal law, including the one person, one vote doctrine and requirement of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;

WHEREAS, the data from the 2020 Census as provided to the Board indicates that the variances among the trustee districts of the **BOARD OF EDUCATION OF RCSD** are not within the acceptable norm of the one-person, one-vote doctrine and requirement of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution;

WHEREAS, the Board has utilized the services of **CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (CMPDD)** as consultants and has employed counsel to assist in the redistricting process;

WHEREAS, the Board has now engaged the services of **CMPDD** to assist in developing a plan for the redistricting of the five Board of Education trustee districts comprising the **RANKIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**;

REDISTRICTING CRITERIA

WHEREAS, the Board now adopts the following redistricting criteria to guide and provide a constitutionally proper structure for this process:

(1) The difference in population between the least populous and the most populous districts shall not exceed ten percent (10%) for the ideal population for all trustee districts, according to figures available from the most recent decennial census;

(2) Such districting plan shall be established in a manner that ensures the fair and effective representation, equal access and equal electoral opportunity of any racial minority group(s) in the Rankin County School District which are protected by the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended;

(3) District lines shall keep intact communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other;

(4) Each trustee district shall be contiguous;

(5) Each trustee district shall be as compact as possible;

(6) Each trustee district shall follow natural geographical boundaries, where possible;

(7) Incumbent trustees as Board members shall be separated into individual trustee districts to the extent practicable, but only if such action does not affect adherence to the primary criteria;

(8) In order to minimize voter confusion, proposed redistricting plan(s) shall be established in a manner that ensures minimal necessary change to boundaries presently established and to minimize split precincts;

(9) The Rankin County School District will develop a redistricting plan that conforms to Mississippi Attorney General Opinion No. 2002-0060 (Johnson, February 22, 2002).

PUBLIC HEARINGS

WHEREAS, the Board intends to schedule public hearings to obtain public input and comments and to facilitate any other communications with the Board, on the dates and at the times set forth in the **NOTICE OF RANKIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING PROCESS**, and shall publicize and give notice of such public hearings in order to assure that the citizens of RCSD and the members of the general public will have a full, open and equal opportunity to attend, participate and provide input, as follows:

1. The Board will hold two public meetings and hearings in the RCSD Board Room at 1220 Apple Park Place, Brandon, Mississippi 39042.

2. The first public meeting and hearing will be scheduled for May 11, 2022 at 8:30 am to consider the law, redistricting criteria and public participation and for RCSD's demographic experts with **CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**, an organization with substantial experience in developing redistricting plans and options for state and local governments, to present maps for consideration by the **BOARD OF EDUCATION OF RCSD**. These maps will be placed on RCSD's Redistricting Website and will be available at each public meeting and hearing for public viewing and comments on mapping options;

3. The second public meeting and hearing will be scheduled for May 25, 2022, at 8:30 am for the close of the public comment period and a time when the **BOARD OF EDUCATION OF RCSD** will be asked to select a new Redistricting Plan based on the 2020 Census Data. That plan, upon adoption, will be forwarded to the Secretary of State and to the Rankin County Election Commission and the Registrar for Rankin County for

implementation. It will then control future elections for trustees and members of the **BOARD OF EDUCATION OF RCSD** until the 2030 Census is published, and the process starts over again.

NOTICE OF RCSD REDISTRICTING PROCESS

The **NOTICE OF THE RANKIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING PROCESS** shall be published and posted in the usual manner for public notices and through local media accessible to the citizens of RCSD and the general public.

BE IT THEREFOR RESOLVED by the **BOARD OF EDUCATION of RCSD** as follows:

1. The **NOTICE OF THE RANKIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING PROCESS** annexed hereto is adopted and approved for publication in the usual manner for public notices and for dissemination through local media accessible to the citizens of RCSD and the general public;

2. Under the guidance of **CMPDD** and counsel, the **BOARD** will undertake the process of redistricting of the boundaries of the five **RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICTS** based on pertinent 2020 Census population data, applicable state and federal law, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and traditional redistricting principles as described above;

3. The authorized officials, including Election Commissioners of Rankin County, the Registrar and other authorized officials, shall be asked, upon completion of the redistricting process, to consider and determine whether to alter precinct boundaries as needed to conform to the **RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT** boundaries and, if necessary, to revise the registration books and poll books applicable to RCSD in such a manner as is necessary to change the registration books of the voting precincts affected thereby to conform to the change of districts and precincts and to contain only the names of qualified electors in the voting precincts as made by the change of boundaries and to reassign those registered voters whose districts are changed by action of this **BOARD** and to notify such persons by United States Mail, postage pre-paid, of their reassignment as soon as practicable when accomplished.

4. It is the **BOARD's** intention that the revised and altered boundaries of the **RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICTS** and any corresponding precinct changes shall take effect, be in force and supersede any prior orders regulating the same upon adoption, in order to provide sufficient time for all local and state officials to perform their statutory and ministerial duties in the manner provided by law, including publication of any final Order and redistricting map, with exhibits depicting the RCSD **BOARD** district boundaries and legal descriptions upon completion.

TRUSTEE AND BOARD MEMBER, Ruth Burgess seconded the motion to adopt the foregoing **RESOLUTION**, and the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

Ruth Burgess, Trustee	Voted: <u>Yes</u>
David Dyess, Vice-President	Voted: <u>Yes</u>
Grumpy Farmer, President	Voted: <u>Yes</u>
Kym Jamison, Secretary	Voted: <u>Yes</u>
Katherine (Liza) McKinion, Trustee	Voted: <u>Yes</u>

The motion having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board members present, the President of the **BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE RANKIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT** declared the motion carried and the **RESOLUTION** adopted, this the 27th day of April, 2022.



GRUMPY FARMER, PRESIDENT
BOARD OF EDUCATION, RANKIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATTEST:



KYM JAMISON, BOARD SECRETARY AND TRUSTEE,
BOARD OF EDUCATION,
RANKIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT