

SAZAC

Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2026

I. Call to order

SAZAC Facilitator Shawn Dennis called the first meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Vernon McDaniel Administration Bldg. (75 N. Pace Blvd).

Advertisement

The meeting of SAZAC was duly advertised and announced to the public in accordance with Sunshine laws.

All members present or virtually attending except District 5 representative Charles Thomas.

II. Introductions

Shawn Dennis introduced himself and asked all committee and attending District staff to introduce themselves.

III. Purpose Discussion

Shawn Dennis informed the committee of the intended purpose of SAZAC. He reiterated that SAZAC is not responsible for making closure recommendations. Rather, SAZAC is responsible for recommending boundaries and attendance zones. In doing so they are to consider many influencing factors. These include but are not limited to; balancing enrollment, use of instructional facilities, racial composition of student population, geographic constraints and impact on pupil transportation.

Mr. Dennis then stated that the SAZAC process is intended to increase citizens' participation in the process of evaluating data pertinent to closing/consolidating schools and to recommend changes in school attendance zones.

IV. Process Orientation & Digital Resources

Shawn Dennis conducted a brief orientation covering the essential function of SAZAC. He shared details about the process used to define attendance zones. He then discussed some of the intricacies of attendance zone design and encouraged member to visit the two school sites that are being considered for closure. Paul Combs, GIS Manager provided a visual overview of the attendance zone mapping interface as Mr. Dennis oriented the committee on study areas, student location and demographic information and the overall approach to developing new attendance zones.

V. Selection of Committee Officers

Mr. Dennis directed the committee to the process overview section of their reference material and reviewed the responsibilities of the each of the three committee positions. He then asked the committee for volunteers or nominations for each of the positions.

Brad Huggins then nominated Walker Wilson for chairperson. Mr. Wilson indicated he would be willing to serve in that capacity so Rob Doss then seconded the motion. The committee selected Walker Wilson as their chairman unanimously.

Mr. Huggins then indicated he would be willing to serve as Vice Chair. Rob Doss made the motion and Walker Wilson seconded the motion. The committee selected Brad Huggins as their vice chairman unanimously.

Carol Cleaver indicated she would be will to serve as committee secretary. Neal Croom made the motion which was seconded by Rob Doss. The committee selected Carol Cleaver as their committee secretary unanimously.

VI. Next Steps

The committee discussed the various elements to consider as they worked through each attendance zone iteration. Once again members were encouraged to visit the schools effected by proposed changes prior to the next meeting

VII. Questions & Answers

Mr. Dennis asked the committee if there were any remaining questions. Committee member Carol Cleaver inquired about the plan for disposition of the school facilities after closure. Mr. Dennis provided an overview of the District's idle facility procedure. He further indicated that the Warrington Elementary facility is tentatively planned to be reconstituted for use as a possible magnet style program serving the west side of Escambia County.

VIII. Next Meeting

Mr. Dennis inquired about most convenient day of the week to maximize committee availability. The Committee elected to meet on Tuesdays at 5:00pm. They further decided to convene every two weeks.

Next meeting of SAZAC: October 6, 2026

5:00 p.m.

Vernon McDaniel Administration Bldg. (75 N. Pace Blvd.) , 4th Floor Conference Room.

IX. Adjournment

Having no more business the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.