

Minutes

2021 Talbot County Board of Education Redistricting Commission

July 15, 2021 Meeting

Present: Megan Berman, Ed Delaney, Keasha Haythe, and Maxwell McCall (Democratic Central Committee representatives); Karla Wieland-Cherry; Janet Greenhawk, Susan Roecker, and Jennifer Williams (Republican Central Committee representatives); Jeri Cook, Director, Talbot County Board of Elections; Mark Cohoon, Talbot County GIS Manager (County staff representative); Jessica Morris, Assistant County Manager; Patrick Thomas, Acting County attorney will serve as staff representatives on the Redistricting Commission.

Absent: Zach Smith (at-large member)

The 2021 Talbot County Board of Education Redistricting Commission (“the Commission”) held its initial meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2021 in the Wye Oak Room at the Talbot County Community Center. Following introduction of members, Patrick Thomas, Acting County Attorney, provided an overview of the Open Meeting Act compliance for meetings of the Commission which include: notice of meeting; agenda; Minutes; and Open Meeting Act training by the Chair of the Commission.

Jessica Morris, Assistant County Manager, briefed the group on the purpose of the Commission and provided an overview of the duties of the Commission. Mr. Thomas stated that following each decennial census, State law requires that Board of Education election district boundaries be reestablished to create proposed election districts; State law also provides how the redistricting plan is to become effective.

Jeri Cook, Elections Director, noted the deadline for candidate filing of February 22, 2022.

Mark Cohoon, GIS Manager, stated that the 2020 U.S. Census Data is anticipated to be received by August 16, 2021; however, the State will take approximately 30 days to review the data and make necessary adjustments for the prison population to reflect their place of residency, not where they are incarcerated. Once the data is received he can begin to develop the majority minority district; the goal of the redistricting is to have approximately the same number of individuals in each district. Mr. Cohoon requested direction from the Commission as what information they might need to accomplish their task. Mr. Delaney asked that Mr. Cohoon

provide a comparison between the districts approved in 2011 and the anticipated changes in population in 2021.

Members requested that the email addresses of the Commission be distributed to all members.

Keasha Haythe made a motion to nominate Zach Smith as Chairperson of the Commission; Megan Berman seconded the motion; the motion was approved with unanimous consent.

The next meetings of the Redistricting Commission will be held on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.; Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., and Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Location of the meetings will be determined at a later date.

Submitted by:

Susan Moran

Office of the Talbot County Council and Talbot County Manager