

**Powell County Board of Education Special Called Meeting
December 18, 2023 6:00 PM
Powell County Middle School Media Center**

Attendance Taken at : 5:49 PM

Present Board Members:

Brenda Crabtree

Lisa Mays

Diann Meadows

Kathy Merriman

Absent Board Members:

Kim Hall

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adopt/Approve Agenda

Order #24-91 - Motion Passed: Motion to approve agenda passed with a motion by Lisa Mays and a second by Diann Meadows .

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Absent
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

IV. Public Comments

During public comments Mr. Brian Marcum spoke regarding his displeasure with the Board for approving new districts without public input. Superintendent Wasson explained that the magistrate districts had just recently been finalized and reiterated that the Board was trying to mirror the magistrate districts as much as possible in an effort to make voting easier for the voters in the community without forcing one of two Board members out of their seats. Board Attorney Grant Chenoweth spoke in regards to the fact that the Board had not yet approved any new divisions and the agenda item had been on two previous meetings in which the public had the opportunity to speak. He also pointed out that KRS 160.210 requires the Board to complete the new divisions by January 1 of an election year.

Clarification was provided by Mr. James Whisenhunt of Bluegrass Ad for the discrepancy in the previously used number for the Census of 2020 stating it was a typo when he was splitting a census block.

Mr. Marcum asked Mr. Whisenhunt why he made the boundaries as he did, and Superintendent Wasson explained again that Mr. Whisenhunt did not create the boundaries. The boundaries in the proposed Board divisions were created by the magistrates and Superintendent Wasson asked Mr. Whisenhunt in a previous meeting to find evenly distributed populations with a different split between magistrate district 1 and 2 that more closely resembled current Board divisions in that area because two Board members lived in Magistrate District 1.

V. Approval of Changes in Board Districts

Order #24-92 - Motion Passed: Motion pursuant to KRS 160.210(3) to revise division boundary lines effective January 1, 2024, and to direct the Superintendent to publish, record, and file the changes as required

by KRS 160.210, on or before January 1, 2024 passed with a motion by Brenda Crabtree and a second by Lisa Mays.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Absent
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	No
Kathy Merriman	Yes

After listening to the concerns of Mr. Brian Marcum in public comments as well as information from Mr. Whisenhunt and Board Attorney Chenoweth, Superintendent Wasson brought up the map of the proposed changes to the Board divisions. She explained that the proposed changes would mirror magistrate districts with the exception of magistrate districts 1 and 2 due to the fact that two Board members lived in magistrate district 1. She showed a map demonstrating that not only were current Board districts unevenly distributed in population, they would cause the county to have 16 different precincts making set up of voting accurately a challenge for the county clerk. The proposed boundaries meant 7 precincts because a precinct cannot cross magisterial boundaries.

Board Chair Kathy Merriman asked the Board if there was a motion to accept the proposed division boundaries. Ms. Brenda Crabtree made the motion. Diann Meadows stated that she would rather go with the magisterial district boundaries. Discussion was had that doing so would cause Ms. Meadows and Ms. Hall to draw randomly to determine who would have to represent the Board division they didn't live in and therefore lose their right to run for that same division in a future election. As Ms. Hall was not present, Superintendent Wasson stated she spoke to Ms. Hall prior to the meeting and she said she was good with either way the Board decided to vote. Superintendent Wasson stated that the proposal was created in a manner that would not force any member of the Board to lose their opportunity to run in their own division should they choose to continue on the Board in the future.

Ms. Merriman asked the Board if the current motion on the floor had died for a lack of a second, and Ms. Mays provided a second for the motion. The Board voted to pass the proposed Board divisions with a 3 to 1 vote.

VI. Adjourn

Order #24-93 - Motion Passed: Motion to adjourn passed with a motion by Lisa Mays and a second by Diann Meadows .

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Absent
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

Board Chairperson

Board Secretary