

BOE Speech – Shanahan Proposed Redistricting Plan – May 3, 2011

The newsletter from my son's math teacher included that familiar reminder: "show all of your work for full credit. Otherwise, I can't tell if you've solved the problem correctly."

Wake County taxpayers are in the same pickle as math teachers: they need to see ALL of the work behind the proposed redistricting plan they are being asked to evaluate. They need to understand if the "problem" has been solved correctly. The student may have the "right" answer, but the approach may be flawed.

There is a **shocking lack of detail** in the redistricting materials presented last week by Shanahan Law Firm.

- Only district level information is shown. Where are details explaining the moves of **precincts** in and out of a district? The number of people being moved?
- What are the details behind the precinct splits? What census block data was used to arrive at these splits? What do the geographic boundaries look like on a map? How much will these splits cost taxpayers? Has funding been approved?
- Will the Board of Elections create new precincts and new polling places? With pending legislation that will eliminate early voting, why for example, is a small number of people in precinct 20-01 (population 18,000) being moved to District 7?
- Board guidelines: "**Except when required by federal law, districts should respect the boundaries of municipalities.**" **DISPLAY MAP SHOWING 06-07** How does moving district 06-07 (Apex/Holly Springs) to District 5 make sense?

We're experiencing tough economic times...looming teacher layoffs. From what little we can see, this proposed plan will spend taxpayer dollars to make many moves that seem to accomplish little; you could have moved fewer people and accomplished the same goal.

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As Daniel Patrick Moynihan wisely noted, **"everyone is entitled to his own opinion but not his own facts."**

You can't keep those facts to yourselves. The facts belong to the taxpayers of Wake County, who fund payment of legal fees you've incurred for a SINGLE proposal that will hold for 10 years until the next census. They need not be hidden from view—that is unless there's something you don't want the public to see.