

## District Realignment Meeting, 1/21/21

### Meeting Notes

Attendees: Barrett Mohrmann, Chris Sherman, Dale Simpson, Ryan Thompson, Lisa Murray, Ken Heintz, Roger Hottinger, Jeff Moe, Chris Miller, Deanna Biros, Ron Lime, Chip Herr, Phillip Freeman, Jim Bratton, Scott Sampson, Jeff Gill, Lois Griffin,

- Chris Sherman started the meeting at 6:04 p.m.
- Lisa Murray led the pledge of allegiance, scout oath, and scout law.
- “Let’s head into the metro subgroup updates. Chip or Dale? Any updates from you?”
- “We’ve been able to contact all of the district chairs. We have two districts without chairs currently. So two more to go yet.”
- “I’m still waiting on information, but have been promised more information. Chip and I have discussed how the volunteer staff may effect districting. Hopefully we’ll have more to add next week.”
- “I know Lois your group has done a great deal of work over the past three or four weeks. Any updates?”
- “I don’t have any updates. I wasn’t able to meet with the group this week. I missed the last week’s meeting. I’m just trying to get caught back up to see what we’re doing next.”
- “Until we find a question or need with the survey, I think we’re resting with what we have now.”
- “Other than that heat map which is mostly FOS information, we’ve been looking at corporate HQs. I have some queries into staff, but they’ve been busy with Day of Giving. The story of the last 25 years has been a loss of HQs. I have a conversation with Susan going on that.”
- “I know there’s some work being looked at the board and staff level. Anything that might help us with this? Thinking back to some of the comments this afternoon looking at new sources of corporate funding.”
- “Nothing has changed. This is a case where we need the funding in place.”
- “Units needs and expectations. I think we have finalized a draft of the survey we’re going to send to the units. We’re sending that to Kayleigh tomorrow to be touched up and then we’ll send that to our Key 3s to comment on. Deanna any comments there?”
- “I think she’s probably online to receive that from RT?”
- “We’ve got the package that we use that’s unbiased and neutral.”
- “We can send that to the Key 3 tomorrow afternoon and give them a few days to look at it. Any other updates Ron, Scott, or Roger?”
- “We looked at the four district model in detail last week. Any report there?”
- “We have a full report. Is it possible to get rights to share screens?”

- “We looked at this heat map. The data was great and it was helpful. What does this mean for the overall districts? How do we slice and dice the districts? We went through and thought how do we regroup the different districts based on the data and looking at commonalities. We’ve hit some of the columns: estimated number of units, estimated number of district executives. What we came up with was an analysis of five or six districts. I’m going to skip to six real quickly. We ended up splitting the bottom half. To be honest, we thought two districts with two Des and four districts with one DEs is untenable. We thought six is probably too many. We came down and looked at five. This concept looked at where you’d have two DEs in three districts, and one DE in two districts. We’ve combined Chief Logan and Tecumseh into one district with two DEs.
- “The central which goes into Franklin County a little bit, kind of Ohio Valley with a little more territory. It basically is leaving that and putting one DE there. You have 36 units there. On the eastside, you’re taking the Hocking Valley into the Pickerington area and taking a little bit of a larger view. You have 33 going right through there from the top of the district to the bottom.”
- “Buckeye is large district with units and scouts, but you’re adding Darby Creek to it. It’s a fairly large district. But we thought it would be important to get the two DEs in that area. Here you’re coming Arrowhead, Delaware, and a little bit of Tri-Creek to get another district that’s about 2,100 Scouts. You have three districts with two DEs. The south is two DEs due to the geography. We looked at geography, travel, the amount of volunteers in each one. We put our little chart, and we can go into this chart. It helped us think about how to evenly split where we have the two DEs versus the one DE.”
- “The way that Ken has the line drawn, that represents school district boundaries pretty tightly.”
- “The number of units is the most recently projected number of units?”
- “Yes, the rest of it is all based on the data Lois put on the share drive.”
- “Ken, this looks like the group was leaning toward five not six. That would allow us a certain distribution of DEs. It looks like you put two DEs in the south based on geography, and then said, we have two other districts that can get two DEs. If that’s the case, you made those districts larger membership wise. That’s my take on it.”
- “The data really helped us understand five versus six. There’s a high density in western Franklin County. You have to think about it from that perspective. Then, Carla from the south, thought that made sense. The other two districts we labelled central and east are really not that dissimilar from what they are today.”
- “We liked the idea of having two DEs and the continuity of what we’ll have in the future.”
- “It allows professional development. The new DEs could report to a more experienced DE. If someone is ready and works better alone, they could be in the center two districts.”
- “Any other questions or comments? Did you have any alternatives in there that are worth considering that you want to tweak? Is there any push back or discussion during the group meeting or that this is one we ought to go into?”

- “We can go through and do a finer cut, but it is based on school districts. The central part gives this DE the opportunity to go into that group and develop the program in Madison County because this DE will be very busy in the more populated areas. But we’re open to more discussion.”
- “The other thing we talked about with Athens is do we make it part of the south or keep it here. It’s right along the 33 corridor. There’s good infrastructure for moving up and down the territory.”
- “We thought the biggest thing was which units and school districts would stay with the east and try to make it a very strong and healthy district with 660 cub scouts and 450 Scouts BSA. It’s a very healthy district in number of units. You’re also tying in the leadership from each of these areas and they’re able to form a more cohesive district.”
- “Nobody liked the big south. Realistically what we’re seeing right now is best for the south. I like it.”
- “What were their concerns with the big south?”
- “They were concerned about travelling to district events, and to some extent, they’re correct. One thing that reared it’s head is that there are some units that want to see a professional. These people have been telling me that every once in a while they want to see someone.”
- “I’m not sure that Athens is going to relate to Chillicothe as much as it would with Lancaster. If they’re cut differently, I’m not sure you’ll get any back and forth there.”
- “They would much rather seeing a joining of Chillicothe on that last map.”
- “You can see the five districts, the north has two, the west over here has two, and the south has two. It’s just the central one has one, and the east has one.”
- “There’s no doubt the one in the east will be a busy individual.”
- “If you go to the available chart, you’ll see the
- “That was one of the most population dense areas in terms of possibility.
- “It goes from Athens down to Perry. There are no Scouts today in Perry County but there is some opportunity.”
- “What is a pretty even balance in opportunity to join across all the districts?”
- “Opportunity for DEs is what we’re looking at except for the south which has to be two DEs due to size. When we’re looking at potential, it’s pretty heavy in potential too. The next heaviest would be the west and it gets two DEs though it’s not particularly balanced with worth. Supporting what you’re saying, the three districts with two DEs also have the heaviest potential.”
- “The only thing I would maybe look at is tweaking the east district and moving that one down. Maybe allocating a school district down. I’m looking specifically at the cub scout TAY numbers and playing through how recruitments happen for that many youth. I think this looks really balanced. That one area of Perry does have impact on the overall totals.”
- “You’d most likely have to take out Groveport Madison.”
- “Didn’t we also talk about tweaking that Tri-Creek area and moving it into the central district?”
- “Yeah, that could be done easily.”

- “That’s untapped youth correct?”
- “Yes, that’s what I’m referring to with potential.”
- “That would be good just to see if the balance changes. If the percentage of market served is higher somewhere, that would change it.”
- “The potential is there to grow but you have to think about it realistically?”
- “What’s a more important metric TAY or units served?”
- “They’re all important and that’s part of the conversation. Once we get past this, we need to talk about the priorities of the DE so they’re not chasing patches and flyers all over town. The other factor I had a question on here is adult volunteers.”
- “I can tell you that if there is a district I would want to be in it’s that north district that’s saturated with volunteers.”
- “It feels like a large area that’s very diverse, from suburban to rural. I feel like the east kind of gets screwed. The east suburbs without Gahanna gets sent to north where they have a lot of volunteers.”
- “When you talked about volunteer numbers, I’m not sure I know what you’re saying.”
- “I tried to normalize all the data I could to a school district. I ran that membership totals report out of my.scouting.org which gave me scouts and adult leaders totalled by unit. Then, I assigned units to a school district. It’s representative of how many adults are represented in a unit.”
- “The flip side is would this look equitable enough if the east had two DEs?”
- “Yes, part of what makes this unbalanced to me is this is Reynoldsburg from Athens, but you only get one DE. You have a solid combination of Columbus districts which have different recruiting and activity needs. You’re never going to get someone from Athens to a roundtable in Pickerington.”
- “The key issue is that is one of the ones that gets whittled to a single DE.”
- “This was not intended as a final drawing. This was should we do five or six districts.”
- Lois: “I think four is more equitable to me. How do we be more equitable with everyone getting two DEs and trying to balance as much as we can? It also feels like a better sell. How do we grade our DEs without turning it into a well Buckeye is the super district that no one can compete with.”
- “We’re not going to get perfectly balanced districts across the board. From the district chairs and commissioner side, we felt pretty strongly that we needed to consider at least a few scenarios and submit those to the board so it’s clear that when we’re trying to sell this not just to the board but our volunteer leadership, we looked at a couple scenarios that are fundamentally different so we can present the thought process that we went through. As I’ve said a couple times, this is going to be a pretty big change. I think we’ll have more success selling this if we present that we considered more than one alternative. We all know we considered more than one. We looked at this a couple different ways. Hopefully, it will be easier to sell the decision.”
- “If we go back and look at that map, what if we moved Athens into the south. That’s the one corner that’s kind of hanging out. It would reduce the count and what that membership represents.”

- “I’m looking five or six years down the road at where we have to grow and if we put the resources we have now toward growth.”
- “As we grow, hopefully we grow the opportunity to have staff.”
- “I think we can do two or three scenarios of five. We just didn’t think six made sense.”
- “If we’re going to maintain the constraint that Vinton and Jackson have to be together, then Athens has to go north. If we had outspoken volunteers from other districts, we’d hear the same things from other areas. The other comment I was going to make is that there’s a southern base camp in Chillicothe, probably the biggest city in the south. To a certain extent, if it’s quicker for them to get to Chillicothe than Columbus, they should be affiliated with districts in the south. This map, especially with the central and east district, mixes those two things. One of my concerns with Ohio Valley is that it’s Grove City, Washington Courthouse, and Circleville. I don’t have a perfect solution.”
- “Thinking about the role of the DE and how these districts are different. Pickerington and Reynoldsburg don’t have much in common with Lancaster, but that’s breadth we’re giving to that area.”
- “I know this area in term of churches, but mobility and relationships, I hear references made that they look at the map and see Ross and Athens, then look up at Columbus. Ross doesn’t really have a way to get to Chillicothe. There’s a bit of a barrier there that I want to make sure people are aware. It’s kind of a swing south.”
- “The 33 corridor is probably the most convenient route for the Athens folks to take.”
- “I have a heat map that I created, not with the current data yet
- “I just don’t see people driving one to two hours to a district event. We’re trying to make a functional district right?”
- “Roger, when you expressed your concern about people driving to roundtable or district event, is that from the perspective of the big south or the idea of moving Athens or Hocking over to the big south?”
- “I would love to have another county. That’s another chance for our district to get more engaged. But talking to my volunteers, I just don’t know how we’re going to engage people like that. RT, do you think if you join Tecumseh and Chief Logan one DE could do that?”
- “No, but that also goes for the current iteration of the east district. We could massage things on this model.”
- “Could you keep Hocking Valley as it is with one DE and expand the areas in the north? It would make a lot more units and available youth.”
- “I think there’s still value in trying to optimize a five district map. Let’s take what we’ve seen this evening and have the group address those concerns. Did the four district group do any work last week?”
- “We didn’t meet, but if we need to tweak, we can do that. I can maybe shrink the size of the south to balance out the other three.”
- “One thing I want to walk away with a clearer understanding of is there’s concerns about the eastern district being too long geographically. What are the thoughts if we move Athens over into the south?”

- “Roads lead to Columbus and then diagonally into Cincinnati.”
- “The Athens to Columbus drive is a lot more comfortable.”
- “Would you shrink the eastern district to the Lancaster area?”
- “The other thing I’d look at is moving the Groveport and Canal Winchester units into the central area.”
- “You could take Tri-Creek and divide it into three. How would the district feel if it was split into three?”
- “I think it would be more okay than not. Gahanna could relate to Arrowhead and what’s right there. Reynoldsburg could go over to Licking. I think the pieces in the south like Groveport or Canal could go into the west.”
- “Would we need to move Tri-Creek into the east?”
- “No, I would have the east field Hocking Valley.”
- “If we roughly chop up, Tri-Creele there, it’s going to inflate the areas around it with extra units. We’ve also left Hocking Valley alone and we’ve been struggling in that area. If we were going to chop up Tri-Creek, I’d encourage you to see how we can strengthen all of the community involved.”
- “What are some of the challenges of Hocking Valley?”
- “District level volunteers primarily driven through employee retention issues.”
- “There’s a lot of differences in the areas we have. It kind of makes it sound like junior high.”
- “I struggle with how adding Pickerington to that group is going to help.”
- “What are we looking at in term of unit count?”
- “The initial number I got from my staff was 22, so we were looking to end in the 450 area. I think we’re going to drop 35 maybe 40 units top. We’re definitely in a lull right now. But, there’s a possibility we’re back in schools this fall with rekindling 50 units.”
- “Are the units pretty secure on the recharter tracking document?”
- “District by district yes, overall council numbers no.”
- “I’m seeing an overall council number of 406.”
- “It’s 423, there’s a hiccup in the formula.”
- “It sounds like what we’re asking the group to look at is playing with those lines in Tri-Creek to address the concerns that have been addressed. As an alternative, we’re really talking about playing with those lines.”
- “The drive time for a single person should be a contributing factor there.”
- “We’ll come up with a recommendation that has data fully supporting that to the board. It’s been valuable work. We’ve mostly spent the evening discussing the five district plan. Deanna, anything on communications?”
- “We update the redistricting website, including minutes from our meetings. As we communicate the surveys, we can communicate that we’re incorporating this survey and will keep them updated.”
- “Any other comments, questions or concerns? Your time is very much appreciated.”
- “Thank you to the district research groups and subgroups. We’re all tasked with researching some tough topics. No matter which way we go, we have a fresh field of

opportunities and we're going to strengthen these districts. I really do appreciate all of the work everyone has done."

- "Alright, thanks."
- Chris Sherman ended the meeting at 7:49 p.m.