

**BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Boyertown, Pennsylvania**  
[www.boyertownasd.org](http://www.boyertownasd.org)

**Ad-Hoc Committee for  
School Board Election Plan Options**

**November 14, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Education Center, Board Room**

**Meeting Summary**

Committee attendees: John Crossley, Barbara Hartford, Donna Usavage (chair)

Administration representative: Dave Szablowski

Public attendees: Linda Curry, Brian Gilbert, Greg Gilbert, Ruth Dierolf, Gwen Semmens, Ron Christman, Ryan Barber.

- To introduce the meeting, Donna reviewed the goals and approach of the committee and progress to date. The prioritized list of criteria used to define a good election plan model were finalized and included in the minutes of the last meeting. Also at the last meeting, it was decided that the recommended election plan will be a hybrid model, with the primary recommendation being 3 at-large seats and 2 seats per region. As a backup, the secondary recommendation will be the hybrid with 6 at-large seats and 1 seat per region.

The goals for tonight's meeting: determine the best way to equalize the regions and initiate a conversation about how to transition to the recommended model.

- Mr. Szablowski presented 4 options for equalizing the regions. Each option was discussed and a wall map of the regions and voting districts was referenced.
  - A) Move Douglass Montgomery District 1 from Region 3 to Region 1.
  - B) Move Douglass Montgomery District 1 from Region 3 to Region 2 & move Boyertown District 2 from Region 2 to Region 1.
  - C) Move Douglass Montgomery District 1 from Region 3 to Region 2 & move Douglass Berks District 1 from Region 2 to Region 1.
  - D) Move Douglass Montgomery District 1 from Region 3 to Region 2 & move Douglass Berks District 2 from Region 2 to Region 1.

All options improve upon the overall distribution of population across the regions but also flip the inequity in the opposite direction. It was felt that this is favorable because the current population trends will move the regions toward equalization over time instead of the current model which is moving further away from equalization over time. Option B was not favored because it splits a town borough and moves it to a rural region. Option D was not favored because it impacts a current Board member. Option A is the simplest because it only impacts 1 voting district, but Option C equalizes the regions better. Option C was also favored because it brings all of Douglass Montgomery together in one region, although now Douglass Berks is split

between regions. It was also felt that Option C is likely to stay equalized longer, especially as it relates to Region 2. Region C also keeps the current scenario of 1 region in Montgomery County, 1 region in Berks County and 1 region mixed. Public input was heard.

Option C was selected. Note that committee and public members commented on the helpfulness of the wall map and asked if additional proposals could be considered.

- The committee discussed approaches for transitioning to the recommended hybrid model. The most straightforward approach is to create an at-large seat each time there are 2 seats in a region up for election. This will result in the desired state after 2 election cycles (in 2015) but the interim state would not be a valid election plan option. According to an opinion received from the solicitor, this may not be allowable. However, the opinion refers to a similar approach taken by Abington Heights School District in 2003.

Another approach discussed created 3 at-large seats in the 2013 election. This results in the desired election plan within one election cycle, but the staggered elections are not preserved.

The committee also determined a transition plan for the secondary hybrid option (6 at-large and 1 rep per region), which creates 3 at-large seats in 2013 and again in 2015. This approach maintains a valid election plan option throughout the transition and preserves the staggered elections.

The use of 2-year terms and special elections could be used to resolve some of the issues, but is not recommended unless absolutely necessary.

Donna will follow up with the solicitor regarding the issues raised and attempt to contact Abington Heights prior to the next meeting.

- Next Meeting – Monday, November 26th, 2012 at 6:00pm.  
Tentative agenda:
  - Consider any additional equalization proposals
  - Determine transition plan