

BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Boyertown, Pennsylvania
www.boyertownasd.org

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

November 26, 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, Ruth Dierolf, Gwen Semmens, Ron Christman, Jill Dennin.

- To introduce the meeting, Donna reviewed the goals and approach of the committee, progress to date and goals for tonight's meeting.
- Mr. Szablowski displayed Proposal C, selected as the recommendation for regionalization at the last meeting. Donna acknowledged that several people had commented on how the wall map provided a good visualization of the regions and she allowed for additional proposals to be made by committee members and the public. No additional proposals were assessed. The original recommendation was confirmed.
C) Move Douglass Montgomery District 1 from Region 3 to Region 2 & move Douglass Berks District 1 from Region 2 to Region 1.
- The committee discussed approaches for transitioning to the recommended hybrid model. Mr. Szablowski displayed 2 options for transitioning to primary recommendation for a hybrid model with 3 at-large members and 2 members per region.

The first option creates an at-large seat each time there are 2 seats in a region up for election and achieves the desired model over 2 election cycles. While this approach leaves the Board in an undefined model from 2013 to 2015, it results in a model where the seats are staggered over election cycles evenly overall as well as within each region and the at-large seats. There is precedent for the 2 election cycle approach - Abington Heights School District moved from a 9-region model to a hybrid model in 2003/2005.

The second option creates all 3 at-large seats in the 2013 election and so achieves the desired model in one election cycle. While it results in proper staggering overall, the at-large seats would all be open in one election cycle while all region 2 and region 3 seats would be open in the alternate election cycle. This was thought to be more confusing for the voters and the candidates.

After hearing and responding to public input and questions, the committee decided to recommend the first option but offer the second option as a backup.

The committee also discussed 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. However, the committee felt that the transition plans for the primary hybrid option are viable and preferred.

There were 2 questions regarding the candidate petitions for the at-large seats. How many signatures are needed? And is there a requirement for the signatures to be from people distributed across all 3 regions? Donna agreed to follow up with Mr. Sultanik to confirm answers to these questions.

- The committee discussed the approach to the 12/11 Board meeting recommendation. Mr. Szablowski displayed a powerpoint presentation that could be further populated for the meeting. All were in agreement with the general flow.

It was felt that the motion belongs in the Committee Representatives section of the agenda along with the complete text of the motion. Donna will follow up with Mr. Sultanik to confirm.

After public input was heard, the committee decided to make 2 separate motions: 1 for equalization and 1 for the transition to the hybrid model. Donna will follow up with Mr. Sultanik to request the draft wording for the motions for review at the next meeting.

- Next Meeting – Monday, December 3rd, 2012 at 6:00pm.
(The Wednesday 11/28 meeting was deemed unnecessary and canceled.)
Tentative agenda:
 - Review the motion and presentation for the 12/11 Board meeting.