

# Ad-Hoc Committee for School Board Election Plan Options

Updated Recommendations  
09-05-2013

# Agenda

- Committee Purpose
- Background
- Committee Approach & Current Status
- Election Plan Model Recommendation
- Region Equalization Recommendation
- Transition Plan (updated)
- Summary of Recommendations

# Committee Purpose

The Ad-Hoc Committee for School Board Election Plan Options was chartered on Sept.11, 2012 by the School Board to:

- Explore and recommend one of the election plan options prescribed in Section 3-303(b)(3) of the Public School Code of 1949.
  - Recommendation may include a change in the current 3-region boundaries to equalize the population
- Present recommendation no later than the December 11, 2012 Board meeting

Members:

- Region 1: John Crossley
- Region 2: Barbara Hartford
- Region 3: Donna Usavage (chair)

# Background – Historical Information

- Boyertown Area School District implemented the 3-region election plan model at its formation more than 40 years ago
- The boundaries of the regions were altered to equalize population in 1996.
- Census data shows that the population in Region 3 has been growing quickly while growth is stagnant in other areas, which has created an inequity in population among the regions.
- Various population growth projection models predict that this trend will continue.
- School Board Policy 9110 requires that the School Board uses decennial census data to equalize population across regions to the extent possible.

# Background – Section 3-303(b)(3) of the School Code of 1949

Three election plan formats prescribed:

- At-large – All 9 members elected district-wide
- Regional – The district is divided into 3 or 9 regions, with population being as nearly equal as possible in each region.
- Combination (or hybrid) – The district is divided into 3 regions with either 3 or 6 members elected at large.

# Committee Approach & Current Status

- Committee Proceedings (6 meetings Oct-Dec 2012)
  1. Established a prioritized list of criteria defining a good election plan model
  2. Evaluated and selected an election plan model
  3. Because selected election plan model contains regions, evaluated and recommended best approach to equalization
  4. Determined transition plan
  5. Made recommendation to the Board
- Board Action – approved recommendations (12/11/2012)
- Court of Common Pleas
  - Petition / Hearing (02/07/2013) – School Board / Intervenors
  - Court Ruling (02/015/2013) – Denied petition “without prejudice” in consideration of the short lead time for the present election cycle.

Community input considered key to the process!

# Prioritized list of election plan criteria

## Most important

Encourages community unity

Voters feel they are being represented equally

## Very important

Can vote for whom you wish

Good socio-economic representation (diverse pool of candidates)

Candidates feel they represent the entire district

## Important

Convenience to polling places for voters

Candidates known by all voters

Clear/simple for voters

Constituents feel that candidates represent entire district

Community feels close constituency relationship

Candidates not discouraged from running

Does not encourage candidates from just one geographic area or county

Promotes election of candidates that understand diverse community viewpoints

Minimizes maintenance of election model

Change to election model does not impact current Board members

Community participated in brainstorming and prioritization

# Evaluation of Election Plan Models

## Considerations:

- Prioritized list of election plan criteria
- PSBA data on PA school district election plan models

Each table of community members tasked with making a recommendation.

Some tables represented only one coming-in opinion.

Some tables represented opposing views.

**ALL tables recommended the hybrid model!**

## **Committee recommendation = hybrid model**

- Preliminary recommendation = 3 at-large reps + 2 reps per region.
- Secondary recommendation = 6 at-large reps + 1 rep per region  
(to be used if the transition to the prelim recommendation is unworkable)

Encourages community unity (a “most important” criteria) – observed

Can vote for whom you wish (a “very important” criteria) –  
all voters have input to the election of 5 Board members (a majority)



# Voting Region Equalization

## Considerations:

- 2000 US Census Data applied to current 3-region model
- 2010 US Census Data applied to current and proposed regions
- PEL study population projections applied to current and proposed regions
- Geography and region characteristics (e.g. rural, suburban, town)
- Prioritized list of election plan criteria
- Section 3-303(b)(3) of the PA School Code of 1949
- Section 502 of the PA Election Code

## 4 proposals considered

- All proposals reduced population variation across regions
- All proposals reversed the inequity between regions 1 and 3
  - This reversed inequity will be counteracted by the population growth trends
- Proposals C & D not viable – create non-contiguous regions
- Proposal D not preferred – impacts a current Board member
- Proposal B not preferred – splits a borough
- Proposal A recommended

Community participated in evaluation of proposals  
Community invited to submit proposals

# 2000 Population by Region

REGION 1

MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Bally	1	1,062
Bechtelsville	1	931
Colebrookdale	1	5,270
Colebrookdale	2	
Earl	1	3,050
Earl	2	
Washington	1	3,354
TOTAL		13,667
TARGET VARIANCE		151
% of TOTAL		33.71%

REGION II

MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Boyertown	1	3,940
Boyertown	2	
Douglass, Berks	1	3,327
Douglass, Berks	2	
Douglass, Montgomery	2	6,779
Douglass, Montgomery	3	
Douglass, Montgomery	4	
TOTAL		14,046
TARGET VARIANCE		530
% of TOTAL		34.64%

REGION III

MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Douglass, Montgomery	1	2,325
New Hanover	1	7,369
New Hanover	2	
New Hanover	3	
Upper Frederick	1	3,141

TOTAL	12,835
TARGET VARIANCE	(681)
% of TOTAL	31.65%

GRAND TOTAL	40,548
TARGET PER VOTING REGION	13,516

## 2000 VOTING REGION POPULATION

# 2010 Population by Region

## REGION 1

Crossley	Earl	1
Haas	Colebrookdale	2
Parsons	Colebrookdale	1
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Bally	1	1,090
Bechtelsville	1	942
Colebrookdale	1	3,140
Colebrookdale	2	1,938
Earl	1	1,446
Earl	2	1,749
Washington	1	3,810
TOTAL		14,115
TARGET VARIANCE		(1,263)
% of TOTAL		30.60%

## REGION II

Dierolf	Douglass, Berks	2
Elsier	Douglass, Mont	4
Hartford	Douglass, Mont	3
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Boyertown	1	2,088
Boyertown	2	1,967
Douglass, Berks	1	1,551
Douglass, Berks	2	1,755
Douglass, Montgomery	2	2,392
Douglass, Montgomery	3	3,217
Douglass, Montgomery	4	2,440
TOTAL		15,410
TARGET VARIANCE		32
% of TOTAL		33.40%

## REGION III

Christman	New Hanover	3
Semmens	Upper Frederick	1
Usavage	Upper Frederick	1
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Douglass, Montgomery	1	2,146
New Hanover	1	2,282
New Hanover	2	4,636
New Hanover	3	4,021
Upper Frederick	1	3,523
TOTAL		16,608
TARGET VARIANCE		1,230
% of TOTAL		36.00%

GRAND TOTAL	46,133
TARGET PER VOTING REGION	15,378

**2010 VOTING REGION POPULATION (Current)**  
**(Based on 2010 Census)**

# Current Regions



# Region Equalization Proposal A

Step 3



REGION 1

Crossley	Earl	1
Haas	Colebrookdale	2
Parsons	Colebrookdale	1
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Bally	1	1,090
Bechtelsville	1	942
Colebrookdale	1	3,140
Colebrookdale	2	1,938
Earl	1	1,446
Earl	2	1,749
Washington	1	3,810
Douglass, Montgomery	1	2,146
	TOTAL	16,261
	TARGET VARIANCE	883
	% of TOTAL	35.25%

REGION II

Dierolf	Douglass, Berks	2
Elsier	Douglass, Mont	4
Hartford	Douglass, Mont	3
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Boyertown	1	2,088
Boyertown	2	1,967
Douglass, Berks	1	1,551
Douglass, Berks	2	1,755
Douglass, Montgomery	2	2,392
Douglass, Montgomery	3	3,217
Douglass, Montgomery	4	2,440
	TOTAL	15,410
	TARGET VARIANCE	32
	% of TOTAL	33.40%

REGION III

Christman	New Hanover	3
Semmens	Upper Frederick	1
Usavage	Upper Frederick	1
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
New Hanover	1	2,282
New Hanover	2	4,636
New Hanover	3	4,021
Upper Frederick	1	3,523
	TOTAL	14,462
	TARGET VARIANCE	(916)
	% of TOTAL	31.35%

GRAND TOTAL	46,133
TARGET PER VOTING REGION	15,378

## PROPOSAL A

Move Douglass Montco District 1 from Region 3 to Region 1



### Step 3



# Region Equalization Proposal B

Step 3



REGION 1

Crossley	Earl	1
Haas	Colebrookdale	2
Parsons	Colebrookdale	1
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Bally	1	1,090
Bechtelsville	1	942
Colebrookdale	1	3,140
Colebrookdale	2	1,938
Earl	1	1,446
Earl	2	1,749
Washington	1	3,810
Boyertown	2	1,967
	TOTAL	16,082
	TARGET VARIANCE	704
	% of TOTAL	34.86%

REGION II

Dierolf	Douglass, Berks	2
Elsier	Douglass, Mont	4
Hartford	Douglass, Mont	3
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Boyertown	1	2,088
Douglass, Berks	1	1,551
Douglass, Berks	2	1,755
Douglass, Montgomery	2	2,392
Douglass, Montgomery	3	3,217
Douglass, Montgomery	4	2,440
Douglass, Montgomery	1	2,146
	TOTAL	15,589
	TARGET VARIANCE	211
	% of TOTAL	33.79%

REGION III

Christman	New Hanover	3
Semmens	Upper Frederick	1
Usavage	Upper Frederick	1
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
New Hanover	1	2,282
New Hanover	2	4,636
New Hanover	3	4,021
Upper Frederick	1	3,523
	TOTAL	14,462
	TARGET VARIANCE	(916)
	% of TOTAL	31.35%

GRAND TOTAL	46,133
TARGET PER VOTING REGION	15,378

## PROPOSAL B

move Douglass Township (Montgomery County) voting precinct 1 from Region 3 to Region 2  
and  
move Boyertown voting precinct 2 from Region 2 to Region 1



# Proposal B





# Region Equalization Proposal C

Step 3



## REGION 1

Crossley	Earl	1
Haas	Colebrookdale	2
Parsons	Colebrookdale	1
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Bally	1	1,090
Bechtelsville	1	942
Colebrookdale	1	3,140
Colebrookdale	2	1,938
Earl	1	1,446
Earl	2	1,749
Washington	1	3,810
Douglass, Berks	1	1,551
TOTAL		15,666
TARGET VARIANCE		288
% of TOTAL		33.96%

## REGION II

Dierolf	Douglass, Berks	2
Elsier	Douglass, Mont	4
Hartford	Douglass, Mont	3
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Boyertown	1	2,088
Boyertown	2	1,967
Douglass, Berks	2	1,755
Douglass, Montgomery	2	2,392
Douglass, Montgomery	3	3,217
Douglass, Montgomery	4	2,440
Douglass, Montgomery	1	2,146
TOTAL		16,005
TARGET VARIANCE		627
% of TOTAL		34.69%

## REGION III

Christman	New Hanover	3
Semmens	Upper Frederick	1
Usavage	Upper Frederick	1
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
New Hanover	1	2,282
New Hanover	2	4,636
New Hanover	3	4,021
Upper Frederick	1	3,523
TOTAL		14,462
TARGET VARIANCE		(916)
% of TOTAL		31.35%

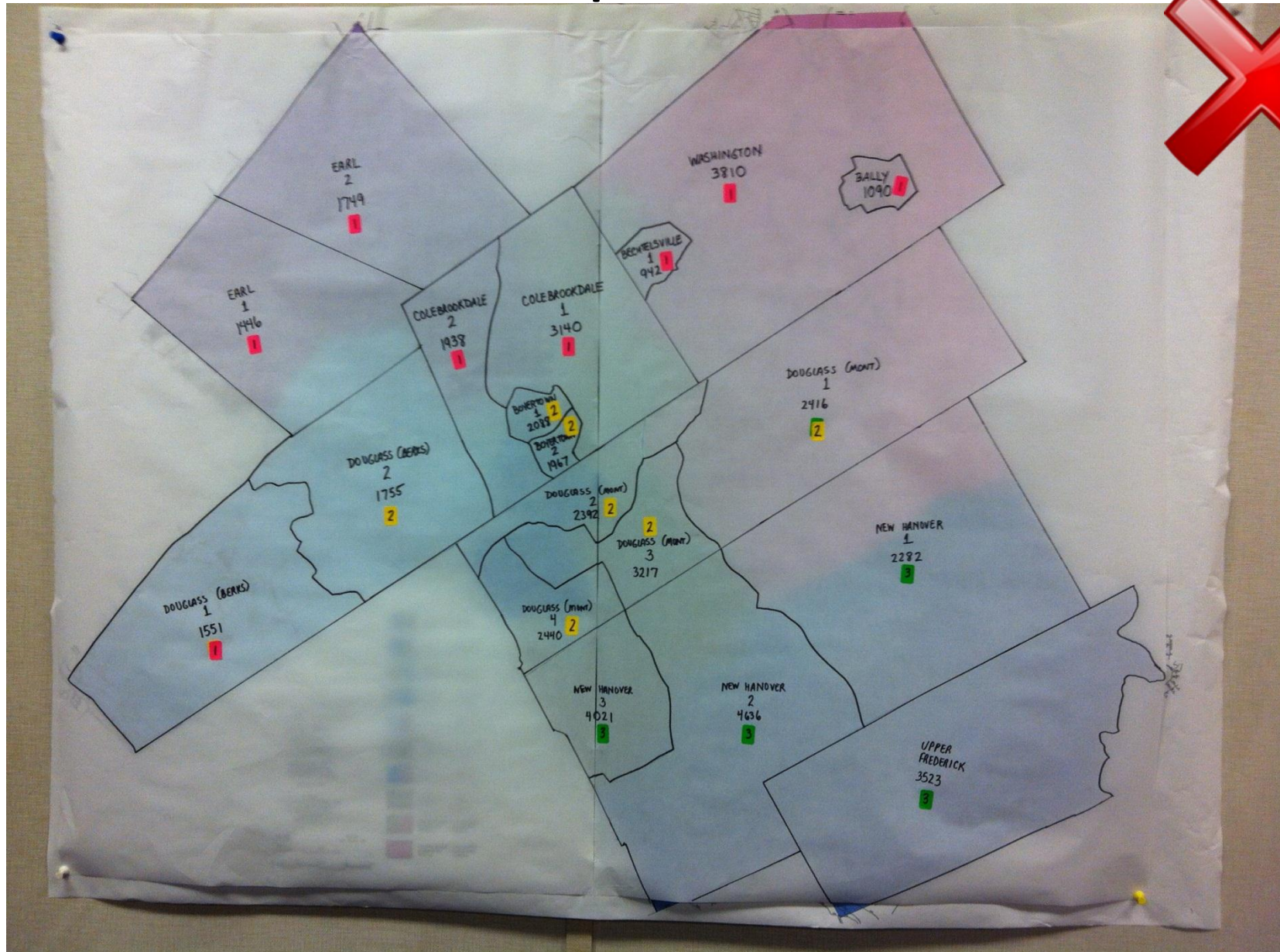
GRAND TOTAL	46,133
TARGET PER VOTING REGION	15,378

## PROPOSAL C

move Douglass Township (Montgomery County) voting precinct 1 from Region 3 to Region 2  
and  
move Douglass Berks voting precinct 1 from Region 2 to Region 1

# Proposal C

Step 3



# Region Equalization Proposal D

Step 3



## REGION 1

Crossley Earl 1  
Haas Colebrookdale 2  
Parsons Colebrookdale 1  
Dierolf Douglass, Berks 2

MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Bally	1	1,090
Bechtelsville	1	942
Colebrookdale	1	3,140
Colebrookdale	2	1,938
Earl	1	1,446
Earl	2	1,749
Washington	1	3,810
Douglass, Berks	2	1,755
	TOTAL	15,870
	TARGET VARIANCE	492
	% of TOTAL	34.40%

GRAND TOTAL	46,133
TARGET PER VOTING REGION	15,378

## REGION II

Elsier Douglass, Mont 4  
Hartford Douglass, Mont 3

MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Boyertown	1	2,088
Boyertown	2	1,967
Douglass, Berks	1	1,551
Douglass, Montgomery	2	2,392
Douglass, Montgomery	3	3,217
Douglass, Montgomery	4	2,440
Douglass, Montgomery	1	2,146
	TOTAL	15,801
	TARGET VARIANCE	423
	% of TOTAL	34.25%

## REGION III

Christman New Hanover 3  
Semmens Upper Frederick 1  
Usavage Upper Frederick 1

MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
New Hanover	1	2,282
New Hanover	2	4,636
New Hanover	3	4,021
Upper Frederick	1	3,523

TOTAL	14,462
TARGET VARIANCE	(916)
% of TOTAL	31.35%

## PROPOSAL D

move Douglass Township (Montgomery County) voting precinct 1 from Region 3 to Region 2  
and  
move Douglass Berks voting precinct 2 from Region 2 to Region 1



# Proposal D

Step 3



# Committee Recommendation on <sup>Step 3</sup> Region Equalization

## **Committee recommendation = Proposal A**

- **Move Douglass Township (Montgomery County) voting precinct 1 from Region 3 to Region 1**

### Rationale:

- Equalizes population across regions to the extent possible (per School Code)
- Equalization likely to improve even more due to population trends
- Only one precinct impacted (limited disruption)
- Precinct moved to a region with similar characteristics (rural)
- Does not impact current Board members (no disruption)

Voters feel they are being represented equally  
(a “most important” criteria)

# Transition Plan

## Considerations:

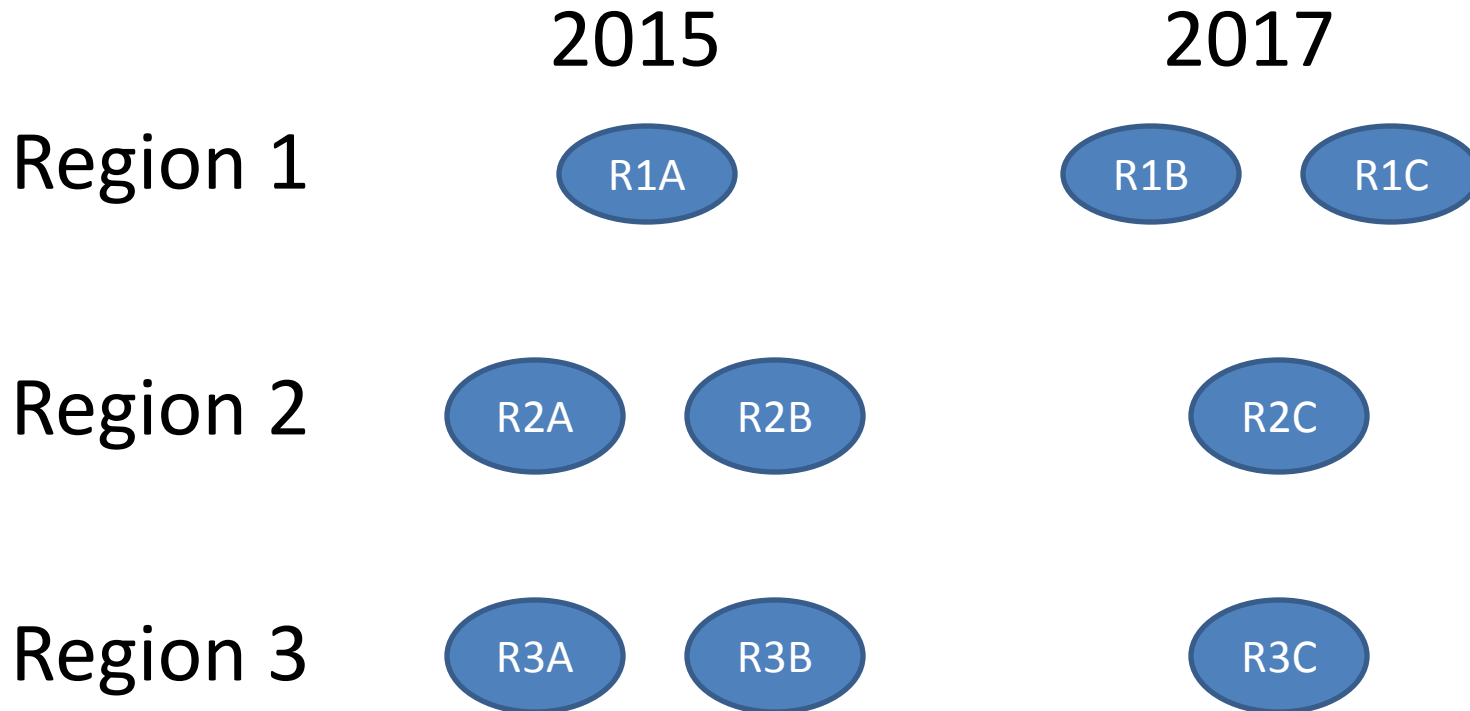
- Section 3-303(b)(3) of the School Code of 1949
  - Allowable election plans
  - Staggering of elections
- Voter experience
- Candidate experience
- Disruption to the Board

2 proposals considered for transition to hybrid model with 3 at-large reps + 2 reps per region (primary)

1 proposal discussed for transition to hybrid model with 6 at-large reps + 1 rep per region (secondary)

Community participated in discussion of transition plans

# Current Board Election Schedule



# 6 Region Directors with 3 At-Large

Step 4

## Transition Plan

(UPDATED for 2015/2017 implementation)

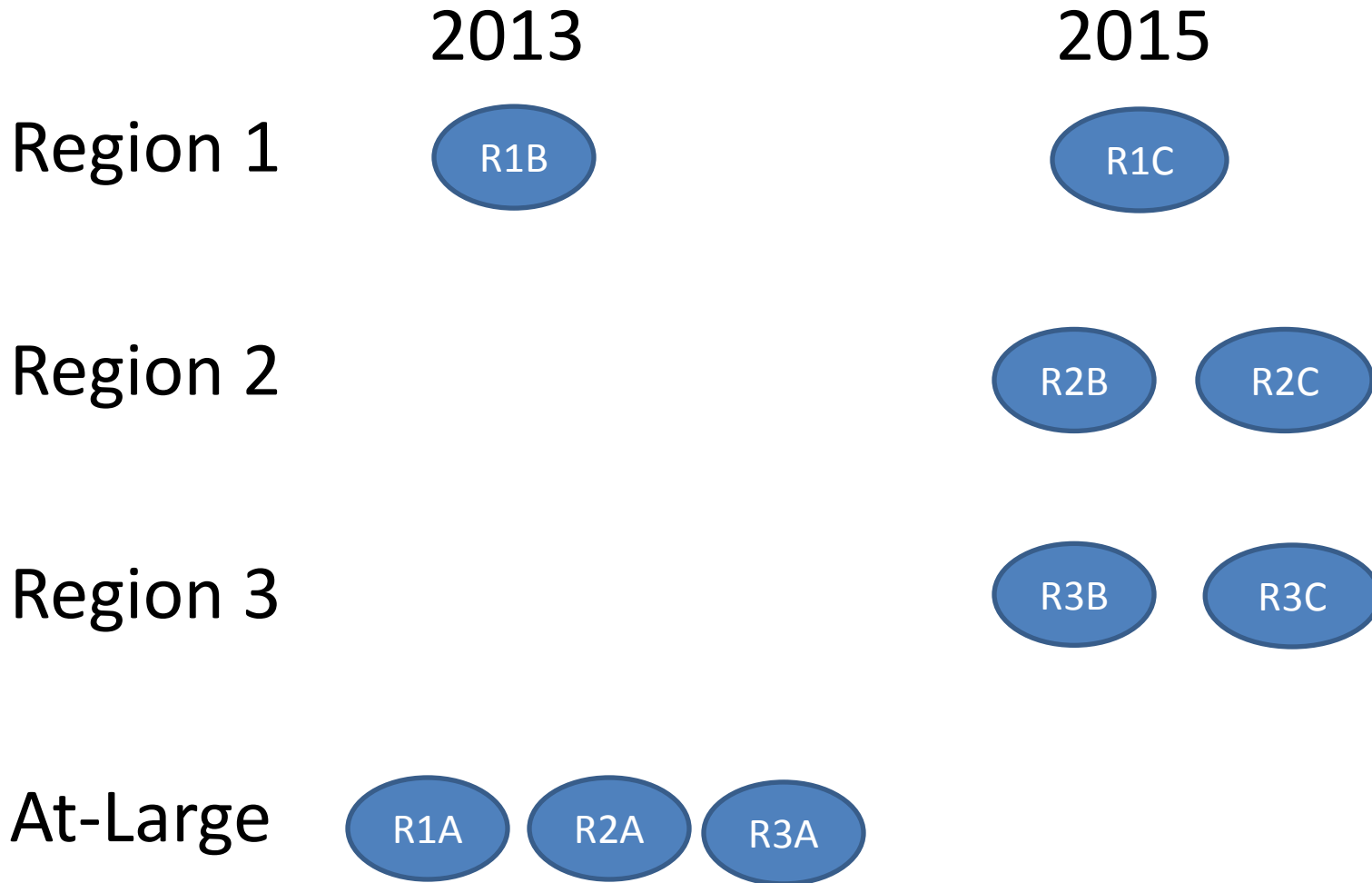


	2015	2017
Region 1	R1A	R1C
Region 2	R2A	R2C
Region 3	R3A	R3C
At-Large	R2B R3B	R1B

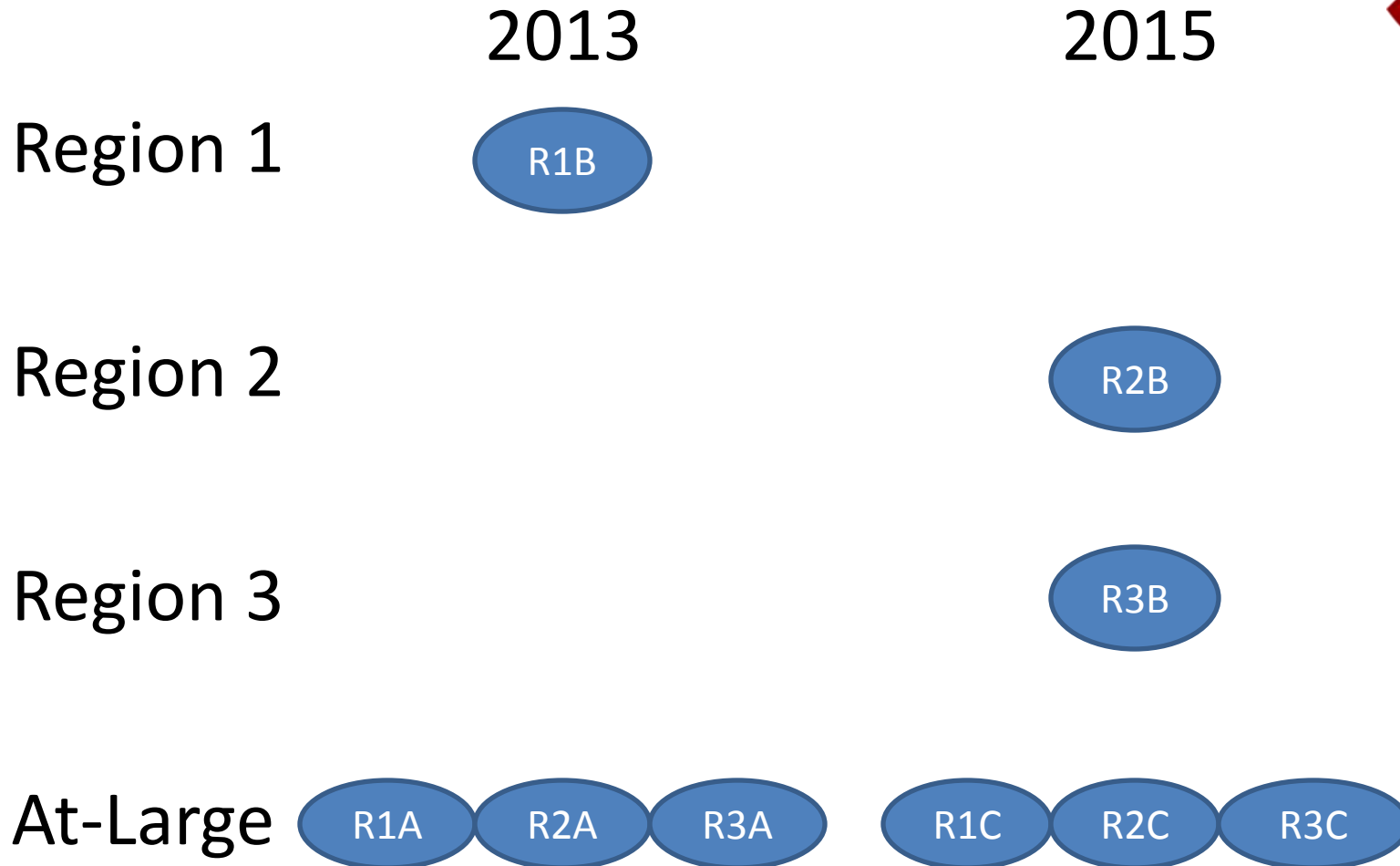


# 6 Region Directors with 3 At-Large<sup>Step 4</sup>

## Transition Plan (alternate)



# 3 Region Directors with 6 At-Large<sup>Step 4</sup> Transition Plan



# Recommendation to the Board

- Hybrid Election Plan Model with 3 members elected at large and 2 members elected within each region
- Equalization Proposal A – Move Douglass Township (Montgomery County) voting precinct 1 from Region 3 to Region 1
- Transition Plan
  - 2015: 2 Board members elected at large to replace one of the regional seats from both region 2 and region 3
  - 2017: 1 Board member elected at large to replace one of the regional seats from region 1

# Region Equalization Proposal A

Step 5

## REGION 1

Crossley	Earl	1
Haas	Colebrookdale	2
Parsons	Colebrookdale	1
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
Bally	1	1,090
Bechtelsville	1	942
Colebrookdale	1	3,140
Colebrookdale	2	1,938
Earl	1	1,446
Earl	2	1,749
Washington	1	3,810
Douglass, Montgomery	1	2,146
	TOTAL	16,261
	TARGET VARIANCE	883
	% of TOTAL	35.25%

## REGION II

Dierolf	Douglass, Berks	2
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Hartford	Douglass, Mont	3
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
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Douglass, Berks	2	1,755
Douglass, Montgomery	2	2,392
Douglass, Montgomery	3	3,217
Douglass, Montgomery	4	2,440
	TOTAL	15,410
	TARGET VARIANCE	32
	% of TOTAL	33.40%

## REGION III

Christman	New Hanover	3
Semmens	Upper Frederick	1
Usavage	Upper Frederick	1
MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT	BY VOTING DISTRICT
New Hanover	1	2,282
New Hanover	2	4,636
New Hanover	3	4,021
Upper Frederick	1	3,523
	TOTAL	14,462
	TARGET VARIANCE	(916)
	% of TOTAL	31.35%

GRAND TOTAL	46,133
TARGET PER VOTING REGION	15,378

## PROPOSAL A

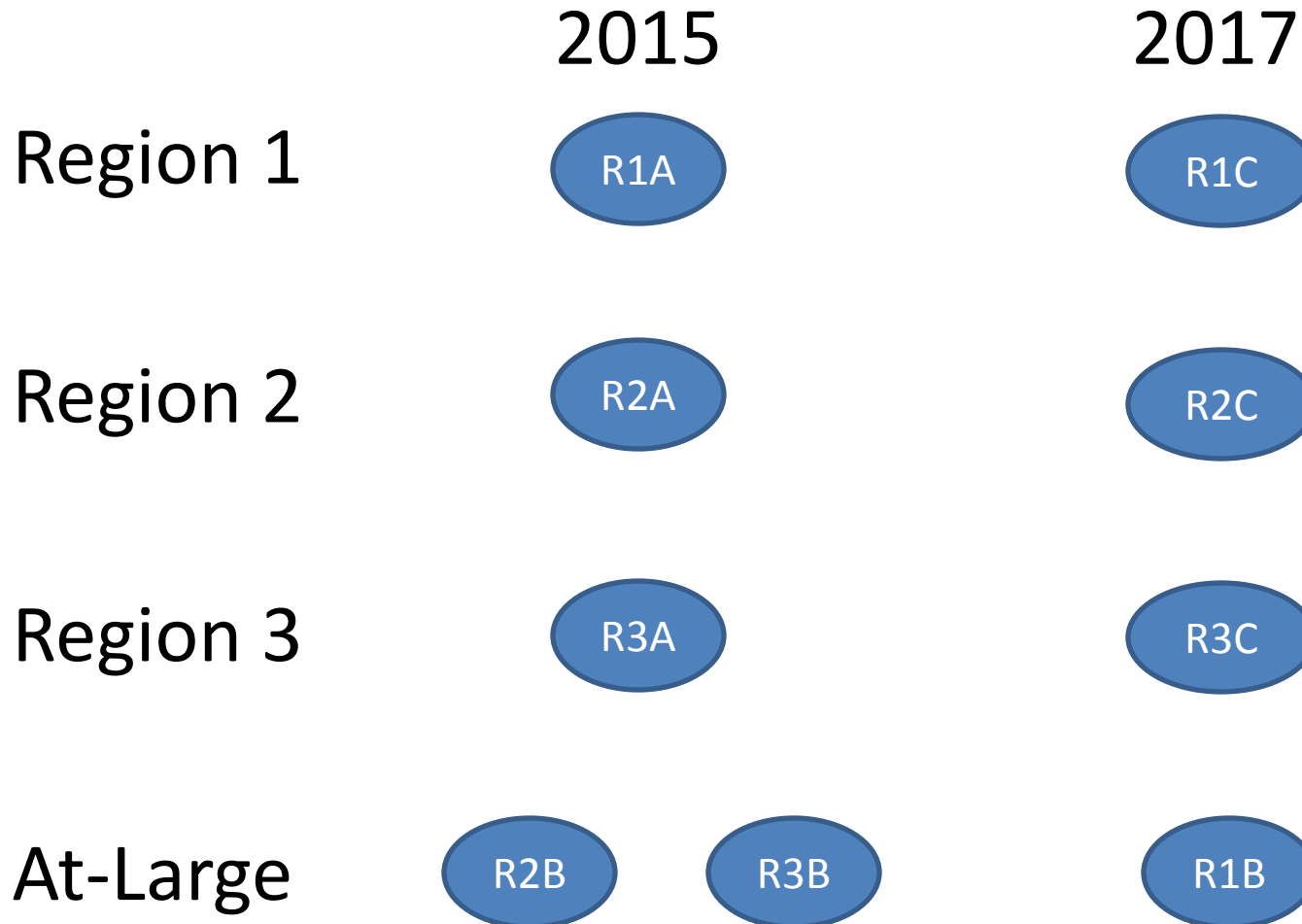
Move Douglass Montco District 1 from Region 3 to Region 1



# 6 Region Directors with 3 At-Large Step 4

## Transition Plan

(UPDATED for 2015/2017 implementation)



# Background Information



# PA School Code

PA School Code Section 303. Number and Election in Districts of the Second, Third and Fourth Classes; Terms of Office –

- (a) In each school district of the second class, and on and after July 1, 1966, or if there is advance establishment July 1, 1964, or July 1, 1965, as the case may be, in each school district of the second, third and fourth class, there shall be a board of nine (9) school directors, who, except as otherwise provided in this act, shall be elected at large for terms of six (6) years. The terms of three of the members shall expire on the first Monday of December of each odd numbered year, as now provided by law. At each municipal election, three school directors, except as otherwise provided in this act, shall be elected at large for terms of six (6) years. Their terms of office shall begin on the first Monday of December following their election. Beginning with the terms to be filled at the municipal election held in 1979 and each odd numbered year thereafter, the terms of school directors so elected shall be four (4) years, except that at the municipal election in 1983, five (5) school directors shall be elected for terms of four (4) years and one (1) for a term of two (2) years. At the municipal election in 1985 and every four (4) years thereafter, four (4) directors shall be elected for terms of four (4) years. At the municipal election in 1987 and every four (4) years thereafter, five (5) directors shall be elected for terms of four (4) years. The board shall select by lot, prior to the time for filing of nomination petitions, the vacancy that is to be filled for a two (2) year term in 1983. ((a) amended Dec. 17, 1982, P.L.1378, No.316)
- (b) (1) The interim operating committee or the board of school directors may develop a plan to elect school directors from regions or to elect some school directors at large and some from regions. Such a plan may also be developed by the resident electors of a school district as provided herein and shall have the same effect as one developed by the board of school directors.
- (2) Electors equal to at least twenty-five (25) per centum of the highest vote cast for any school director in the last municipal election may develop a plan to elect school directors from regions or to elect some school directors from regions and some from the school district at large. Plans proposed by electors shall be subject to the same requirements as plans proposed by the board of school directors.
- (3) The boundaries of the regions shall be fixed and established in such manner that the population of each region shall be as nearly equal as possible and shall be compatible with the boundaries of election districts. Such plan for the division of the school district shall be submitted for approval to the court of common pleas. If approved by such court, the clerk thereof shall certify the regional boundaries contained therein to the county board of elections. In the event of any division, redivision, alteration, change or consolidation of election districts which renders regional boundaries incompatible with the boundaries of election districts, a new plan shall be developed and submitted for court approval in like manner. Any proposed change in an approved plan, including abolition of regional representation, shall be submitted for approval to the court of common pleas by the board of school directors, or by a petition of the resident electors within the district. Where a region plan is approved, school directors who reside in each region shall be elected by and from each region. At all times each region shall be represented by directors elected or appointed from that region. Where a combination at large and region plan is approved, all regions shall have an equal number of school directors who reside in each region and who shall be elected or appointed by and from each region. At all times each region shall be represented by a director or directors elected or appointed from that region. All plans shall provide that three school directors shall be elected at each municipal election. In a combination at large and region plan, the number of regions shall be three. In a region plan not combining at large directors, the number of regions shall be three or nine.
- ((b) amended July 1, 1978, P.L.575, No.105)
- (c) In any case where the newly established school district is situated in two or more counties, the plan for regional representation provided for herein shall be submitted for approval to the court of quarter sessions of the county in which the largest part in area of the land affected is situated, which court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the matter.



# PA Election Code

Section 502: ... When a school district crosses county lines, the regions of the school district shall be composed of contiguous election districts.

# BASD Policy 9110

Bylaws of the Board

9110

Organization

Number of Members and Terms of Office

Review of Voting Districts for Equalization  
Following Decennial Census

The Board of School Directors of Boyertown Area School District is organized to provide proportionate representation according to population. This is accomplished by means of the creation of three regions, with three directors from each region, as follows: Region I - Bechtelsville Borough, Washington Township, Bally Borough, Colebrookdale Township, and Earl Township; Region II - Boyertown Borough, Douglass Township (Berks County), and Douglass Township (Districts II, III and IV of Montgomery County); and Region III - Douglass Township (District I of Montgomery County), New Hanover Township, and Upper Frederick Township.

Within one hundred twenty days of receipt of the results of the United States decennial census, the Board of School Directors, in order to assess whether or not regions comply with constitutional requirements, shall review the best available census data for the purpose of assessing equalization/population balance in each of the voting regions within the school district. The Board shall appoint a committee of three board members and a member of the district administration who shall serve on the review committee and report to the Board of School Directors its findings and recommendations to ensure equalization to the extent possible among the various voting regions. Following receipt of the committee's recommendation, the Board of School Directors, following consultation with the board solicitor, shall take the required steps to file a court petition to adjust the regions in order to achieve equalization as nearly as possible or shall take such other actions as may be required or advisable pursuant to law.

Board of School Directors  
Boyertown Area School District  
Boyertown, Pennsylvania

Policy Adopted: 12/13/65  
Policy Amended: 1/28/97  
Policy Revised: 11/12/02

# Court of Common Pleas Ruling

Feb. 15, 2013 3:26 PM

46.246 | P. 2

IN RE:  
PETITION TO REALIGN REGIONAL  
ELECTION DISTRICTS AND REVISE  
ELECTION PLAN FORMAT IN  
BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
OF BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

NO. CP-06-MD-2270-2012

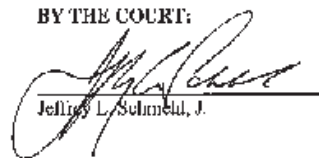
JEFFREY L. SCHMEIL, J.

## ORDER

AND NOW, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013, upon consideration of the Petition of Boyertown Area School District to Realign Regional Election Districts and Revise Election Plan Format, Intervenor's Response thereto, and all supporting briefs, and after hearing held, it is hereby **ORDERED** as follows:

Especially in consideration of the short lead time for the present election cycle, the Court is not confident that approval of the current petition, as opposed to retention of the existing election districts and election plan format, is in the best interests of the school district. Accordingly, the Petition is **DENIED** at the present time, without prejudice to the subsequent filing of a similar or revised petition farther in advance of, and to take effect during, the 2015 election cycle.

BY THE COURT:

  
Jeffrey L. Schmeil, J.

Certified Distribution:  
Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Esq.  
David H. Comer, Esq.  
Andrew W. Bonekemper, Esq.  
Frederick K. Hatt, Esq.