Ad Hoc Committee for Redistricting

October 28, 2025

7:00pm

TEAO

I. Review Timeline

II. Review Legal Considerations

III. Discuss Parameters

IV. Discuss Approaches

V. Establish Next Steps

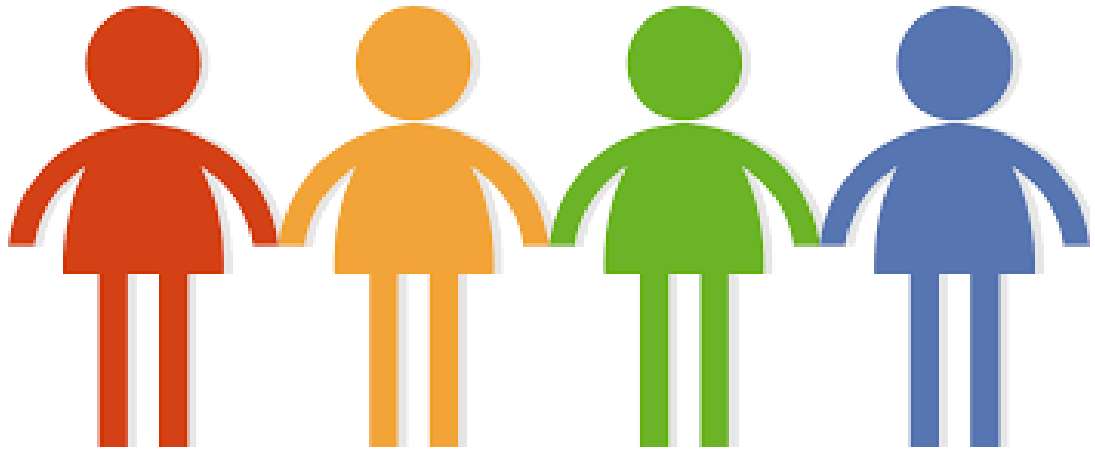
VI. Next Meeting Date – TBD

TESD Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee

October 2025

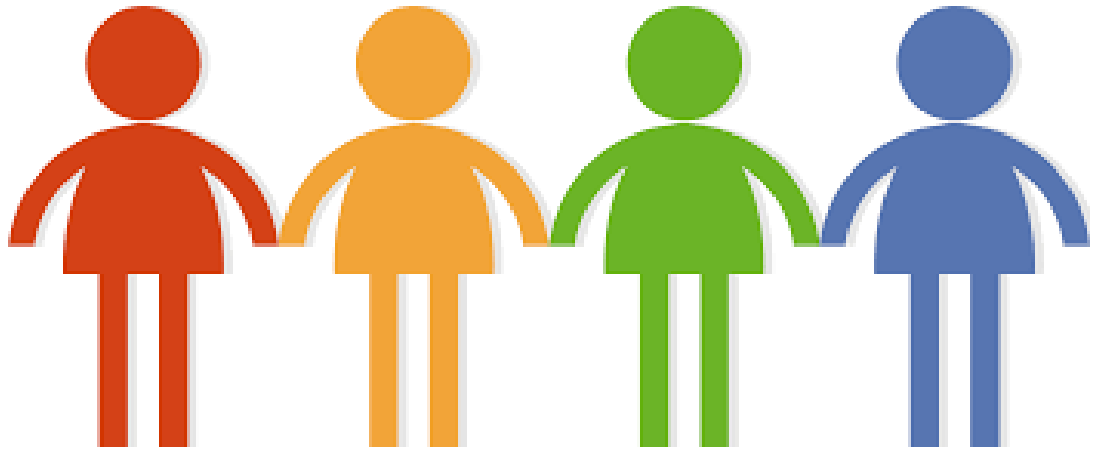
Meeting Agenda

- Review Timeline
- Review Legal Considerations
- Discuss Parameters
- Discuss Approaches
- Establish Next Steps



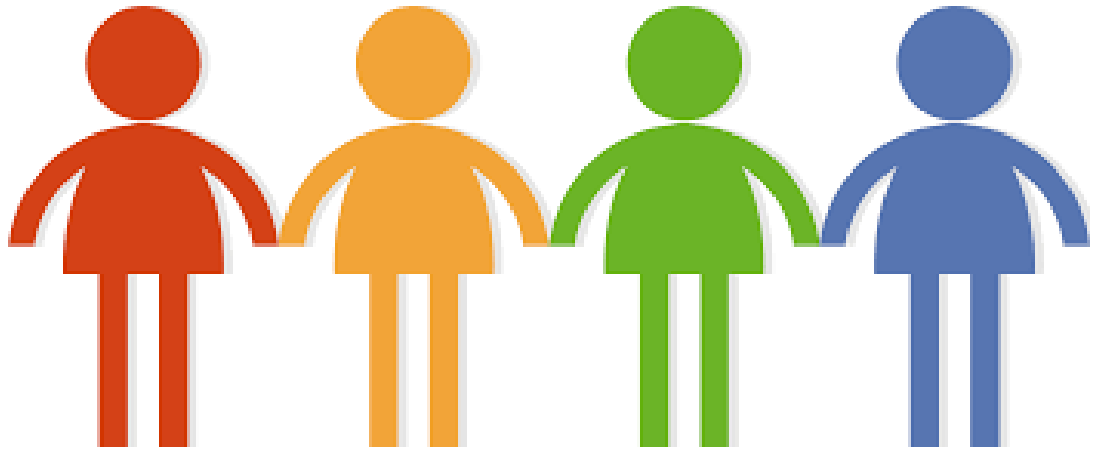
Background

- May 2024 – School Board voted to authorize the plan for Bear Hill Elementary School (BHES), including development of a new enrollment areas map
- Because BHES will be the first new school built in the district in over 50 years, it is necessary to review enrollment and attendance boundaries across the district.



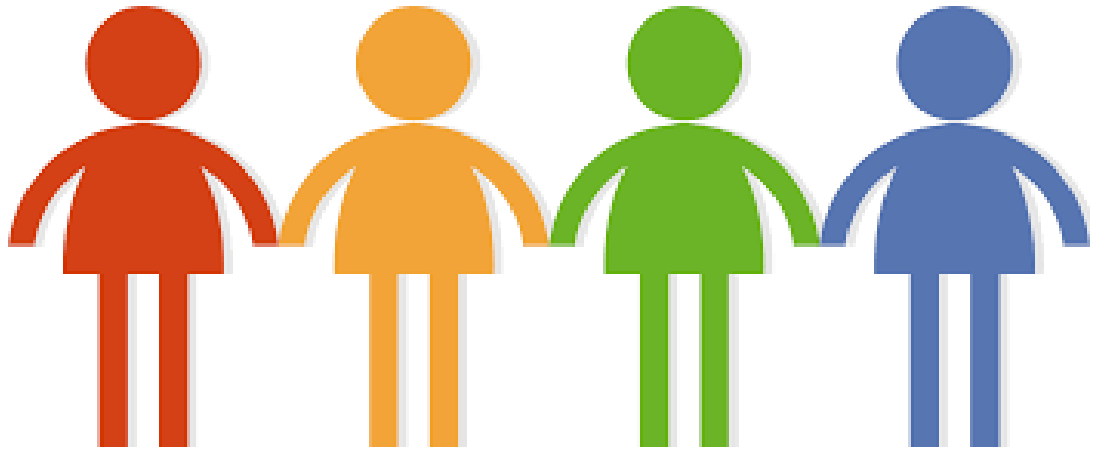
BHES Redistricting Timeline

- *Summer 2025 –District administration gathers information for Ad Hoc Committee*
- Fall 2025 – Ad Hoc committee develops parameters and work plan
- Spring 2026 – Selection of District steering committee members
- Summer & early Fall 2026 – District steering committee work
- Late Fall 2026/Winter 2027– Presentation of plan & Board vote
- Winter/Spring 2027 – Implementation of transition activities

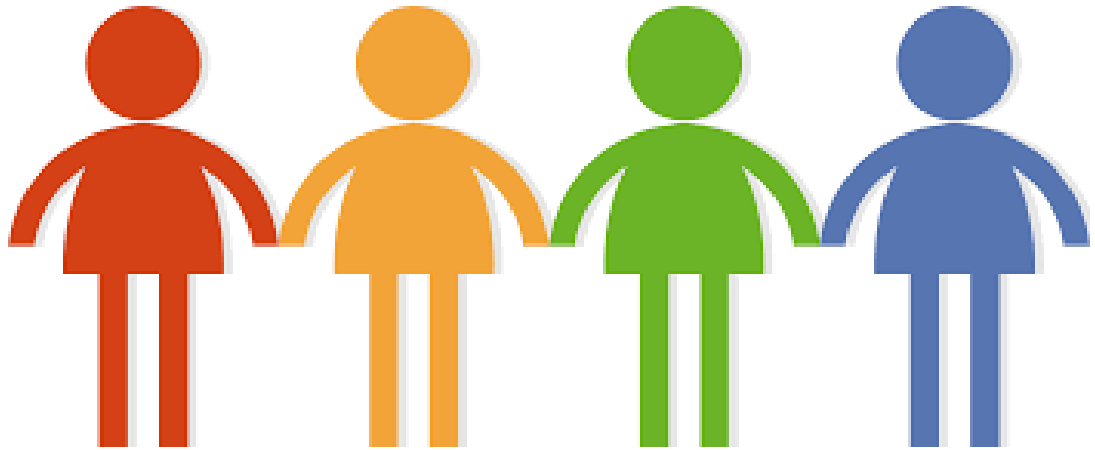


Goal of Redistricting

- To create 6 school enrollment areas for the new building configuration where all students and families can have similar experiences and feel connected to their school communities.

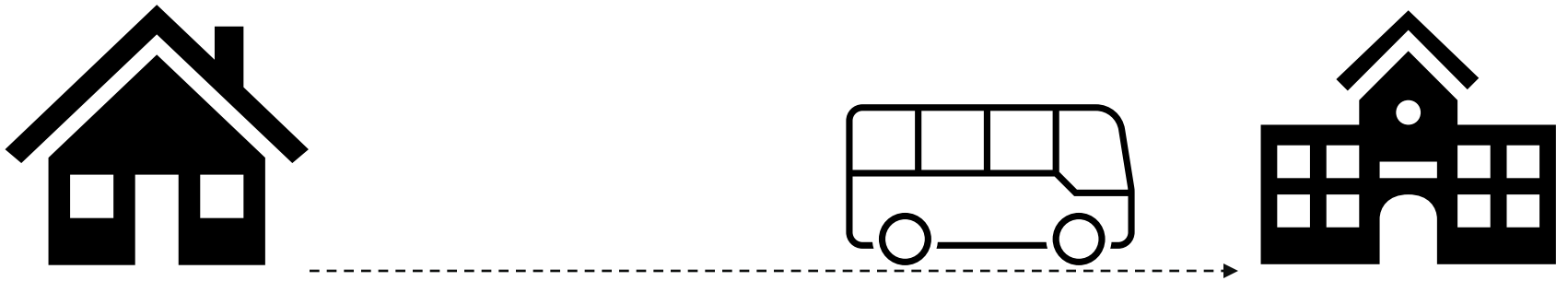


Legal Considerations



Legally Defensible Criteria to Consider for Balancing Attendance Areas

- Numbers of students
- Number of schools
- Transportation routes
- Contiguous districts
- Proximity to attending schools
- Reasonably shaped districts



Summary of Legal Decisions on Redistricting

- School Board
  - Has the authority to assign pupils to schools
  - Must adhere to laws
  - Must act within its scope of authority
  - Must inquiry into the facts necessary to form an intelligent judgment
  - Cannot act in bad faith
  - Cannot use race as a determining factor

- If students are being moved to a new school, the new school should have adequate facilities and offer similar educational opportunities as the original school.

School Code -§13-1310- Assignment of Pupils to Schools

(a) The board of school directors of every school district … shall, for the purpose of designating the schools to be attended by the several pupils in the district …, subdivide the district … in such manner that all the pupils in the district shall be assigned to, and reasonably accommodated in, one of the public schools in the district ….

Hibbs v. Arensberg, 276 Pa. 24, 26 (Pa. Supreme Court 1923).

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Zebra V. Pittsburgh Sch. Dist., 449 Pa. 432 (Pa. Supreme Court 1972)

"Judicial interference with a school board's performance of its discretionary duties can only be sustained where it is clearly shown that the school board acted outside the scope of its statutory authority or in bad faith." p. 437

"The assignment of school students to classes in a particular building within the school district is a talk to which school boards are particularly well suited." p. 441

Miller v. Lower Merion Sch. Dist., 21 Pa. Commw. 516 (Pa. Commw. Court 1975)

An order by a board of school directors transferring certain children from one elementary school to another will not set aside when the evidence indicates that the teaching techniques are identical, the new school has adequate facilities approved by the department of education, the order was necessary and reasonable and was not arbitrary or capricious.

Balsbaugh v. Rowland, 447 Pa. 423, 290 A.2d 85 (Pa. Supreme Court 1972)

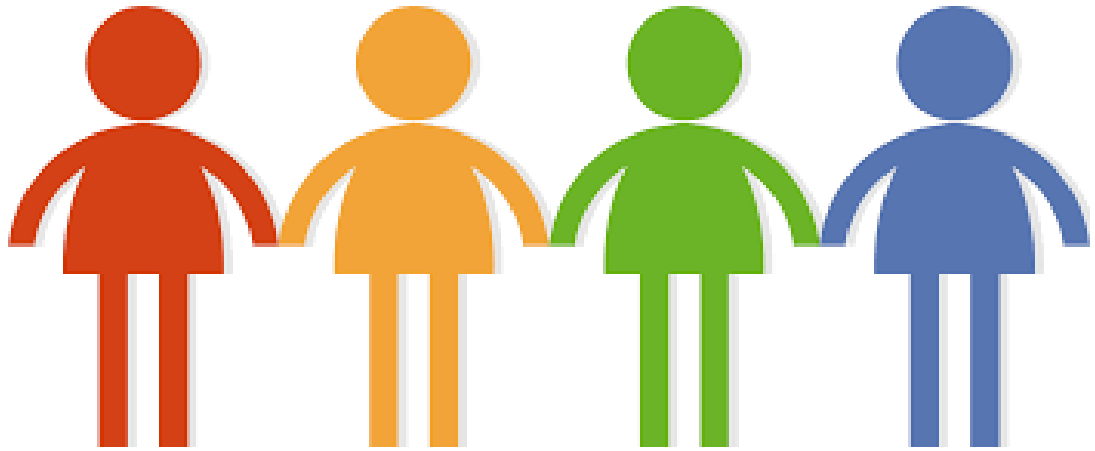
The broad discretion given school boards in the assignment of pupils is not abused by requiring attendance at schools removed from their neighborhoods.

Restrictions on Use of Race

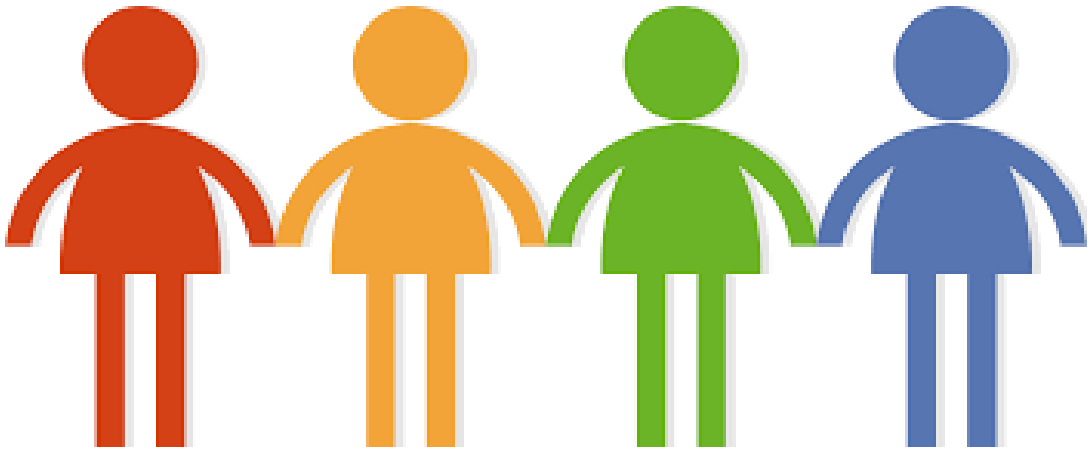
As a general proposition, it is impermissible to use race as the determining factor in redistricting decisions. See *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1*, 127 S.Ct. 2738, 2751 (2007).

Proposed Parameters

- Abide by all legal requirements
- Create reasonably drawn boundaries
- Avoid dividing neighborhoods
- Align with best practices for bus transportation
- Feeder Patterns:
  - T/E Middle – Beaumont, Devon, Hillside
  - VF Middle – Valley Forge, New Eagle, Bear Hill



Two Approaches to Consider: Parity vs. Proportional Redistricting



Parity vs Proportional Redistricting

Parity

Students are assigned to all six schools as evenly as possible.

SCHOOL		OCT. 1, 2025
Bear Hill	418	
Beaumont	418	452
Devon	418	370
Hillside	418	449
New Eagle	418	489
Valley Forge	419	525
	2509	

Proportional

Students are assigned to the six schools based on the classroom inventory in each school.

SCHOOL			OCT. 1, 2025
Bear Hill	30	470	
Beaumont	26	408	452
Devon	25	392	370
Hillside	26	408	449
New Eagle	25	392	489
Valley Forge	28	439	525
		2509	

Potential Advantages of Each Approach

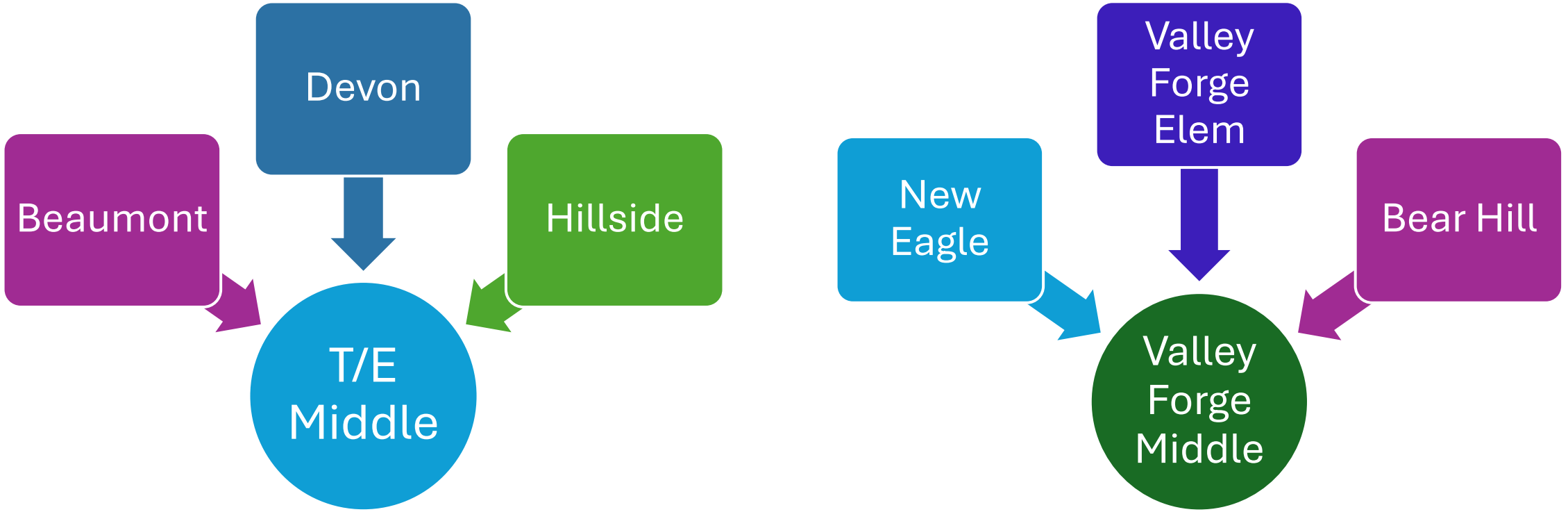
Parity

- All schools appear more similar in population and experience
- Continues past tradition
- Simple and easily justified

Proportional

- Student enrollments are more tailored to the actual conditions in the schools
- Schools will be able to more effectively manage future population shifts
- Will eliminate the need to include middle schools in this process

Proposed Middle School Feeder Patterns



Middle School Enrollment Projections

Parity

TEMS 1066 students

VFMS 1066 students

Based on TEMS / VFMS 50/50 split

Proportional

TEMS 1027 students

VFMS 1105 students

Based on 2024 projections

Next Steps

- Review Nov. 2025 demographer's report and impacts for proportional and parity approaches
- Adopt final parameters and considerations for redistricting
- Meeting date TBD