

BOARD AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR REDISTRICTING MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2025

Tredyffrin/Easttown Administrative Offices, Room 200

7:00 p.m.

Attending all or part of the meeting:

Board Committee Members: Roberta Hotinski (Chair), Kenneth Hong, Marianne Piccioni, Rachel Weil

Other Board Members: Todd Kantorczyk, Sue Tiede

Guest Presenter: Christina Gallagher

TE School District Representatives: Wendy Towle (Administrative Liaison), Richard Gusick, John Mull, Mike Szymendera

Community Members: Katy Bishopric, Chris Brown, Erika Cardamone, Johannes Freudenberg, Matt Holt, Abigail Hopkins, Stephanie Hughes, Brendan McGeehan, Ed Phillips, Maura Redmond, Steve Rodgers, Caroline Roth, Erin Sawicki, Miriam Terman, Kristen Vandeboe, Pamela Zakielarz

Public Comment:

Matt Holt commented on legal factors the Board might consider when redistricting

Abigail Hopkins commented on the frequency with which school enrollments are reviewed

Kristen VanDeBoe commented on the stress of changing attendance boundaries and potential long-term impacts that should also be considered

Gail Hopkins commented on the need for transparency and clear data for public review, and the inclusion of parents who will be impacted when selecting the committee

Ed Phillips commented on the TESD class size policy

Stephanie Hughes commented on the square footage of each school building

Pamela Zakielarz commented on connections to prior parent presentations about current needs for additional classroom space

Caroline Roth commented on the consideration of neighborhoods and budgeting

Maura Redmond commented on benefits of the proportional model

Katy Bishopric commented on staffing plans for BHES

Matt Holt commented on the Demographer's report and planned new housing developments in TESD

Stephanie Hughes commented on the Demographer's report and heat maps that show density of students

Ed Phillips commented on likely impact of redistricting to current Hillside families

Matt Holt commented on the consideration of "grandfathering" exceptions to redistricting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Discussion and Recommendations:

Dr. Hotinski welcomed committee members, presenters, and community members, and provided an overview of the agenda, which included reviewing the redistricting timeline, legal considerations, proposed parameters, and potential approaches.

Dr. Towle provided background on the Bear Hill Elementary School (BHES) project—the first new school in TESD in over 50 years—and outlined a multi-phase timeline extending through Spring 2027, when implementation of redistricting transition activities are expected. The goal of redistricting is to create six elementary school enrollment areas for the new building configuration, where all students and families can have similar experiences and feel connected to their school communities. Christina Gallagher, legal counsel, presented key legal principles governing redistricting, emphasizing that the school board has broad authority to assign students to schools but must act within legal bounds, avoid bad faith, and cannot use race as a determining factor. She also reviewed legally defensible criteria such as student numbers, transportation routes, and the need for contiguous and reasonably shaped attendance areas. Dr. Towle affirmed the District’s intentions to abide by all legal requirements, create reasonably drawn boundaries, align with best practices for bus transportation, and establish feeder patterns such that the students who attend Beaumont, Devon, and Hillside in 2027-28 will go to T/E Middle School in grade 5, and students who attend Bear Hill, New Eagle, and Valley Forge Elem in 2027-28 will go to Valley Forge Middle School in grade 5.

Dr. Gusick presented two primary redistricting approaches for consideration: *parity* and *proportional*. The parity model aims to distribute students evenly across all six elementary schools. In the parity model, the total K-4 District enrollment, divided by six, establishes a uniform target enrollment for each school to guide redistricting. Although this would align with traditional district efforts to keep school enrollments as uniform as possible, the six elementary schools are not identical in capacity, with the number of available classrooms in each school ranging from 25 to 30. In contrast, the proportional model for redistricting would establish enrollment targets for each school based on each school’s classroom inventory so that student enrollments are more tailored to the actual conditions in the schools. In this proportional approach, parity between schools would still be maintained with respect to the educational programming, although schools’ target enrollments would be established proportionally. A proportional model for redistricting would enable schools to more effectively manage future population shifts within the established boundaries and it would eliminate the need for changes to existing middle school attendance boundaries.

The meeting concluded with a review of next steps, including the upcoming presentation of the 2025 Demographer’s Report at November’s Education Committee meeting. This report will further inform the committee’s decision-making about proportional and parity approaches. The Board Ad Hoc Committee for Redistricting will reconvene in December or early January to finalize redistricting parameters and begin the process of selecting members for the Redistricting Steering Committee in Spring 2026. The next meeting date is yet to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Next meeting: **TBD in December 2025 or January 2026**