

Waterville Elementary School District

Lamoille North SU

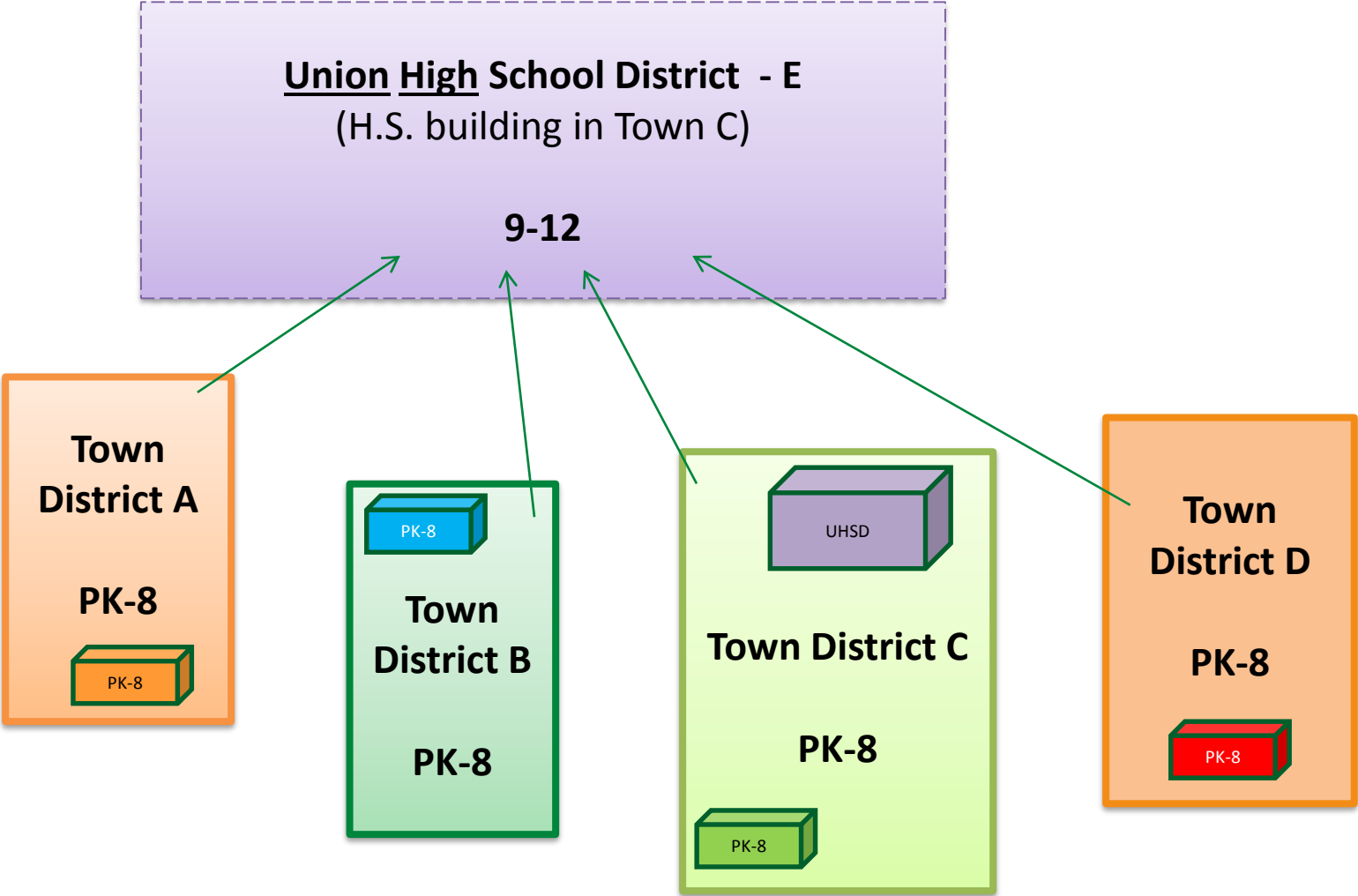
April 20, 2017

- I. Structures & Structural Changes – Overview
- II. Amending Articles
- III. Board Representation
- IV. Questions: Some Options
- V. Misc Information / Links

I. STRUCTURES & STRUCTURAL CHANGES - OVERVIEW

A. MUUSD

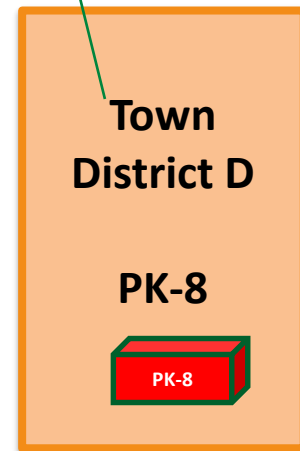
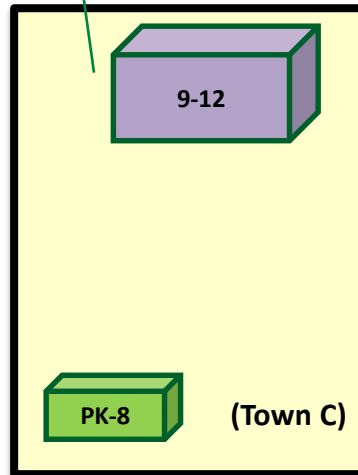
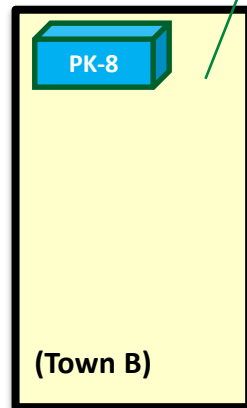
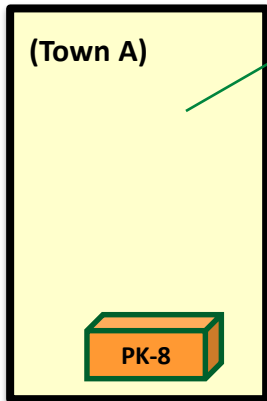
Before creation of the MUUSD



Modified Unified Union School District - Z

PK-12

9-12



B. LEAVING A UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

same process regardless of
whether

same process regardless of
whether
Union Elem/High School District
OR



same process regardless of
whether
Union Elem/High School District
OR
(Modified) Unified Union School
District

Union High School District - E
(H.S. building in Town C)
(same process if for MUUSD)

9-12

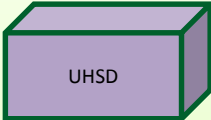
Town District A

PK-8




Town District B

PK-8




Town District C

PK-8



Town District D

PK-8



Leaving Union School District



1. Voters in Town D: *withdraw?*
2. If yes
 - Voters in Member Towns A-C: *approve?*
3. If yes in each town
 - State Board of Education:
 - *Do Town D students have options?*
 - *Is USD ok w/ only A-C or dissolve?*

Union High School District - E
(H.S. building in Town C)
(same process if for MUUSD)

9-12

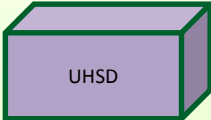
Town District A

PK-8




Town District B

PK-8




Town District C

PK-8

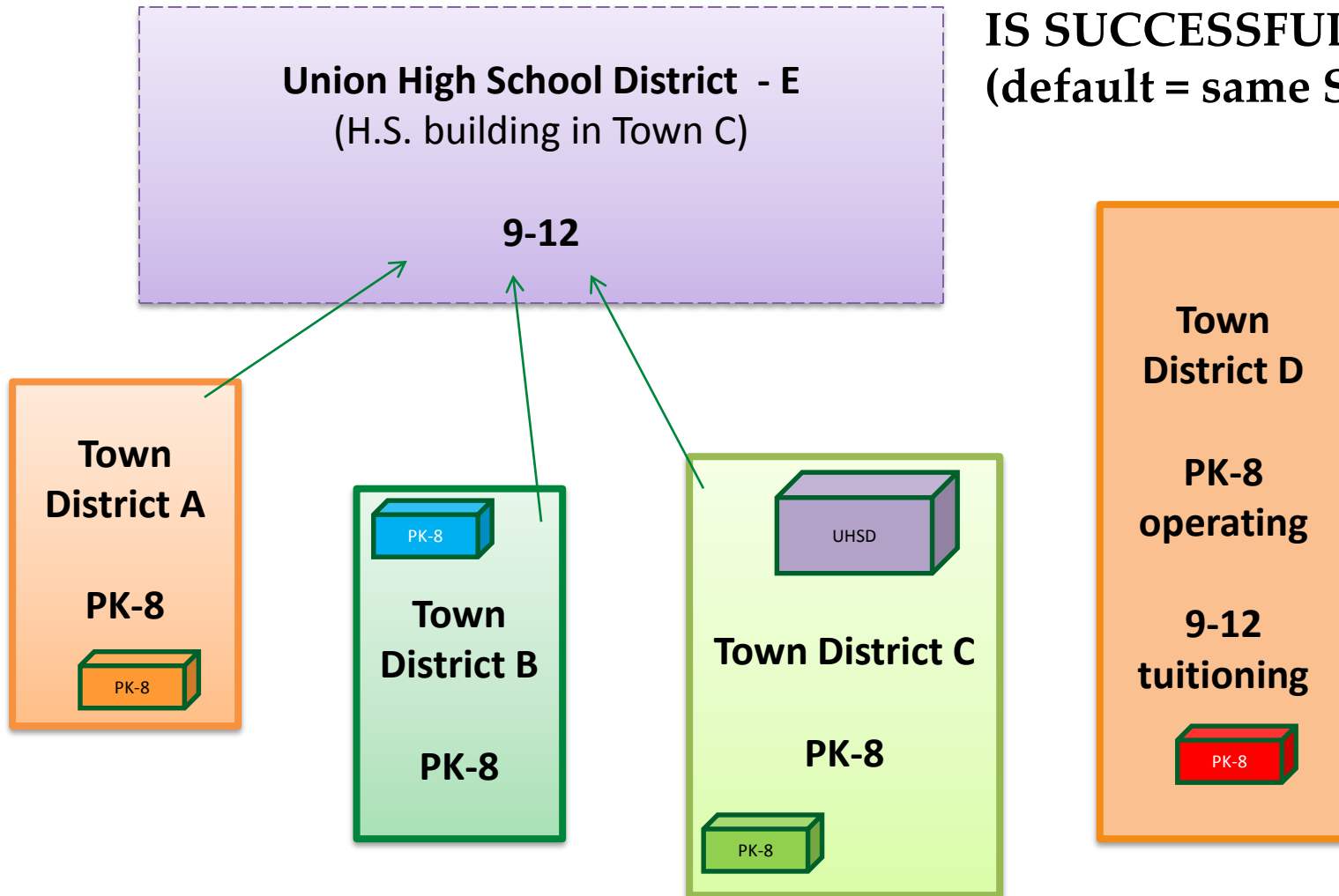


Town District D

PK-8



**IF WITHDRAWAL
IS SUCCESSFUL
(default = same SU)**



C. JOINING AN EXISTING UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

16 VSA § 721

Joining After Initial Merger Vote

Four step process

1. Town District Board develops plan
2. SBE approval
3. Town District voters vote to ask for full membership
4. USD voters vote w/in 2 years whether to accept

16 VSA § 721

Joining After Initial Merger Vote

Four step process

1. Town District Board develops plan
2. SBE approval
3. District A voters vote to ask for full membership
4. USD voters vote w/in 2 years whether to accept

Art. 21: If W votes by 4/11/17, then USD voters have approved admittance so no need for #4 above

16 VSA § 721

Joining After Initial Merger Vote

If join per Article 21, then are voting to accept existing Articles of Agreement (with ability of entire USD electorate to amend them at a later date)

16 VSA § 721

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If join per Article 21, then are voting to accept existing Articles of Agreement (with ability of entire USD electorate to amend them at a later date)

If only willing to join if Articles are first amended, then need to proceed under 16 VSA § 721, because the USD voters must be given a chance to vote whether to accept the new terms

D. LEAVING A SUPERVISORY UNION

Leaving a Supervisory Union

State Board of Ed can redraw SU lines

–On own initiative

or

–At request of school district(s)

16 VSA § 261

Leaving a Supervisory Union

A town or district cannot belong to two
SUs simultaneously

Leaving a Supervisory Union

A town or district cannot belong to two
SUs simultaneously

***If dist is a member of union school dist
– it must first withdraw from USD***

II. AMENDING ARTICLES

16 VSA § 706n

- Some articles can be amended by a union school district's board

16 VSA § 706n

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- Others can only be amended by a majority of the electorate of the entire USD

16 VSA § 706n

- Some articles can be amended by a union school district's board
- Others can only be amended by a majority of the electorate of the entire USD
- Need to review the Warning for the original merger vote to determine which applies

16 VSA § 706n

- Only by Voters: If a “specific condition or agreement” of the Articles is in one of the lettered paragraphs in the Warning

16 VSA § 706n

- Only by Voters: If a “specific condition or agreement” of the Articles is in one of the lettered paragraphs in the Warning
 - Explicit reference

16 VSA § 706n

- Only by Voters: If a “specific condition or agreement” of the Articles is in one of the lettered paragraphs in the Warning
 - Explicit reference
 - More general reference

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- Only by Voters: If a “specific condition or agreement” of the Articles is in one of the lettered paragraphs in the Warning
 - Explicit reference
 - More general reference
- Or if amending a previous voter amendment

16 VSA § 706n

- Only by Voters: If a “specific condition or agreement” of the Articles is in one of the lettered paragraphs in the Warning
 - Explicit reference
 - More general reference
- Or if amending a previous voter amendment
- Or if statute limits decision to voters (Australian ballot, e.g.)

16 VSA § 706n

- By Board: If only brought into Warning by final lettered paragraph making general reference to the articles as a whole

Only voters can amend method of Board Representation

III. BOARD REPRESENTATION

UUSD Board Membership

The Vermont union school district creation statutes in Title 16:

- Limit the total number of board members to 18 members (§ 706b(b)(9))
- State that each member town is “entitled” to at least one board member (§ 706b(b)(9)) (note that doesn’t say “required”)
- Acknowledge that board membership must be structured to meet proportionality requirements of the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S Constitution (§ 706b(b)(9))
- Authorize election of at-large board members (§§ 706e(c) and 706k(c))
 - Pure at-large members of the initial board must reside in and be nominated by the voters of a “necessary” district
 - Nothing in statute or court decisions applies this restriction to initial board members in the Hybrid Model
- Authorize weighted voting (§ 707(c))

UUSD Board Membership

Three common models:

1. Town-by-Town Model
2. At-Large Model
3. Hybrid Model

UUSD Board Membership

Three common models:

1. Town-by-Town Model
2. At-Large Model
3. Hybrid Model

weighted voting permitted

1. Town-by-Town Model

Key Elements:

- Membership on the union school board is apportioned to each town/village/city (“town”) within the new union school district based upon the town’s population relative to the total population in the union school district – minimal deviation permitted
- Population numbers are determined by the most recent decennial census

For example:

<u>Town</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Board Members</u>
A	2,000	2
B	4,000	4
C	1,000	1

- Voters in the town nominate town residents to fill the town’s apportioned seats on the union school board (§ 706e(b))
- Only voters in the town can vote on that town’s nominees to fill the town’s apportioned seats on the union school board (§ 706e(b))

2. At-Large Model

Key Elements:

- At-large members of the union school board can reside in any town
 - ***initial*** at-large board members can only reside in “Necessary Districts”
- At-large members of the union school board are nominated by the voters of any town (but see above regarding initial board)
- At-large members are presumed to represent all students in the union school district
- Proportionality is achieved at the full UUSD-level; not on a town basis
- Voters in all towns vote on the same slate of candidates to fill all at-large seats on the union school board (§ 706e(c)) – votes are added together

3. Hybrid Model

Key Elements:

- Membership on the union school board is apportioned to each town
- Apportionment does not have to be proportional to the town's population
- Numbers can be apportioned pursuant to any agreed-upon method, for example:

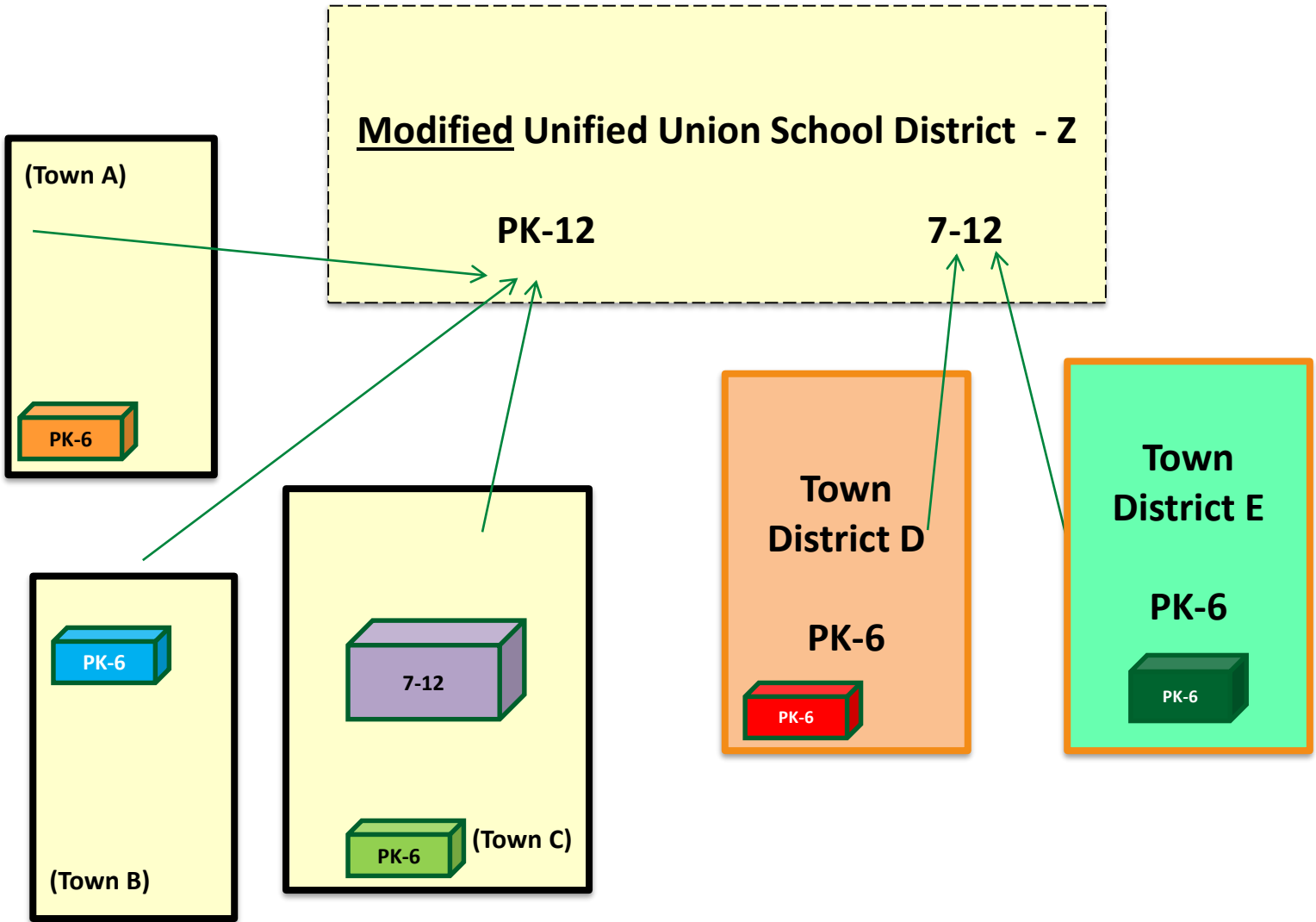
<u>Town</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Board Members</u>
A	2,100	3
B	3,200	3
C	2,500	3

<u>Town</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Board Members</u>
A	4,000	3
B	4,000	3
C	1,000	1

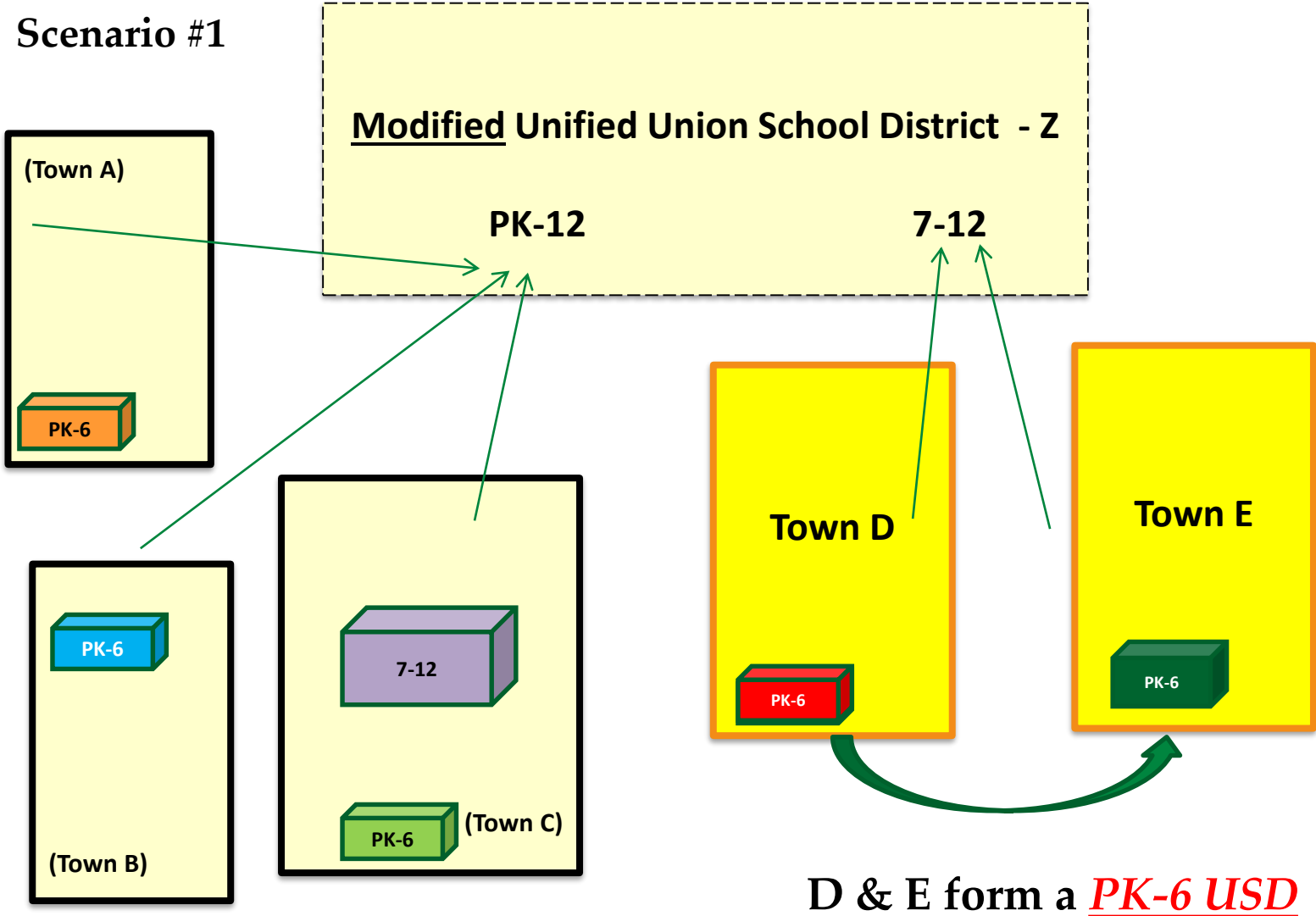
- Voters in all member towns vote on the same slate of candidates
- The ballot is categorized to represent each town's apportioned seats on the union school board (*e.g.*, in the second example above, the voters in all towns would vote on the following: "Here is the list of candidates for Town A – vote for not more than 3; Here is the list of candidates for Town B – vote for not more than 3; Here is the list candidates for Town C – vote for not more than 1")

Board Membership - Table & Related Information

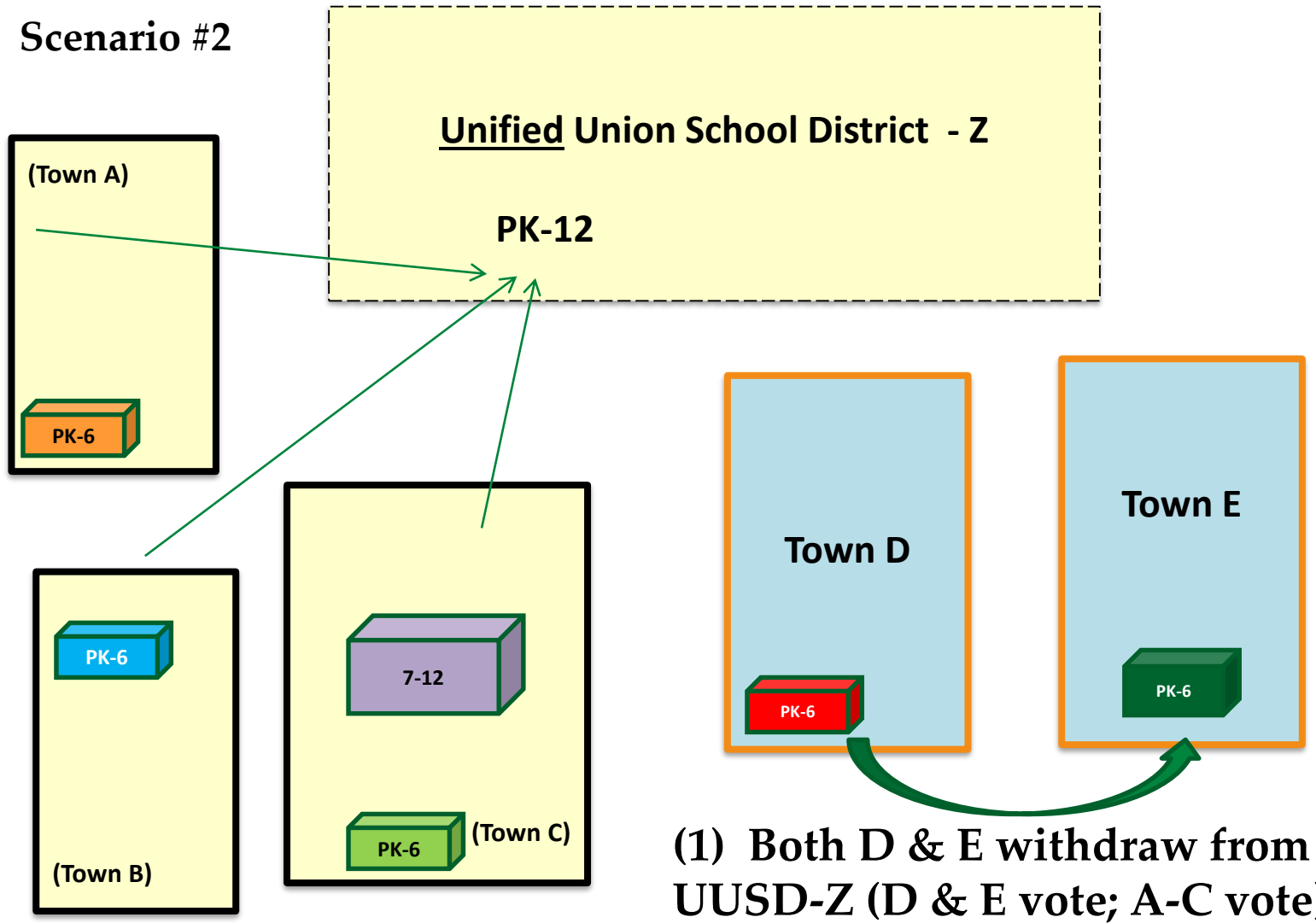
IV. QUESTIONS re: SOME OPTIONS



Scenario #1

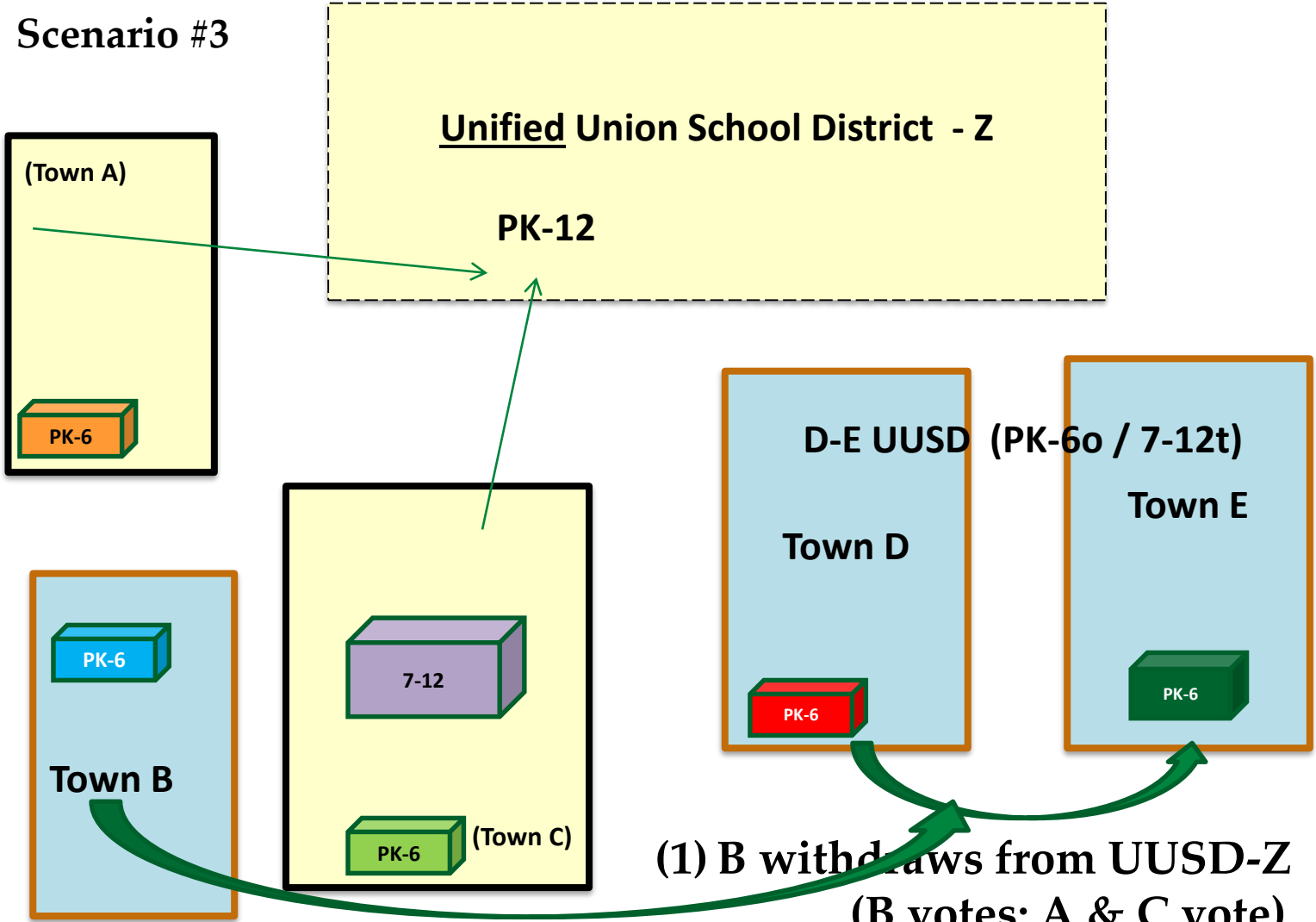


Scenario #2



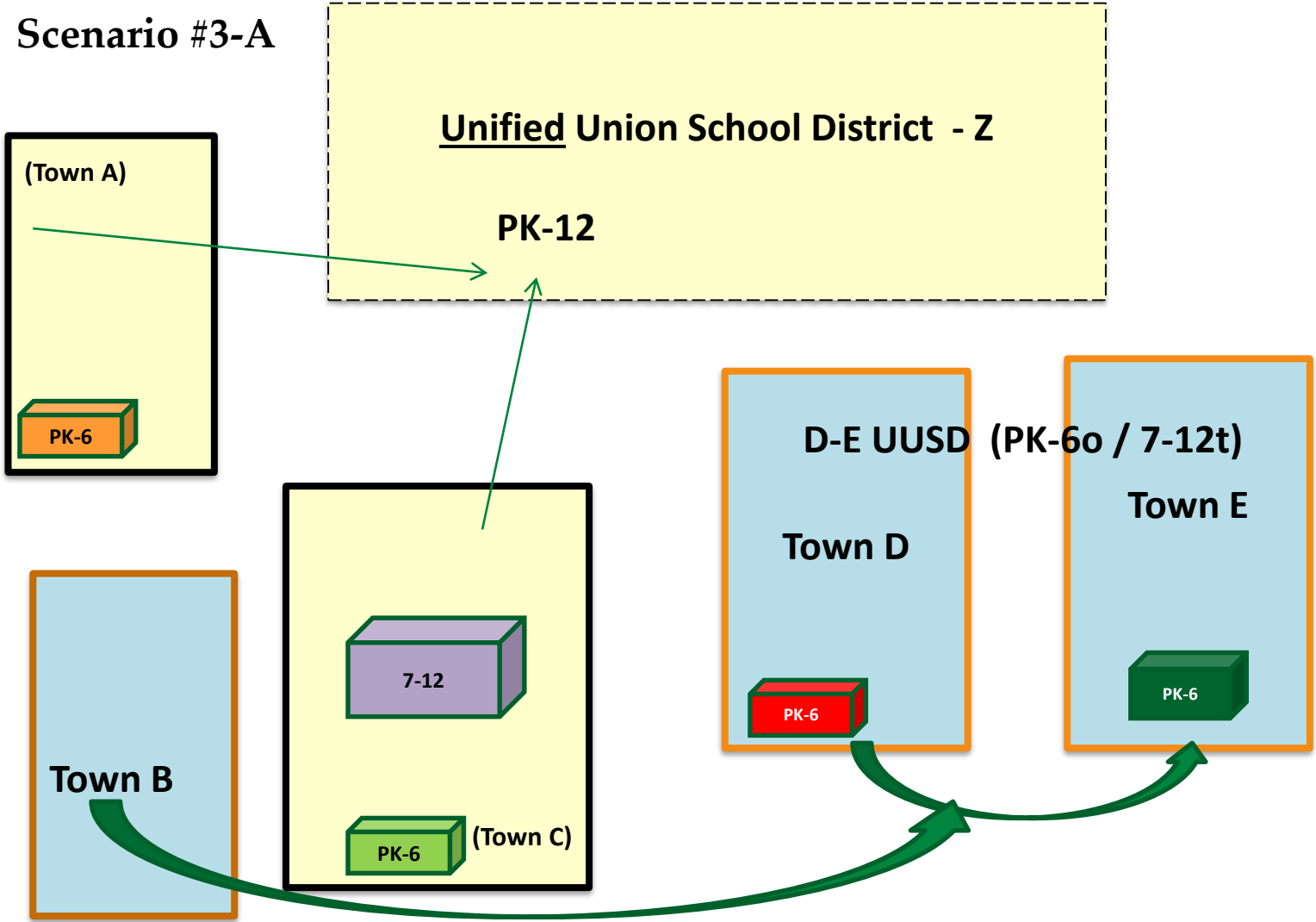
(2) Form a **PK-12 UUSD** (PK-6o/7-12t)

Scenario #3



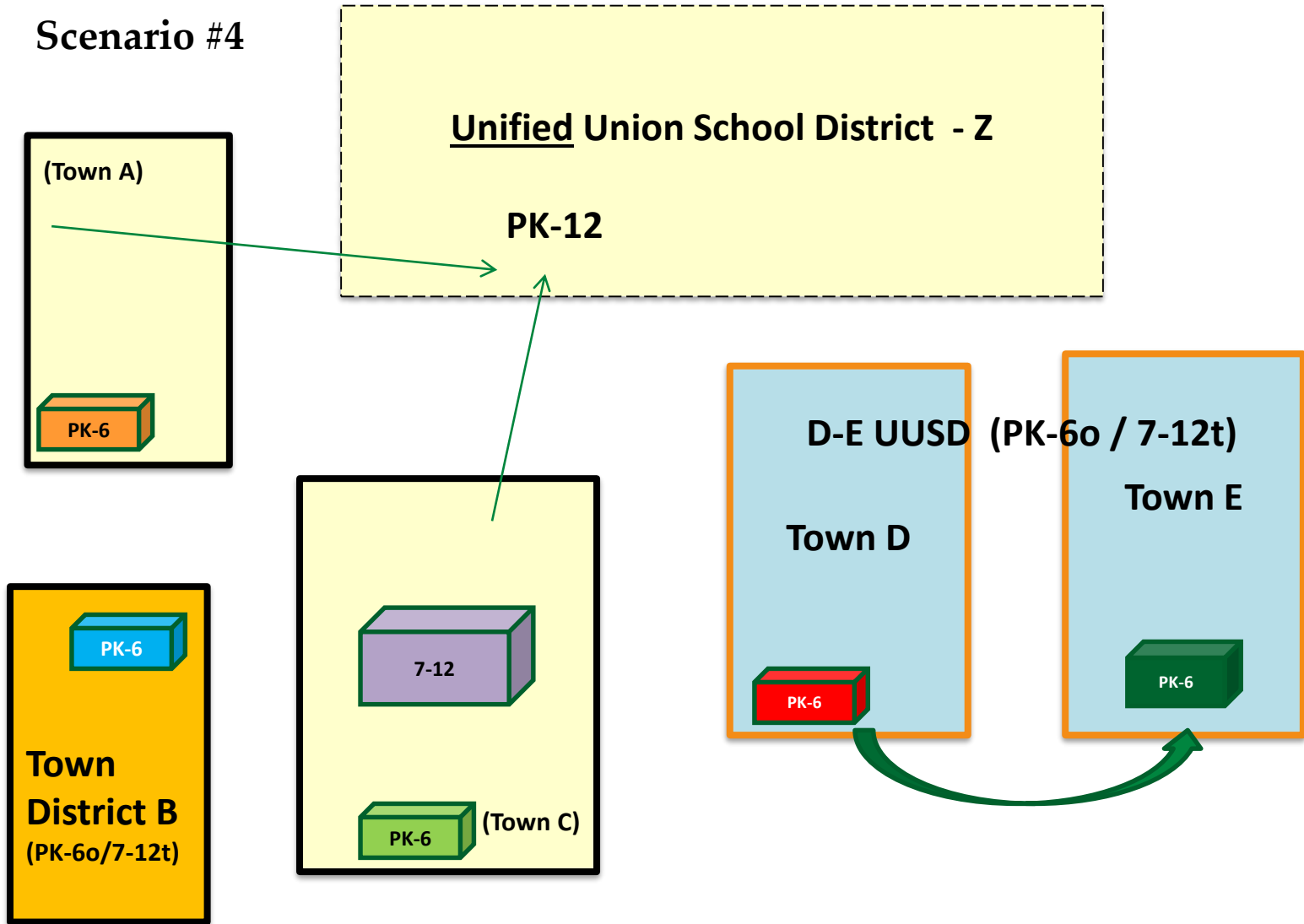
- (1) B withdraws from UUSD-Z (B votes; A & C vote)
- (2) B votes to join the D-E UUSD
- (3) D-E UUSD votes to accept B

Scenario #3-A

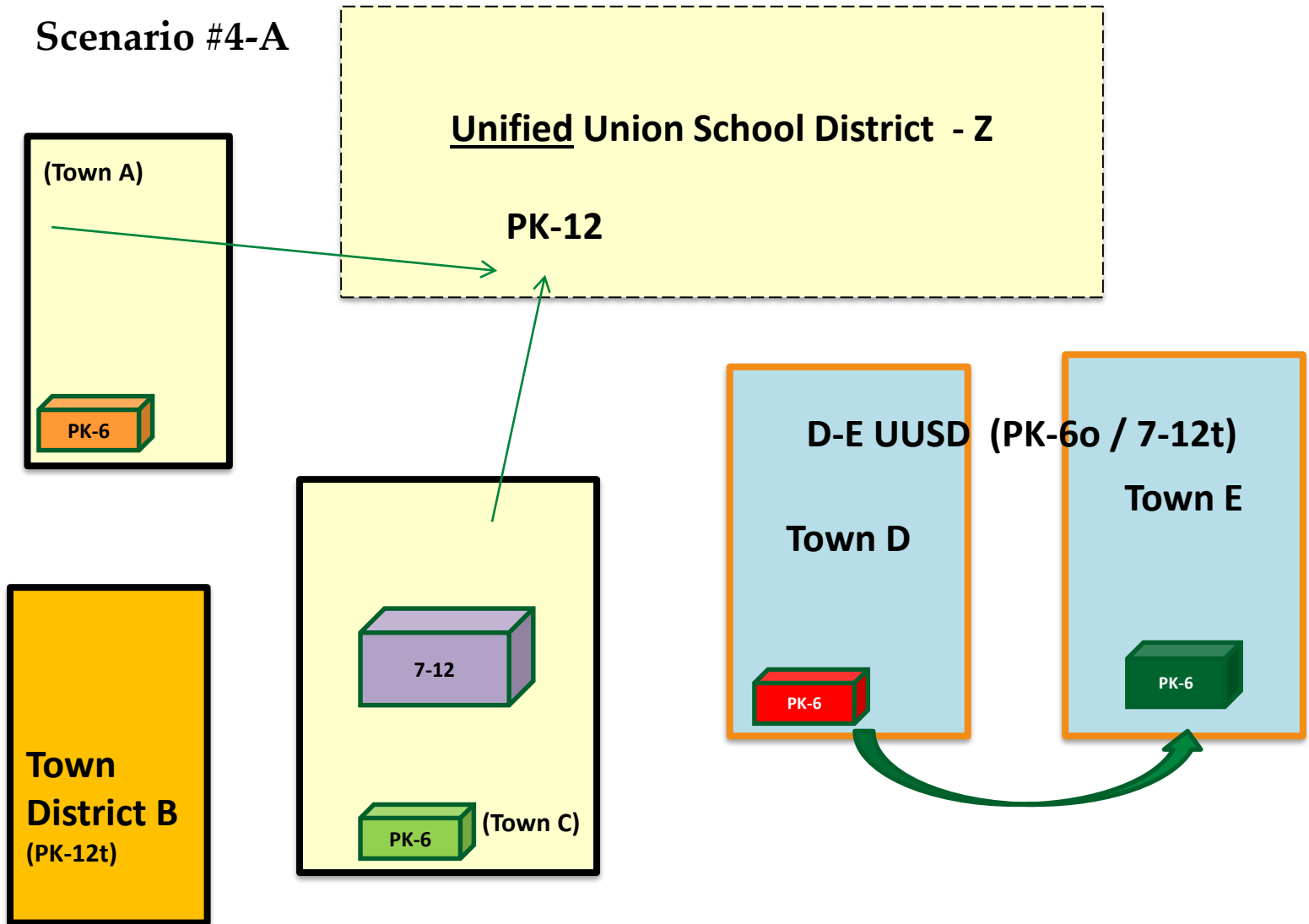


(Same as #3 – but Town B doesn't operate a school)

Scenario #4

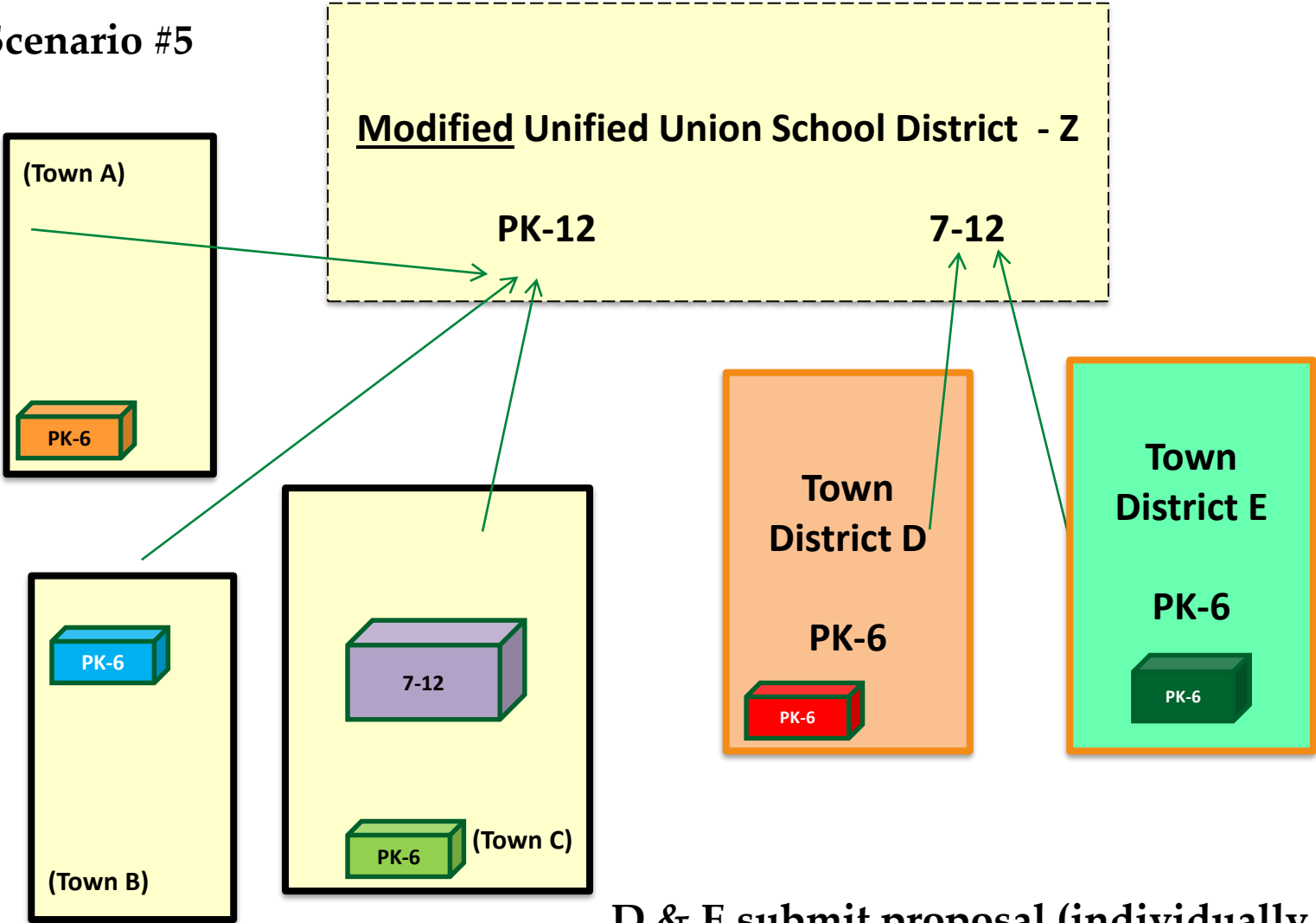


Scenario #4-A



(Same as #4 – but Town B doesn't operate a school)

Scenario #5



D & E submit proposal (individually or jointly) to stay same per Act 46, Sec 9

District outside the SU?

1. Withdraw from Union School District
2. Redraw SU Boundaries
3. Merger Vote (2 & 3 can be combined)

V. MISC INFORMATION / LINKS

Small School Grants / Merger Support Grants

(page 1 of 2)

SSG Program began in 1998:

- Calculation based on combined size of the schools operated by a district and the number of grades

2010 Voluntary Merger Program:

- Based on original SSG calculation, newly merged district probably ineligible if eligible district + w/ ineligible district
- Converted SSG into 5-years of MSG

Small School Grants / Merger Support Grants

(page 2 of 2)

Ongoing Pressure to Eliminate SSGs entirely

2015 Compromise:

- If eligible merger – perpetual MSG for as long as school remains open
 - If not, then beginning on July 1, 2019 districts apply under new criteria:
 - District operates a school that has an average grade size of 20 or fewer; and
 - SBE determines annually (metrics adopted by 7/1/18) that district is eligible either:
 - the lengthy driving times or inhospitable routes to the nearest school with excess capacity;
- or
- the academic excellence and operational efficiency of the small school, (statute references some factors)

<http://education.vermont.gov/documents/governance-guidance-small-school-grants>

Consultant / Legal Services Grants

(\$5K; \$10K; & \$20K)

Understanding Your District (Data Sets and Other Information)

<http://education.vermont.gov/vermont-schools/school-governance>

education.vermont.gov

- Vermont-Schools
 - School-Governance
 - [Options](#)
 - [Guidance](#)
 - [Merger Activity](#)

Please feel free to contact:

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