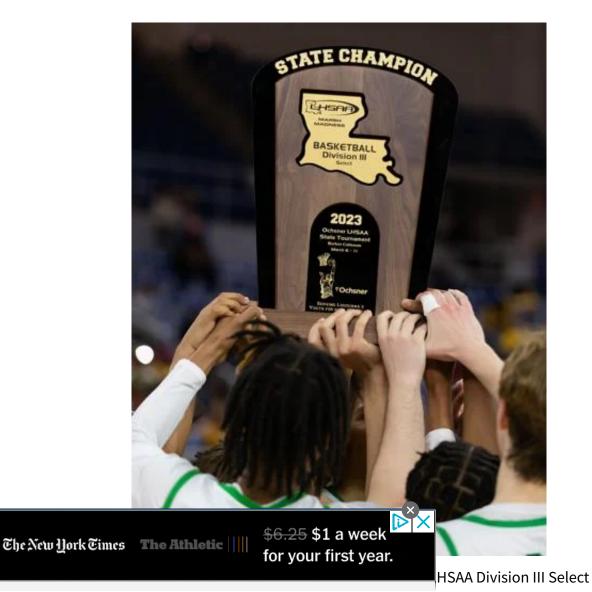
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Could there be a 'legal option' to force LHSAA vote? A meeting is set to discuss it

BY ROBIN FAMBROUGH | Staff writer Jun 27, 2023



Championship at Frasch Park in Sulphur, Louisiana on Friday, March 10, 2023. (Kirk Meche)

After two failed attempts to hold a special-called meeting regarding the LHSAA's revamped select/nonselct divisions, Neville High School principal Mickey McCarty sent member principals a letter announcing plans for a July 12 meeting at Tioga High School to discuss a "legal option."

The email sent out Tuesday to principals across Louisiana states that Baton Rouge attorney Brian Blackwell will be on hand to discuss "particulars" of a potential legal filing at the 1 p.m. meeting.

McCarty's letter notes: "I have been tasked with probing the interest of member principals who would like to hear more about a legal option that could be levied against the LHSAA relating to the decisions made and the association's process that put us in our current state of divisions, the definition of select schools, and current playoff structure.

"This effort is to simply have the voice and concerns of the member principals heard and examine the possibility of a vote of ratification or non-ratification of the tabled items from the January 2023 convention before our next annual meeting which would be in January of 2024."

LHSAA executive director Eddie Bonine declined comment and referred questions to attorney Mark Boyer.
"There's no official statement," Boyer said Wednesday. "I have not talked to any of the officers. We're just waiting. Hopefully some information comes out of (the Tioga meeting) and some good dialogue.
"We will see where it goes. The LHSAA rules state that you have to get more than 50% of principals on board to have a special-called meeting. That has happened."

		action, Boyer said the LHSAA's bylav Il legal fees if they lose in court.	VS
interest of fair pla	ay, was used to revamp the seled definition for select/nonsele	committee to change rules in the ect/nonselect playoffs system for ect schools balanced the number of	

Schools were placed in enrollment-based select/nonselect divisions for the split sports of football, basketball, baseball and softball. Ramifications of the committee's use of 4.4.4 in the past and future use was noted as a concern in McCarty's letter.

A planned membership vote to approve/reject the revamped format in January at the LHSAA convention did not take place. A new interpretation of an existing bylaw by the LHSAA's parliamentarian prompted the change, which prevented a delay and other issues for the LHSAA's looming basketball playoffs.

A small group of principals met with LHSAA officers at the January convention to broker that compromise. A special meeting held in conjunction with the executive committee's June summer meeting was a point of discussion.

Under LHSAA bylaws, more than half of the member schools must request and attend any special-called meeting. The July 12 meeting does not have to meet those requirements.



The first request for a special meeting attracted responses from 135 of the LHSAA's 409 schools, below the threshold of 206. A second request for a meeting garnered 169 responses. The LHSAA membership consists of 191 select schools and 218 nonselect schools based on the revamped format.

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