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Football

1 message

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Wed, Jan 11, 2012 at 2:27 PM

To: anthony.orr@nelson.kyschools.us

Cc: wes.bradley@nelson.kyschools.us, eric.gilpin@nelson.kyschools.us, "Weedman, Dave (Shelby Co.)" <dave.weedman@shelby.kyschools.us>

Bcc: Julian Tackett <jtackett@khsaa.org>

Good afternoon Anthony. I am copying the building principals, but am going to start with you on this one. I am also copying Dave Weedman of the Shelby County Schools, who is your direct Board of Control representative, although the entire Board exists to serve all of our membership.

I have received the official information relative to the enrollment projections for the two schools in Nelson County for next year. Obviously, there have been lots of rumors and a lot of discussion about the possibilities of this situation, but until it was certain, it could not be dealt with in any final form. We have not received any official request from either school, hence the reason for me reaching out to you so that we can bring this to closure. At the end of this note, you will be asked to formulate a letter on behalf of the schools, with the wishes for 2012-2013, specifically related to basketball.

When the alignment for football was set for the 2011-2014 season, the enrollment range for boys for Class 2A was 200.5 to 330.5; Class 3A was a two-year average of 331 and 417.5; Class 4A was 419.5 to 524; Class 5A was 525 to 695.5; and Class 6A was 705.5 and above.

Based on the verified numbers provided by Mr. Hash and authenticated through KDE channels, Nelson County's best estimate of enrollment for 2012-2013 only, will be 502 students. Based on the fact that Nelson County will continue to house all of the district's seniors, it is fair to say that the future (beyond 2012-13) enrollment will likely not exceed this number, but in fact, will decline in future years. This is an important factor in our discussion. That number of 502 would place (in a normal classification cycle) Nelson County into Class 4A.

Based on the verified numbers provided by Mr. Hash and authenticated through KDE channels, Thomas Nelson's best estimate of enrollment for 2012-2013 only, will be 247 students. Based on the fact that Thomas Nelson will not have seniors for 2012-2013, but will incorporate seniors for the following year, enrollment will definitely exceed this number. This is an important factor in our discussion. That number of 247 would place (in a normal new classification cycle) Thomas Nelson into Class 2A, however the addition of 1/2 of the seniors in 247 places them near the border between 2A and 3A.

For now, we will deal only with the 2012 season. We will need, on behalf of Nelson County, a written notice stating whether the school desires to remain in the current alignment for the 2012 season, or be moved to another class. Please note the following factors:

- If placement is requested into Class 4A, the likely placement would be District 4. Included in that district is Doss, Fairdale, Moore, Valley and Western.
- If placement is requested for the 2012 season into Class 4A, and the Board affirms that each school in the district would be required to play each other, the schedules of all five existing team members would require adjustment as none of them are currently playing Nelson County in football. This in turn would leave four to five additional teams (the opponents) of these schools searching for opponents. Additionally, it would leave the four to five teams that are cancelled by Nelson's move, searching games. The ripple effect of this request is worth discussing internally.
- If placement is requested into Class 5A, the likely placement would be District 3. Included in that district is Grayson County, Iroquois, Jeffersontown, John Hardin and North Hardin. An alternative placement would be in District 4, which is Bullitt Central, Bullitt East, North Bullitt and Shelby County.
- If placement is requested for the 2012 season into Class 5A and the Board affirms that each school in the district would be required to play each other, the schedules of all five existing team members would require adjustment as none of them are currently playing Nelson County in football. This in turn would leave four to five additional teams (the opponents) of these schools searching for opponents. Additionally, it would leave the four to five teams that are cancelled by Nelson's move, searching games. The ripple effect of this request is worth discussing internally.
- Nelson County always has the privilege of deciding to remain in its current alignment for the final season that it has all of the district's seniors.
- Whatever decision is made, keep in mind that the 2012-2013 enrollment coupled with the projections (plus a senior adjustment) will be the determinant to see if other changes are to be made for 2013-14 and 2014-2015.
- Once the district alignment decision is made, the Commissioner has some authority with respect to previously signed contracts, but only for the games NECESSARY to be cancelled. This choice does not summarily cancel ALL contracts. Our office would be involved in the scheduling meetings, etc. to ensure fairness to all involved, and no opportunity for an advantage to be gained by anyone.

We will also need, on behalf of Thomas Nelson, a written notice stating whether the school desires to compete in postseason play for the 2012 season. Please note the following other factors:

- As it relates to decisions for this school, I would strongly encourage you to call Tim Murley in Warren County and some of the administrators down there who assisted with the opening of South Warren. Their decisions for competition that first year were based

on player safety, experience and the unpredictability for student enrollment (students that had choices, etc.). That past experience may be very helpful in your review.

- If placement is requested into a district for 2012, the likely placement is District 4, which already has six teams. This district contains Bardstown, Christian Academy-Louisville, DeSales, Fort Knox, Shawnee and Washington County.
- If placement is requested for the 2012 season into Class 4A, and the Board affirms that each school in the district would be required to play each other, the schedules of five existing team members would require adjustment as only Bardstown is currently playing Nelson County in football. This in turn would leave five additional teams (the opponents) of these schools searching opponents. Additionally, it would leave the five teams that are cancelled by Nelson's move, searching games. The ripple effect of this request is worth discussing.
- Keep in mind that Thomas Nelson is not an entity, and not a member school, so they cannot conduct spring practice this spring and cannot do anything (other than Nelson County coaches working with Nelson County kids) as a unit until this school year ends.
- Without seniors, the school could be entering district play with basically a Junior Varsity team, as younger students would likely have to play a much bigger role.
- It is possible for Thomas Nelson to play games, and not enter the district playoffs. This would allow the coaches, etc. to play a limited varsity schedule, and the play in the playoffs the following year when they have a full complement of players. There are often teams that play varsity, and do not play in the district. Choosing this option is a viable safety driven choice that does not impact scheduling at other schools, however it remains the school choice.
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- Thomas Nelson always has the privilege of playing a non-varsity schedule, or playing a varsity schedule and not competing for the district.
- Whatever decision is made, keep in mind that the 2012-2013 enrollment coupled with the projections (plus a senior adjustment) will be the determinant to see if other changes are to be made for 2013-14 and 2014-2015.
- Once the district alignment decision is made, the Commissioner has some authority with respect to previously signed contracts, but only for the games NECESSARY to be cancelled. This choice does not summarily cancel ALL contracts. Our office would be involved in the scheduling meetings, etc. to ensure fairness to all involved, and no opportunity for an advantage to be gained by anyone.

I need to receive your letter in the next few days. After that, the Board of Control will consider the request on January 25. Once the decisions are made, we would need to move quickly to scheduling meetings, etc. I would STRONGLY encourage you to help ensure that as many of the currently contracted games are played by one school or the other to minimize disagreements between districts, wherever you can.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

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Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

"If I were to read, much less answer, all the attacks made on me, this shop might as well be closed for business. I do the very best I know how, the very best I can, and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right will make no difference." —Abraham Lincoln

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