



Follow up to Region 11 Realignment

1 message

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All,

As the designated representative for FCHS, I just wanted to send another message in follow up to the initial correspondence regarding the proposed realignment for Region 11 that is included on the agenda for the BOC meeting this week.

Regarding the proposed realignment itself, there are several things that are unclear and just do not seem logical:

- 1) The KHSAA continually says that geography is a major factor in considering realignment but with this proposal, that doesn't appear to be a factor. Woodford Co. borders only ONE other county in the entire 8th region, so the additional travel mileage alone doesn't seem logical. They will literally drive through Frankfort/Franklin Co. to get to nearly every opponent in the 8th region.
- 2) Within the KHSAA handbook on realignment policies, it is stated that travel mileage and travel routes must be reviewed as well as the geographic cluster of schools. It is tough to imagine the proposed alignment is the most logical and efficient route given those factors.

From the KHSAA Handbook:

Whenever a sport or sport activity is to be realigned, the Board shall direct the Commissioner to produce the necessary information as to seed discussion by the Board of Control. The criteria and factors to be used in developing a draft alignment shall adhere to the following steps: (1) Identification as to whether or not enrollment classifications will be used; (2) Plot/Diagram the location of all competing schools; (3) Begin by looking at geographic clusters of schools. Geography (including specific travel route information) is an important criteria for placement in groups (regions, districts, etc.), but is not the sole determinant for placement; (4) Travel routes must be reviewed as a potential factor, as well as the identification of the existence of multiple travel routes; (5) In the non-classified team sports (baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball), the basketball alignment should be an initial framework, specifically the region boundaries; (6) If possible in the non-classified team sports, the district boundaries should be important element, but the level of participation of the schools in the district must be factor; (7) The unique factors of each sport, particularly the individual sports, must be reviewed including facilities; and (8) The participation and alignment history, both individual and teams, is a factor in consideration, but not the final determinant; b) When reviewing alternative suggestions for alignments, the Board shall prioritize the requests from the membership that effect the requesting school over those suggestions that result from suggestions about other schools without effecting the suggesting school.

- 3) The Frankfort Christian Academy is already a paid member of the KHSAA and they are expanding their programs and will definitely plan to compete in the future. Based on the agenda for the BOC meeting this week,

the Frankfort Christian Academy is requesting and anticipating to be in full district/region alignment in the sport of basketball starting in the 2019-2020 school year, the same year that Great Crossing plans to open. The KHSAA has made it known for years, whenever alignment is considered, they wish to avoid six team districts and that fact was conveyed again in the member school correspondence sent after the November BOC meeting. That is exactly what will happen if the proposal to remove Woodford Co. and bring Scott Co. and Great Crossing into the 41st district is implemented with the addition of the Frankfort Christian Academy.

4) Likewise to the above, another format that efforts with realignment have tried to avoid in the past is a three team district. Again with the proposal on the table now to move Scott Co. as well as Great Crossing to the 41st district, the 42nd district will now be left with only three teams in the sport of softball as Sayre does not field a team in that sport.

In addition to the components of the realignment itself, as previously communicated, we have considerable concern to the manner in which the proposal moved through for final consideration. It was done at a very fast pace, far different from past realignment and most all other important issues that impact our student-athletes and member schools. Most often, those type of issues stay on the BOC agenda for an extended time period to give ample time and dedication to discussion and commitment to take action that is in the best interest of all of the member schools involved and their respective athletes. Other than the sport of football, it is not very often at all that realignment is considered. With the addition of new schools the last few years, perhaps it's time to step back and take a deeper look into alignment for the non-classified team sports across the state. In our area, we have looked at a draft realignment across all 16 regions that I would be happy to share with you if you wish. Regardless, proposal option 3 doesn't seem logical with regards to the criteria the KHSAA has set forth for realignment, especially now that the Frankfort Christian Academy wants to begin participation in basketball in 2019-2020 along with Great Crossing. In addition, again, to remove a school from region 11 to place them in a region in which they only border one county in the entire region and force that school to drive through Franklin Co./Frankfort to reach the majority of their opponents simply makes no logical sense.

All things considered, I can't imagine that given a sound review of the current status in adding both Great Crossing and the Frankfort Christian Academy coupled with the true intent of the alignment guidelines established within the KHSAA, that option 3 would be viewed as the best choice for our student-athletes and member schools in the 11th region as well as the 8th region. Our efforts must be focused on what is in the best interest of all of our schools and student-athletes, not simply what is interpreted as best for one. Please consider additional review of the realignment for our non-classified team sports. Our student-athletes deserve the commitment to finding a resolution that is centered around their best interests in maximizing their experiences through educational-based athletics.

As always, I deeply appreciate the time, dedication and efforts from each of you and all that you do to provide amazing opportunities for our student-athletes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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