

September 19, 2018

Commissioner Tackett,

Last week, I was made aware of a situation regarding this year's Regional Soccer Tournament. Please accept this letter as a request to allow Fleming County High School to host this year's Girls Regional Soccer Tournament.

Over the past three years, Fleming County High School has gone through a \$15 million renovation. The bulk of the funding came from the School Finance Construction Commission (SFCC), with \$3 million coming from local bonds. The school, over the years, had only received facelifts, with the last one occurring in 2007. The majority of the renovations had to focus on instructional areas, as many of the career and technical labs had not been updated in 20+ years and the cafeteria, which helped the school to receive funding from SFCC, was not equipped to serve lunch appropriately.

Due to ADA compliance issues and past Title IX violations, the district was provided an opportunity to use SFCC funding to address athletic areas – specifically bleachers in the gym, football and soccer field, baseball and softball field. Furthermore, there was extensive grade and elevation work that had to be completed at the football and soccer field that would allow for full ADA compliance. The district had to purchase a press box for softball, which led to the initial Title IX violation from several years ago, but we continued to be out of compliance until now. The basketball locker rooms and indoor lighting had to be upgraded extensively due to safety concerns.

We have worked diligently, all while facing financial difficulties over the past four years. As a district, we have made significant gains as an organization that has led to considerable increases in student achievement and financial savings. We could not put additional funds into the athletic program and remain financially stable while expanding the academic program which was required under state monitoring status. Furthermore, we started building a soccer field at a different location with the help of local contractors, but were only forced to stop due to recent funding cuts imposed by the Governor in the Fall of 2017 and the subsequent changes in retirement funding which led to the district having to close an \$800,000 budget gap for the 2018-2019 school year. We cannot expand the playing area of the current field, due to the track that surrounds the field and the school is land-locked with other athletic fields.

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We have made considerable improvements and upgrades to Panther Field that have made the playing environment conducive to athletic events. We are asking that the KHSAA allow Fleming County High School to host the Girls Regional Soccer Tournament this school year. Although the field does not meet the field requirements, we feel that due to budget issues, this has placed our students at a disadvantage which is an equity issue among districts. Those districts that were more financially stable over the years, therefore, were able to upgrade their facilities. Our students and our community deserve an opportunity to host the regional tournament. Our students should not be penalized because of a financial issue.

Respectfully,



Brian K. Creasman
Superintendent
Fleming County Schools

Cc: Monica Hill, Attorney for the Fleming County Board of Education

Our Vision is to become a District of Distinction
