

METCALFE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Josh Hurt, Superintendent
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Thursday, January 13, 2021

All,

We would like to take a moment to again address the possible realignment of the 4th region and its impact on many of our schools and districts. You have already read previous correspondence from a number of 4th Region school superintendents and heard from Cumberland County Principal Josh Henderson and Metcalfe County Superintendent Josh Hurt. So, we will try not to rehash those comments.

Since then, many of us have continued to talk about the proposals put forward and overwhelmingly the schools and school districts of the 4th region oppose any significant realignment. It seems that the moves proposed under Option 3 are currently unnecessary and will likely cause more disruption than good. Further, many of us see the issue not as one holistic issue but rather two separate ones and we would ask that you address each as such.

The first issue is what to do with Foundation Christian. With great respect to the good folks at FCA and the goals they have for the future, at this time the school offers very little in the way of athletic opportunities. They currently fail to offer three of the five sports impacted under this realignment plan (softball, baseball, and girls' basketball) and quite frankly struggle mightily in the other two (volleyball, boys' basketball). In time, it may become necessary to evaluate their placement and its competitive impact, but for now, a simple inclusion in the 14th district seems the most obvious choice and would cause almost no impact to the current 14th.

This issue has no connection to the other which is the request by Monroe County to move to the 16th District. Therefore, we would ask the Board to consider that request separately. Currently the 4th Region operates well with schools geographically placed in a way that makes reasonable sense perhaps with the exception of the 16th. To move Monroe County as is outlined in Option 3 would cause an unfair imbalance to the eastern part of the fourth, cause a competitive and geographic shake-up of the 15th and 16th districts, and also disrupt traditional district rivalries in the 14th because with it comes a move of Warren East to the 15th.

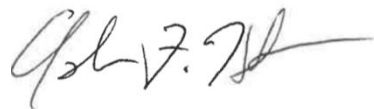
As such, the move is essentially a Matthew Effect move. Currently, Warren County Schools is the only school district in the 4th Region that has a chance at two of the eight spots in our regional tournament. Moving Warren East now gives them a chance at three of the eight. And it does so at the expense of ACS, Barren County and Glasgow. Meanwhile Monroe County's odds to succeed actually decrease as does the odds of all four current members of the 16th.

To sum up, Option Three seems like a lot of change in a situation that calls for little. It makes the geographic situation worse for many, especially those in the 16th district. Those concerns were addressed previously. But, it further swings the competitive balance towards Warren County Schools at the expense of us all. Therefore, we ask that the Board allow Foundation Christian in to the 14th District and then monitor their progress. (This seems to follow the precedent set with North Hardin Classical being included geographically with its Hardin County peers.) Then, separately, we ask that the Board reject Monroe County's request and leave the remaining 4th Region schools where they are currently.

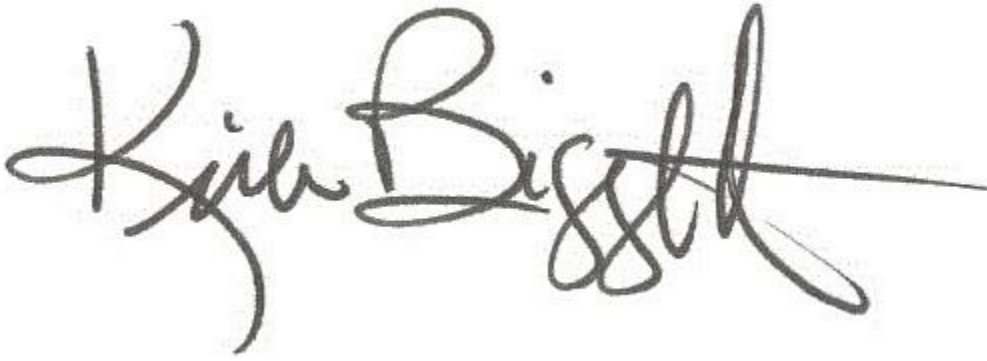
Again, we appreciate your time and consideration.

Yours,

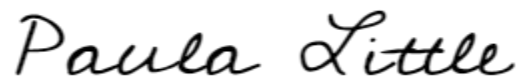
(The following signatures were provided electronically and are used with permission of those represented)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh D. Hurt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joshua D. Hurt
Superintendent, Metcalfe County Schools



Kirk Biggerstaff
Superintendent, Cumberland County Schools



Paula Little
Superintendent, Clinton County Schools



Michael Ford
Superintendent, Russell County Schools



Gary Fields
Superintendent, Bowling Green Independent Schools



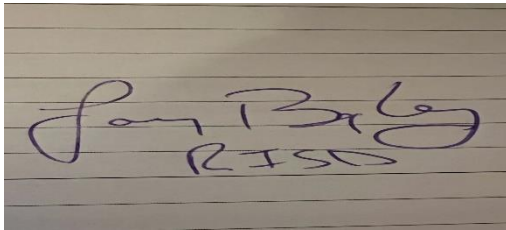
Mark Thomas
Superintendent, Todd County

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bo Matthews". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Bo Matthews
Superintendent, Barren County Schools

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Schlosser". The signature is written on a grey background and is in a cursive style.

Tim Schlosser
Superintendent, Simpson County Schools

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Begley" with "RISD" written below it. The signature is on lined paper.

Larry Begley
Superintendent, Russellville Independent Schools

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Travis Hamby". The signature is written on a light-colored background.

Travis Hamby
Superintendent, Allen County Schools

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Hale". The signature is on a light-colored background.

Keith Hale
Superintendent, Glasgow City Schools