

# METCALFE COUNTY SCHOOLS

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November 15, 2021

All,

We wanted to take a moment to share briefly our concerns about the proposed move of Monroe County High School to the 16<sup>th</sup> District and the negative ramifications that would occur should that happen. Let us preface that should any of our fellow district partners have a desire to move elsewhere, we would gladly welcome Monroe as a new/old 4<sup>th</sup> member. But, short of a request from any of our four schools to move (which we do not have), we would categorically oppose the move of Monroe County to our district.

To start, the 16<sup>th</sup> district is already the most widely spread district in the 4<sup>th</sup> Region geographically. In its current state three of the four schools have to drive through the 5<sup>th</sup> Region to get to the 4<sup>th</sup> Region to play district opponents. The drive between Albany and Edmonton currently ranks as the longest drive among district foes in the 4<sup>th</sup> Region at nearly 1 hour one way. Adding Monroe County would place them in the same scenario twice. They would have an hour trip to Russell County and a trip of well over an hour to Clinton Co. No other school in the region is asked to drive any farther than 42 minutes (according to Google Maps) for a district game. Clearly, if geography is the key metric, a move to include Tompkinsville with Albany and Russell Springs defies basic logic.

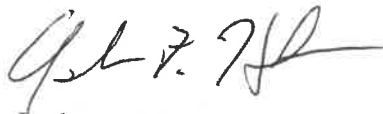
Further, the argument that has been made for Monroe County's request to move has been competitiveness. One, I would argue that the 16<sup>th</sup> District is highly competitive. A move is no guarantee for success in any sport. Two, I do not believe competitiveness should be the basis for any argument to move. With most schools, competitiveness comes and goes. Surely, we do not want to enter a world where requests to move are based on which district we think we can win and which we do not.

Lastly, other options exist that make much more sense geographically. The newest school to the region, FCA, is close in proximity to all the 13<sup>th</sup> District and all the 14<sup>th</sup> District. The easiest decision is to deny Monroe County's request and place the new school in its closest geographic location. And, because of the lack of programs currently offered by FCA, that move would have almost zero impact on either the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> District's current situation.

We hope that the Board of Control will consider the geographic difficulties to be burdened by all four members of the current 16<sup>th</sup> District should Monroe County be moved. We also hope that all parties involved understand that the 16<sup>th</sup> District is already the most widely spread geographic district in the 4<sup>th</sup> Region. Put simply, we already put more miles on our buses and keep our student-athletes out later to play district games than any other district in the 4<sup>th</sup> Region. We do not feel we should have to be further burdened when much simpler and painfully obvious solutions exist.

We appreciate your time and consideration in this matter and look forward to explaining our stance further should the need arise.

Yours,



Joshua D. Hurt  
Superintendent, Metcalfe County Schools



Kirk Biggerstaff  
Superintendent, Cumberland County Schools

*Paula Little*

Paula Little  
Superintendent, Clinton County Schools



Michael Ford  
Superintendent, Russell County Schools