

Louisiana principals vote to continue status quo in regard to Select schools

Louisiana high school principals voted overwhelmingly Tuesday afternoon to approve the current definition of a Select school that was installed approximately a year ago by the Louisiana Athletic Association.

The vote of the nearly 400 principals or their representatives attending the specially called meeting at the Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge was 68% (256-124) in favor of approving the current definition in place.

"I am satisfied that principals delivered their majority will through a long-delayed vote, regardless of the outcome," said Natchitoches Central principal Micah Coleman, a member of the LHSAA Executive Committee. "Today's vote does not 'fix' all of our issues, but I do believe it is a much-needed start in the right direction. Principals need to stay engaged with the legislative process of the LHSAA and become the driver of the association again."

The LHSAA executive committee voted 16-5 in July 2022 to expand the definition of a Select school to the following: "Select shall mean private or public schools that have a state or parish approved definition as a lab school, magnet school(s) with one or more magnet component(s), approved charter schools, parish wide approved open enrollment, state recovered-district (RSD) application-based parish schools, tuition-based schools and/or any established academic and/or retention-based criterion schools."

"I think the 68% favorable vote was reflective of the decision made by the LHSAA last year which made the playoffs more competitive," said Loyola principal John LeBlanc, a member of the executive committee. "They got their voice heard and I think the majority of the membership like the way things are set up right now."

LHSAA INJUNCTION:[LHSAA hit with injunction to stop current use of Select definition without principal vote](#)

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North DeSoto principal Tammie Phillips, the newest member of the executive committee, echoed LeBlanc's thoughts on the size of the positive vote.

"I think that speaks for the value of the current plan in place," Phillips said. "I believe this is definitely a win for our student-athletes."

Northwood principal Shannon Wall was one of the driving forces behind forcing the vote on the Select definition to come before the entire body of principals.

"I'm obviously very disappointed, but at this point, it's time to move on," Wall said.

That change was not approved by the principals as a whole until Tuesday afternoon. The meeting went smoothly and lasted approximately one hour, according to attendees.

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