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8th Region Re-Alignment Concerns

1 message

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Mon, Nov 10, 2025 at 7:04 PM

To: "jtackett@khsaa.org" <jtackett@khsaa.org>, "claudette.herald@oldham.kyschools.us"

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Cc: "Arvin, David" <david.arvin@gallatin.kyschools.us>

Dear Board of Control Members,

My name is Christy Otten and I am the Athletic Director and Designated Representative for Gallatin County High School. I am emailing you today regarding the 8th Region re-alignment proposal that has been presented to you. This proposal, in my opinion, is not an accurate representation of the desires of the 8th Region as a whole.

Before I get into all of that, I want to express my desire to fight for GC and the 31st District. I ask that you leave the 31st as it currently stands. We are a 6-team district because we chose to be. When it was presented to the BOC to move Trimble County, each of the 31st schools were polled individually, and all responses were similar. Everyone was 100% in agreement with moving them to our district, as it made sense demographically, educationally, and geographically. We all fully understood their perspective and could appreciate Brent's dilemma. We felt it was in the best interests of Trimble County and its athletes. However, part of that agreement was that we were ensured that none of the current schools would be moved out due to this decision. I feel that this agreement should be honored until there is a statewide re-alignment. The current proposal in front of you does not honor that agreement.

The 31st District AD's have spoken on numerous occasions about our desire to remain a 6-team district. We enjoy it! Gallatin County has been in the 31st since the 1930's, along with Carroll County. We have one of the oldest rivalries in not only our region, but the state. I am not sure on the exact year of the other schools, but I know that Henry County and Owen County have been members for years. The rivalries that we have built amongst our little schools would rival any of those that the bigger schools have. Our bleachers are packed every time we play each other, regardless of the sport. With being a district of smaller schools, the rivalry games between us are how we generate a lot of our revenue. If that is taken away from us, then the entire district suffers.

I implore you to please honor the agreement from 2020-2021 and leave the 31st as a 6-team district.

When the 8th Region ADs met to go over the proposals that had been submitted and then vote, not one of the 5 or 6 proposals presented received a majority vote. (13-6) We discussed each of the proposals separately and then voted on each to decide if they had merit, and to narrow them down as much as possible. We were able to narrow them down to two proposals....the proposal that you see before you and a proposal that left the 31st as a 6-team district. We then discussed these two proposals again and voted on each separately for a second time. When that happened, the proposal before you received an 11-8 vote, I believe and the other proposal received a 10-9 vote. It was very much split.

We then had a discussion regarding the fact that it was felt that it would look better to the BOC if we were able to send them something. It was also implied that we had to fix the 3-team district and both 6-team

districts or you, the BOC would do it for us. It was decided that the proposal before you would be sent (although it only received one or two more votes than the other one) if there was a majority vote to do so. We then voted yes or no to send a proposal to the board. That is when the 13-6 vote occurred. The 13-6 vote was for sending a proposal vs. not sending one, not for the proposal itself. Again, not one of the proposals presented at the meeting received a majority vote!

I would ask that you strongly consider rejecting the proposal before you and looking at what is best for the Region as a whole, and not just a competitive edge for a few. The 31st District fits together perfectly, and it would be a shame to break that up now. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Christy Otten

Athletic Director

Gallatin County High School

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