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Redistricting Proposal Regarding Collins High School

1 message

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To: Julian Tackett <jtackett@khsaa.org>

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Mr. Tackett,

I hope this email finds you well. I have copied the SCPS Board of Education Chair, Joanna Freels, Vice Chair, Andrew Cline, and Senator Aaron Reed.

It has come to my attention that a proposal is being considered to move Martha Layne Collins High School out of the 30th District and place it in the 29th District, thereby separating our two high schools into different districts. This adjustment appears to be connected to Cornerstone Christian Academy's entry into district competition in selected sports.

At present, the 30th District consists of five teams. The addition of Cornerstone Christian would result in a six-team district. Based on my 18 years of experience coaching at both the high school and collegiate levels, and drawing upon the 30 years my father spent coaching high school basketball in Kentucky, I can state with confidence that a six-team district presents no greater scheduling or seeding difficulties than a five-team district.

If the ultimate goal is to preserve a five-team district format, the proposed realignment raises serious concerns. It is not logical to require Wofford County to travel through Franklin County in order to compete in the 30th District while simultaneously assigning Collins to the 29th District to compete with Oldham County schools. Such an arrangement is inefficient from a financial perspective due to increased travel costs, detrimental to student well-being due to later return times on school nights, and harmful to attendance and community engagement.

By contrast, including Cornerstone Christian in the same district as Shelby County High School and Collins High School provides a far more reasonable solution. All three schools are located within the same community, ensuring reduced travel demands, improved attendance, and stronger support for student-athletes.

For these reasons, dividing Shelby County's two high schools into separate districts is not in the best interests of our students and should not be considered an acceptable option. I worked with our Athletic Director, Kate Tucker, to propose possible solutions. I am copying her thoughts on how the issue can be resolved.

Here is what Collins would like to see for district realignment.

1. Keep [6] teams in 30th district.

- *Cornerstone only has (3) sports participating in 8th region. But (4) additional sports have to make district adjustments for a school that doesn't even play those sports.*
- *Baseball, softball, girls soccer & boys soccer are being asked to realign and Cornerstone doesn't play a factor.*
- *That leaves more actual sports being affected than Cornerstone brings to championships.*
- *We are not guaranteed Cornerstone will stick around. If we decide on new districts and Cornerstone realizes the KHSAA isn't for them - they can pull out and we are left with movement that was unnecessary.*
- *Wait until Cornerstone gets settled - experiences games and tournaments - and make sure its a good fit before we start turning over the apple cart.*

2. Move Cornerstone to 29th District

- *The open spot for additional teams is available in 29th district.*
- *New school to the party can take the slot that's open.*

- *Oldham County schools are welcoming Cornerstone joining their district.*

Respectfully,



Dr. Joshua Matthews

Superintendent

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