

NCHSAA WINTER BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Residence Inn 101 Erwin Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

REALIGNMENT APPEALS SESSION

12:45 pm	general orientation and overview
1:00 pm	East Burke High School
1:20 pm	Draughn High School
1:40 pm	West Iredell High School
2:00 pm	Mountain Heritage High School
2:20 pm	Jay Robinson High School
2:40 pm	J.F. Webb High School
3:00 pm	Cardinal Gibbons High School

East Burke: to move from South Mountain Athletic to SD7 in 2-A

--current football ADM listed at 983; number used last realignment was 966; 2-A range was 996-668

--letter talks about loss of school time, travel (distance from East Burke, according to its stats, to SMAC schools is 317.57 miles and to SD7 schools 211.20), safety, gate receipts and natural rivalries

--SMAC, currently nine in split (6 2-A, 3 3-A)

Chase, Draughan, **East Burke**, East Rutherford, R-S Central, Shelby; 3-A Burns, Crest, Kings Mountain

--SD7, currently 8

Bandys, Bunker Hill, East Lincoln, Lincolnnton, Maiden, Newton-Conover
West Caldwell, West Lincoln; **East Burke**

**EAST BURKE
HIGH SCHOOL
HARDSHIP PROPOSAL
(Realignment)**

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**Meeting of the Board of Directors -- Agenda Item Submission**

Name(s) : Phil Smith, Principal; Jim Childers, Athletic Director; Tom Brown, Head Football Coach

School/LEA/Conference/Group: East Burke High School/Burke County/South Mountain Athletic Conference

We/I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors:

Recommendation/Proposal: (State in detail the recommendation/proposal)

East Burke High School placed in SD-7. Proposal is attached.

- o **Rationale:** (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)
Refer to Proposal
- o **Budget Impact:** (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)
Refer to Proposal
- o **Educational Impact:** (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)
Refer to Proposal
- o **Gender Impact:** (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)
Yes
- o **Effective Date:** (When would this go into effect?)
July 1, 2015

Signature

Phil Smith

Date

10-23-14

Based on our nearly two years of membership in the South Mountain Athletic Conference (SMAC), we at East Burke feel that it is truly a hardship for our school, students, and administration to continue in the present conference. We are basing this on the following actual accounts and experiences over the past two years.

East Burke High School was previously in the Catawba Valley Athletic Conference which is basically the present Southern District Seven Conference. We mention this to give those making the final decision an opportunity to compare our membership in the two conferences. We at East Burke very much want to be a member of SD-7.

With this in mind, please use the following information when considering our hardship appeal:

1. **Loss of school time** – In all activities with early starting time (4:00 pm and earlier), our students must leave anywhere from thirty minutes to one hour and thirty minutes before the end of school. This places a burden on not only the student-athletes but the classroom teachers. Also, any classes the coach of that sport is responsible for must be covered. We have had several students to stop participating because of grades dropping due to missed class time. When we were part of SD-7, our teams only had to leave anywhere from 10 to 45 minutes before the end of school. This difference in loss of class time is evident in the major mileage increase we have experienced once assigned to SMAC.
2. **Travel** – The travel distances, as shown below, are mileage calculations from the GPS system. While the figures reflect the distance, one can easily calculate the time needed to travel in a school activity bus to away games. From our location, travel to all SMAC schools constitutes traveling on rural, curvy, two lane roads; SD-7 schools are mainly along four lane highways which allows faster travel times.

DISTANCE FROM EAST BURKE

SMAC SCHOOLS	SD-7 SCHOOLS
Chase 57.2 miles	East Lincoln 40.3
Kings Mountain 51.58	Lincolnton 29.9
East Rutherford 49.84	Bandys 25.75
RS Central 49.40	West Lincoln 25.68
Crest 39.48	Bunker Hill 24.76
Shelby 37.10	Maiden 22.46
Burns 26.07	West Caldwell 22.11
Draughn 6.9	Newton-Conover 20.24
Total : 317.57	Total : 211.20

Please realize that East Burke High School participates in 22 sports and the mileage difference between the two conferences, 106.37 miles, has created a tremendous financial burden on our school. Our school district charges \$2.00 per mile per activity bus that we use. In the 2 years we have been in the SMAC as compared to the CVAC (SD-7), we have already spent \$10,000.00 more on travel. That is \$10,000 that we were not able to spend on our students or on maintaining our fields and equipment.

3. **Safety** –The safety of our student-athletes is the primary concern of our administration, as it should be. Our coaches, who have proper credentials and licenses, must also double as bus drivers. For many that means being at school at 7:00 in the morning, teaching a full load of classes, driving their teams to the athletic event, then driving the bus and student-athletes safely back to our school. Even truck drivers, by law, must pull over and rest before a full eleven hours of work. Some of our coaches are working sixteen hours before getting a break after they fulfill their duties of teaching, coaching, and driving. In our present conference, the SMAC, our teams are often arriving back at school after 11:00PM, then our students must either be picked

up by their parents or drive their own vehicles home. This creates an obvious safety hazard. With our placement back into SD-7, the arrival time back at East Burke, approximately 9:30 to 10:00 for most sports, would be much safer for our athletes, coaches and other travelers on the road at that time.

4. **Gate Receipts** – East Burke High School has seen a 50% decrease in gate receipts since moving from the CVAC(SD-7) to the SMAC. At one of our home basketball games, during the 2013-2014 season, there were only 19 fans from the opposing school. Football gate receipts, which offset other non-revenue sports, are down 46%. Therefore, since being assigned to SMAC, we have not been able to cover the costs of officials and travel. Furthermore, we have not had a surplus of funds to spend on maintaining our fields, equipment, and jerseys. For the past two years our athletic boosters organization has graciously given the school \$33,000.00 and \$35,000.00 just to meet our expense budget. We are already telling our coaches that they must plan to wear uniforms an additional two years in an effort to stay within our budget. The \$68,000 given by the athletic boosters was the vast majority of their surplus funds and they will not be able to bail out our athletic expenses much more. For our athletic program to survive, we must have the help of the NCHSAA, not in a monetary way, but by placing us in a conference that will allow us to return to the gate receipts of the past.

5. **Natural Rivalries** – Presently East Burke High School has one natural rival in the eight conference schools, Draughn High School. Draughn is a sister Burke County school; all the other schools in the SMAC are in either Cleveland or Rutherford counties, and none of them consider us as a rival. However, in the past we developed great relationships with all the schools currently in the SD-7 when we played against them as part of the Catawba Valley Athletic Conference. Several SD-7 schools have indicated that they would welcome us as a member.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our hardship proposal. As you can see, East Burke High student-athletes, athletic program, and school as a whole are suffering in several different ways. We realize that to fix our situation it may cause some minor problems for others, but we also feel that in the end it will be what is most fair and equitable for everyone involved. We are simply advocating what is best for the student-athletes at East Burke High School, the same as any parent, coach, or administrator would and should do for their own student-athlete.

Draughn: move to conference more in line with ADM

--current football ADM listed at 722; number used last realignment was 797; 2-A range was 996-668

--cites ADM of their current conference is average of 1024 in last alignment, 940 according to more recent stats, compared to Draughn's ADM; claim participation has dropped in sports as result of this placement, safety of students

--ask to be "reassigned to another nearby conference with similar ADM numbers"

--no letters from any other conferences at this point

--SMAC, currently nine in split (6 2-A, 3 3-A)

Chase, **Draughn**, East Burke, East Rutherford, R-S Central, Shelby; 3-A Burns, Crest, Kings Mountain

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission**Name(s): Emily Garrison

School/LEA/Conference/Group:

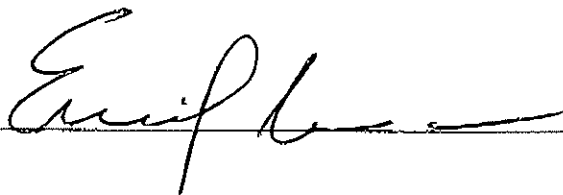
Jimmy C Draughn High School
Burke County Public Schools

We/I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors:

Recommendation/Proposal: (State in detail the recommendation/proposal)please see attached pages.

- Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)
- Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)
- Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)
- Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)
- Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)

Signature



Date

10/25/14

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**
Meeting of the Board of Directors - Agenda Item Submission

Name(s)- LEA/Conference/Group:

Emily Garrison, Principal
Jimmy C Draughn High School
Burke County Public Schools

We/I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors:

On behalf of Jimmy C Draughn High School, member of the South Mountain Athletic Conference, I am requesting to be placed on the NCHSAA Board of Directors Winter Meeting Agenda. We believe the Board of Directors should consider our ADM hardship and reassign us to a conference that is comparable to our current enrollment number of 719.

Recommendation/Proposal: (State in detail the recommendation/proposal)

The ADM used at the time of the realignment for Draughn High School was 797. Over the past several years, the enrollment at DHS has dropped considerably. Currently, we have 719 students enrolled in Draughn High School. This is a significant difference, and our athletic programs have been impacted.

The schools within the SMAC have an average ADM of 1,024, based on the reporting numbers from the 2011 Realignment. The 2013-2014 6th month Membership Data taken from NC DPI shows these schools most recently reported having an average ADM of 940. Three of the schools in the South Mountain Athletic Conference have maintained enrollments over 1,000 students, and two of these are well over 1,200. Regardless of which number is used to compare DHS to the average ADM of the conference schools, it is evident that DHS has considerably fewer in enrollment.

The drop in enrollment has impacted our athletic programs. We struggle to produce junior varsity teams in several major sports and the majority of our varsity teams are fielded with underclassmen. During this 2014 football season, DHS submitted an eligibility varsity football roster consisting of 32 student athletes. Of these 32, only 7 are seniors, and 8 are 9th and 10th graders. At the beginning of this football season, we were not sure if our numbers were going to support a Junior Varsity squad. To date, we have 20 JV players on roster, which

has fluctuated throughout the season due to injuries and moving players up to Varsity to fill positions. There is no doubt a student-athlete the size and maturity of a 17/18 year- old Senior cannot compare to that of a 13/14 year-old Freshman. In most cases it creates extremely unsafe situations for our younger student-athletes to compete against much larger, more mature athletes in sports, especially contact sports such as football. Many of our student-athletes have chosen not to participate because of the fear factor of knowing they will be up against athletes much larger and more experienced compared to them. It has been extremely difficult to get participation from our students when they know they are going to be mismatched. We are losing students to athletics daily as a result of our current conference assignment.

Since being placed in the SMAC, we have witnessed our participation numbers drop not only in football but in other sports as well. Our boys and girls soccer programs have been unable to consistently field junior varsity and varsity teams. During the 2013-2014 school year, the Draughn High School girls basketball coach was not sure he would have enough athletes to produce a junior varsity team. The number of student-athletes competing in Wrestling has declined as well, and students say it is because of the conference schools and the maturity of their athletes versus our.

Fair Play, Equity, and Fair Competition are among the Core Values of the NCHSAA. It is our opinion that our current conference assignment has put us in an unfair and inequitable position of having to compete against schools twice our size. The pool of students that schools such as Kings Mtn High School, Crest High School, and Burns High School has to pull from is notably larger than the pool of student athletes from which Draughn High School has to pull. All three of these schools reported eligibility rosters for this football season with varsity numbers twice that of the number we reported. This unlevelled playing field hinders the development of our Student-Athletes, and it has greatly impacted the total Athletic Program of Draughn High School and the overall spirit of athletics. It is our belief that when placed in a conference of comparable size, DHS would have a more leveled playing field, fair competition, and greater equity.

Safety and Well-Being of Student-Athletes is one of the top five priorities listed in the NCHSAA Strategic Plan for 2012-2017. We believe the safety of our student-athletes is compromised as a result of our current conference assignment. In a contact sport such as football, we have several underclassmen starting and playing both offense and defense on the Varsity squad. This puts these young men at a disadvantage and in an unsafe situation. Our student-athletes are not given the chance to develop from the junior varsity level to the varsity level, and their safety is being jeopardized.

We evaluated the financial impact a change in conference placement would have on Draughn High School, and we do not feel this would adversely affect our finances.

We have also evaluated the educational impact a conference change would have on DHS and our student-athletes. Each of our coaches is committed to maintaining high academic standards, and all of our programs have raised the minimum GPA for students to participate. DHS does not believe a conference change would impact our student-athletes and their education.

We have also evaluated the fairness of this request to males versus females and we do not believe this change would negatively impact either gender in any way. In fact, we believe it would indeed support both males and females in similar ways, as described above.

We are asking the NCHSAA to reassign us to another nearby conference with similar ADM numbers effective during the school year 2015-2016.

If you have any questions or would like to speak with me further about this appeal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Emily Garrison
Principal
Jimmy C Draughn High School
Burke County Public Schools
828-879-4209
egarrison@burke.k12.nc.us

From: **Davis Whitfield** davis@nchsaa.org
Subject: **Re: Athletic ADM Hardship**
Date: November 3, 2014 at 1:36 PM
To: **Emily Garrison** egarrison@burke.k12.nc.us

Ms. Garrison

Thank you for your email and follow up correspondence. I will double-check with Ms. Tucker regarding receipt of your appeal information but I am certain we have received your request. If not, we will be in touch as soon as possible.

I appreciate your thoughts and feelings regarding this matter and I do have a couple of follow up questions. 1. Has your conference discussed releasing you from your current conference? and, 2. Have you had any conversations with other conferences that would be willing to accept you at the mid-way point of this realignment into their conference? As you know, these are customarily the two questions asked by our Board of Directors during these appeals. If the answer to the questions above is, no, it does not automatically negate your request, it just simply adds to the complexities that the Board will need to consider.

Please know that you will have every opportunity to come to Chapel Hill in person on December 3 to make your appeal to the Board. Details will be sent directly to you at a later date, but, you will certainly have your opportunity to appeal before the Board.

In the meantime, have a great remainder of your fall semester and work hard to keep your school in good spirits.

Take care.

Davis Whitfield
Commissioner, NCHSAA
Sent from my iPad

On Nov 1, 2014, at 12:05 PM, Emily Garrison <egarrison@burke.k12.nc.us> wrote:

Good morning Mr Whitfield,

I wanted to make you aware that I submitted a request to be added to the Board's winter meeting agenda. Ms Hines received our request and explanation a couple days ago.

I hope you will consider our situation and explanation that I submitted. The current conference placement for Draughn High School has been devastating to our Athletic program.

As you know, football is the "face" of a high school's athletic program. The reality in a high school is that football sets the tone for the school, both academically and athletically. I have served as an administrator at two high schools and being an athlete myself growing up, this has been true for my experiences.

Week after week I have seen defeat growing on the face of my kids. Last night, we faced Shelby High School in our final game of the season. We were out matched in so many ways but our kids did as they've done each week, gave their all. If I'm not mistaken by halftime the score was already such that a running clock was in effect the entire second half. At one point in the game one of my players, a junior, turned to the stands found me sitting among parents and yelled from the sidelines, "Mrs Garrison you've got to get us out of this conference." That comment was then followed by others from parents.

Words cannot describe how frustrating this season has been for our student athletes, our coaching staff, our parents and our community. I can assure you that this has not been due to the lack of preparation, lack of desire or will, or lack of effort on either my coaches or my athletes. They have continued every week, reviewing film on Sunday's, and preparing our kids with the same during the week. I am so proud of the way our coaching staff has handled this season by remaining positive.

I am simply asking that you and the Board of Directors help restore a sense of pride, excitement, and hope to our athletes by reassigning us to a different conference that is more comparable to the size of our school. I am confident that being in a different conference more aligned to our current enrollment of 719 will create a more Fair and Equitable level of competition for my student athletes.

Equivalent level of competition for my student athletes.

If I need to clarify or provide additional insight into our situation I am more than happy to do so. I look forward to hearing from you soon and hope that we will have the opportunity to present to the board in December.

Thank you for hearing me out and for considering our situation. I just felt compelled to email this to you.

Have a nice weekend.

Emily Garrison
Principal
Draughn High School

Sent from my iPhone

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*Mission Statement*The mission of Burke County Public Schools is to educate diverse learners, nurture their potentials, and empower them to be competitive, successful, and productive citizens.

*Vision Statement *Burke County Public Schools, a world-class model of exemplary education, inspires students to be life-long learners who can compete successfully on the global stage and contribute to their community as productive citizens.

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West Iredell: to move from 3-A to 2-A, change from North Piedmont to SD7

--current enrollment they say is 918; football ADM listed at 960; ADM used for last realignment was 1017, with 3-A range 1410-999

--says average enrollment in SD7 is 913, versus North Piedmont Conference average excluding West Iredell of 1470; average distance to conference opponents in NPC is 19.6 miles, SD7 is 30.5, so travel is actually more

--conference was polled and support West's appeal, no letter from SD7

North Piedmont (currently 8, 5 3-A and 3 4-A)

4-A: Alexander Central, Lake Norman, Mooresville; 3-A: North Iredell, North Lincoln, South Iredell, Statesville, **West Iredell**



WEST IREDELL HIGH SCHOOL

213 WARRIOR DRIVE
STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28625

PHONE: (704) 873-2181

FAX: (704) 873-0356

OFFICE OF THE
PRINCIPAL

10/15/14

To Whom It May Concern:

West Iredell High School would like to petition the NCHSAA to be reclassified as a 2A school and join the Southern District 7 Conference. According to the 2013 ADM numbers for the football playoffs, the average enrollment of the SD-7 was 913 students. The present enrollment at West Iredell High School is 918 students. The average enrollment of the North Piedmont Conference (excluding West Iredell) was 1470 students. West Iredell is just 5 above the average enrollment of the SD-7 while 552 below the average of the NPC.

The average distance to conference opponents in the NPC is 19.6 miles. If we were in the SD-7, the average distance would be 30.5 miles. By just looking at the football schedule and assuming that in county schools would now make up our non-conference schedule, the average distance would be 25.2 miles as opposed to the average of 22.8 at the present.

West Iredell currently competes against a few of the SD-7 teams and enjoys friendly rivalries. We would like for our athletes to compete against schools with comparable enrollment. The SD-7 meets that need as well as limited travel. Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Gordon Palmer
Principal

Brady Johnson
ISS Superintendent

Richard Armstrong
Asst. Superintendent
Of Operations / AD

Buck Gatton
WIHS AD

ACCREDITED BY THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

The Iredell-Statesville School System encourages all students and parents/guardians to select the strongest possible academic courses. During registration, parents/guardians have the right to question or to challenge any placement of their student in any class. The Iredell-Statesville School System does not discriminate in class enrollment on the basis of gender, race, creed, national origin, handicapping condition, or family circumstances.

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission

Name(s): West Iredell High School

LEA/Conference/Group: Iredell-Statesville Schools / North Piedmont Conference

We/I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors:

Recommendation/Proposal: (State in detail the recommendation/proposal)

West Iredell High School to join the Southern District 7 Conference and be reclassified as 2A.

- Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)

The present enrollment at West Iredell HS is 918 students. Average NPC ADM = 1470, Average SD-7 ADM = 913. (See attachment)

- Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)

If there is any impact it would be positive as gates should improve.

- Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)

There would be no educational impact as travel would remain similar.

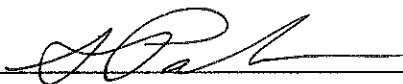
- Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)

All athletes would benefit from competing against schools with comparable enrollments.

- Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)

Fall 2015

Signature



Date 10/28/14

request to reclassify

7 messages

Buck Gatton <bgatton@iss.k12.nc.us>

Tue, Oct 28, 2014 at 5:04 PM

To: James Mabe <james_mabe@iss.k12.nc.us>, Kevin Wilson <krwilson@mgsd.k12.nc.us>, Bobby Deal <bdeal@iss.k12.nc.us>, Joanna Crew <jcrew@alexander.k12.nc.us>, Jon Carpenter <jcarpenter@lincoln.k12.nc.us>, Matthew Miller <matthew_miller@iss.k12.nc.us>, Richard Armstrong <richard_armstrong@iss.k12.nc.us>, Robert Morrison <remorrison@iss.k12.nc.us>, Sandy Torrence <allsports523@yahoo.com>

As I was talking to the NCHSAA today about sending in our request, I was informed that all request must have the support of the conference. I am asking for your support in our appeal to be reclassified as a 2A school. We have 918 students, the average in the NPC is 1470 and the SD-7 is 913. Please reply letting me know if you would support our request. Thanks

--
Buck Gatton
Athletic Director
West Iredell High School
704-873-2181 (school)
704-902-7101 (cell)

Sandy Torrence <allsports523@yahoo.com>

Tue, Oct 28, 2014 at 5:06 PM

To: Buck Gatton <bgatton@iss.k12.nc.us>

If everyone agrees do you need a letter?

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Matthew Miller <matthew_miller@iss.k12.nc.us>

Tue, Oct 28, 2014 at 5:07 PM

To: Buck Gatton <bgatton@iss.k12.nc.us>

I support your decision.
Matt Miller

North Iredell

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 28, 2014, at 5:04 PM, Buck Gatton <bgatton@iss.k12.nc.us> wrote:
>
[Quoted text hidden]

Kevin Wilson <krwilson@mgsd.k12.nc.us>

Tue, Oct 28, 2014 at 5:24 PM

To: Buck Gatton <bgatton@iss.k12.nc.us>

We support.

Kevin Wilson, CAA
Athletic Director/Assistant Principal
Blue Devil Athletics
Mooresville High School

Mooresville

[Quoted text hidden]

James Mabe <james_mabe@iss.k12.nc.us>
To: Buck Gatton <bgatton@iss.k12.nc.us>

Tue, Oct 28, 2014 at 5:29 PM

Lake Norman

Lake Norman cotes yes and you have our support

On Tue, Oct 28, 2014 at 5:04 PM, Buck Gatton <bgatton@iss.k12.nc.us> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

--
Jamie Mabe
Athletic Director
Lake Norman High School
(704) 799-8555

Bobby Deal <bdeal@iss.k12.nc.us>
To: Buck Gatton <bgatton@iss.k12.nc.us>

Wed, Oct 29, 2014 at 7:23 AM

South Iredell approves of West Iredell request to move down to 2A

Bobby A. Deal
Athletic Director
South Iredell
299 Old Mountain Rd.
Statesville, NC 28677
(704)528-4536 ext. 1312
(704)528-0882 (fax)

South Iredell

On Tue, Oct 28, 2014 at 5:04 PM, Buck Gatton <bgatton@iss.k12.nc.us> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

Joanna Crew <jcrew@alexander.k12.nc.us>
To: Buck Gatton <bgatton@iss.k12.nc.us>

Wed, Oct 29, 2014 at 8:33 AM

Cc: James Mabe <james_mabe@iss.k12.nc.us>, Kevin Wilson <krwilson@mgsd.k12.nc.us>, Bobby Deal <bdeal@iss.k12.nc.us>, Jon Carpenter <jcarpenter@lincoln.k12.nc.us>, Matthew Miller <matthew_miller@iss.k12.nc.us>, Richard Armstrong <richard_armstrong@iss.k12.nc.us>, Robert Morrison <remorrison@iss.k12.nc.us>, Sandy Torrence <allsports523@yahoo.com>

Alexander Central supports your decision to appeal.

Joanna

Alexander Central

--
Joanna Crew, CAA
Alexander Central High School
Athletic Director
828-635-3401

**Mountain Heritage: to move from 2-A to 1-A and stay in same conference,
Western Highlands**

--current football ADM listed at 671, which is what letter says; number used last realignment was 721 and 2-A range was 996-668

--letter indicates many plant closings in county

--letter from Western Highlands says “**conference is split on move by school from 2-A to 1-A**” but “will abide by state’s decision”

Western Highlands: currently 7 schools, 5 2-A and 2 1-A

1-A: Avery, Mitchell; **2-A:** Hendersonville, Madison, C.D. Owen, Polk County,

Mountain Heritage

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL



PO Drawer 70
Burnsville, NC 28714
Tel: (828) 682-6103
Fax: (828) 682-4287

NCHSAA Committee,

Mountain Heritage High School and the Yancey County School System are requesting that the North Carolina High School Athletic Association reassess our current position in the 2A classification. We request to be moved to the 1A classification for the remainder of this realignment period. This request is due to fact that Mountain Heritage High School ADM's have met and we feel will continue to meet the 1A classification numbers all four years of the realignment period.

Mountain Heritage High School has seen a substantial decrease in student enrollment over the past decade. The decrease in enrollment is due to the fact that Yancey County has experienced a tremendous hardship with the closing of three manufacturing plants since the year 2000. There have also been drastic cut-backs in the other manufacturing facilities in our county. From the year 2000-2010 there have been an estimated 1000 jobs lost in our county. In 2011 the unemployment rate in Yancey County was at an all-time high of 15%. The loss of jobs in our county has forced many of our younger families to relocate in order to find employment. While the elementary and middle schools saw the immediate decrease of enrollment, it has taken a few years for the decrease in numbers to reach the high school. In the 2013-2014 school year, which was the first year of the realignment period, Mountain Heritage had an ADM of 679 students. This ADM was three students less than a 1A member of our conference. The 2013-2014 football ADM's showed ten 1A schools that had a larger enrollment than Mountain Heritage. Mountain Heritage's current ADM for the 2014-2015 school year is 671 students. This ADM includes 12 students that attend our evening alternative school which by school charter does not allow them to participate in athletics. We currently have 659 students who can participate in athletics at Mountain Heritage High School. We believe that if our numbers fall within the 1A classification for all four years of the realignment period then we should be reclassified after two years.

Mountain Heritage is currently a member of the 1A/2A Western Highlands Conference. The conference consists of two 1A schools and five 2A schools. A move from the 2A classification to the 1A classification would not necessitate a change of conferences but would create a better balance among our current conference.

We would like to thank you for your time and consideration to this request. If there are any questions or concerns that need to be addressed, please contact us at your convenience.

Joey Robinson

Athletic Director

Mountain Heritage High School

Kevin M. Huskins

Principal

Mountain Heritage High School



POLK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

1681 E. NC 108 Hwy., Columbus, North Carolina 28722

Superintendent: William H. Miller (828) 894-3051 Principal: Mary Feagan (828) 894-2525

Director of Athletics: Jeff Wilson Office (828) 894-8002 Fax (828) 894-0537

Cell (828) 817-0537 Home (828) 894-4368

October 31, 2014

Dear Que,

As President of the Western Highlands Conference, I have been asked to compile thoughts of all the member schools in regards to Mountain Heritage's request to be reclassified as 1A. Currently, our conference is comprised of five 2A schools, Hendersonville, Madison, Mountain Heritage, Polk County, and Owen, and two 1A schools, Avery and Mitchell County.

Our conference is split on this decision. The majority slightly favors Mountain Heritage to go to the 1A classification. Thoughts advocating their proposal include that we have been a split 2A-1A league with a four to three 2A to 1A ratio in the past and that if they have 1A numbers then they should be allowed to reclassify.

Thoughts against it is the fairness to schools in our conference who have had to endure the four year plan at realignment. Thoughts are if realignment is every four years, then stick to the plan. Also, if they are thirty students below cut off now, what happens with future ADM's? Is this enough fluctuation to reclassify a school for the next two years?

In conclusion, I cannot state that we are solidified as a group to say which is best for our conference. We will abide by the state's decision in this matter.

Thank you very much for allowing us to have input in this appeals process.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey F. Wilson

WHC President

Director of Athletics, Polk County High School

Local Plant Closings in Yancey County

2000 - Outboard Marine Company

2004 – Avondale Mills

2004 – Henredon Furniture (Spruce Pine)

2009 – Taylor Toggs

**Glenn Raven Mills work force has been cut from
over 300 employees to 165 employees**

Jay Robinson: to move from 4-A to 3-A and change from MeCKa 4-A to South Piedmont 3-A

--says that due to a redistricting within Cabarrus County, lines were redrawn and eventually lost 135 students

--current football ADM listed at 1332; number used last realignment was 1432 (4-A range went to 1411)

--MeCKa 4-A has agreed to release, currently 8:

Brown, Hopewell, Hough, Mallard Creek, North Meck, West Charlotte, Vance, (**Jay Robinson**)

--South Piedmont 3-A has agreed to accept, currently 9

Carson, Central Cabarrus, Concord, Cox Mill, East Rowan, Hickory Ridge, NW Cabarrus, South Rowan, West Rowan, **Jay Robinson**



4401 Old Airport Road
PO Box 388
Concord, NC
28026.0388
704.786-61919
704.786-6141 fax

October 20, 2014

Board of Directors
North Carolina High School Athletic Association
222 Finley Golf Course Road
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27515

NCHSAA Board of Directors:

Cabarrus County Schools Administration and School Board is writing to you to express the full support of Jay M. Robinson High School's appeal to change from 4A classification to 3A classification. As stated by Jay M. Robinson in their official appeal letter, listed below are major reasons in which we are asking the NCHSAA Board of Directors to highly consider reclassifying Jay M. Robinson High School to 3A status:

1. Jay M. Robinson no longer has 4A enrollment numbers
2. The MeCKa 4A conference has unanimously agreed to release Jay M. Robinson from their conference
3. The South Piedmont 3A Conference has unanimously agreed to accept Jay M. Robinson into their conference
4. Safety Issues: especially in the sport of football
5. Financial Hardships: reduced gate revenue
6. Student, Staff, and Community morale

In closing, Cabarrus County Schools values our past, current, and future relationship with the NCHSAA. We respectfully request your approval of the return of Jay M. Robinson High School to 3A status, especially since both the releasing and receiving conferences are in unanimous agreement with this proposal.

Sincerely,

Barry Shepherd
Superintendent
Cabarrus County Schools

Blake Kiger
Chairman, Board of Education
Cabarrus County Schools

Bryan Tyson
Director of Athletics
Cabarrus County Schools

Donna Smith
Executive Director of Student Services
Cabarrus County Schools



Jay M. Robinson High School

300 Pitts School Rd. S.W.
Concord, NC 28027
704.788.4500
704.723.4352 *fax*
704.723.4348 *guidance fax*

Gregory Hall
Principal

October 13, 2014

Board of Directors
North Carolina High School Athletic Association
222 Finley Golf Course Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27515

North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors:

We are writing today to express our concerns regarding our current status within the 4A MECKA Conference and to, ultimately, request your final approval to transfer to the 3A South Piedmont Conference. At this time, both the MECKA and SPC Conferences have sanctioned this change, as it is in the all-around best interest of the student-athletes and preserves the sanctity of fairness in athletics. The following ideas reflect the concerns of the athletes, coaches, faculty, parents and community of Jay M. Robinson High School:

Our ADM numbers do not qualify Robinson to participate in 4A athletics. The reduction in ADM numbers from the time of the 2010 count for realignment from 1421 to our current number of 1340 occurred predominately because of redistricting within Cabarrus County Schools, which allowed one neighborhood (Laurel Park) the option of sending upperclassmen to Robinson or their new home school, Northwest Cabarrus High School. This occurred the year of our original count, meaning Robinson lost 135 students to Northwest the following year. While we tried to appeal the decision at the realignment session at Maiden High School, it was to no avail;

At this time, our ADM number of 1340 is incomparable to the numbers of the other schools within the MECKA Conference, one of the largest 4A conferences in the state. For example, Mallard Creek and Hough high schools, which draw from populations of 2500+ students, have athletic pools almost double Robinson's and nearly have a larger male population than we have students total. At the Regional 6 meeting, the core values of the NCHSAA were mentioned on numerous occasions. Amongst these values are fair play, equality, fair competition, and respect. Based on our going on three years of experience within the MECKA Conference, it is clear that fairness and equality will not be experienced by our athletes as long as we remain in the 4A pool;

Also mentioned at the Regional 6 session were the pillars of the NCHSAA safety and well-being, both of which have been impacted within the ranks of Robinson student-athletes since relocating to the MECKA Conference. Consistently, Robinson teams pale in size (both physically and in numbers), which continues to lead to an exponential rise in student-athlete injuries. When other MECKA teams have a full and respective offense/defense to turn to, our athletes are often playing

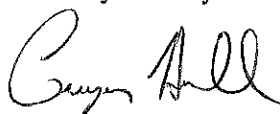
full games because of the necessity to play both; when other MECKA teams can turn to a second (and sometimes even a third) string, Robinson does not traditionally have that luxury. Because of this, and because of the differences in size and often ability, our trainers are treating twice as many injuries of Robinson student-athletes as in previous years. The only way to better ensure the safety of our athletes is to match them against other similar athletic pools in their future competitions;

In order to train athletes, any school wants capable and respectable coaches; acquiring and retaining these coaches for our athletes is something that Robinson is starting to battle now that many of our teams have, and continue to have, less than favorable records. If a coach's job depends on having a winning season and that is something that is unattainable in many sports within the MECKA Conference, coaching at Robinson does not build said coaching resume. Therefore, this decision is one that impacts the athletes, the coaches, as well as the long-term success of many Robinson athletic programs as a whole;

Finally, while financial difficulties due to realignment are not something the NCHSAA traditionally likes to address, this is unfortunately a very important effect of participating in 4A athletics in the Charlotte area for Robinson High School. Robinson athletics is losing as much as \$38,000 per year while participating in the MECKA Conference. In addition to impacting the major sports, our non-profit sports are greatly affected, as Robinson Athletics struggles to find the money within itself to provide necessary equipment and to maintain facilities, leaving it up to individual programs, boosters, and oftentimes chance to try to raise the money themselves to barely cover the minimum necessities to function as an athletic program and to provide athletes with what they need to compete safely. Many of our financial issues stem from our increase in travel expenses, due to our more extensive travel distance into Mecklenburg County for MECKA athletic competitions and a reduction of fan participation and community support affected by longer travel distances, loss of community rivalry within Cabarrus County, and a crumbling athletics program tormented by losses. Returning to the 3A SPC is a vital first step in lowering operating costs and reinvigorating natural rivalries, both of which would allow Robinson Athletics the capability of functioning more effectively for our athletes and our community without a deficit each year.

Robinson athletes deserve the opportunity to compete in the 3A SPC not solely because it's where they fit based on ADM numbers, but more importantly because it's where they can equally compete to earn respect in a safer environment and as member of a program with reputable coaches and funding that allows them the opportunity to thrive. Both the MECKA and the South Piedmont conferences, a total of 16 teams, unanimously agree with these assertions and concur that our school should be permitted to make the change requested. Jay M. Robinson is asking you, the NCHSAA Board of Directors, to uphold the NCHSAA core values and amend this situation by allowing our athletes the opportunity to participate in the 3A South Piedmont Conference.

Thank you for your consideration,



Gregory Hall
Principal



Glenn Cook
Athletic Director



Every Child. Every Day. For a Better Tomorrow.

Department Name

Street Address
City, State Zip

Date: October 14, 2014

To whom it may concern,

North Mecklenburg High School votes to allow J. M. Robinson High School move out of the Meca Conference.

Lynn Rhymer

Principal, North Mecklenburg High

Phone: 000-000-0000 • Fax 000-000-0000 • www.cms.k12.nc.us • CMS-TV

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West Charlotte High School

2219 Senior Drive
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216

September 18, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

West Charlotte High School Athletics Department is in full support of JM Robinson leaving MECKA conference to pursue 3A classification. We believe this will benefit their student-athletes tremendously and give them an equal level of competition. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Thank you

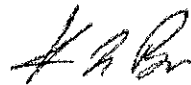
Chris Satterfield, Athletic Director
West Charlotte High School
cl.satterfield@cms.k12.nc.us

**A.L. BROWN HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
415 EAST 1ST STREET
KANNAPOLIS, NC 28083
PHONE: 704-932-6125 FAX: 704-933-1862**

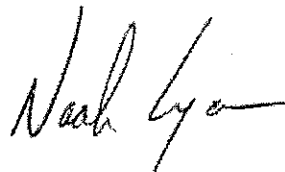
"Life is Green and White"

Dear NCHSAA,

AL Brown High School and Kannapolis City Schools will support JM Robinson High School in their declaration to move out of 4A and the MeCKa conference.



Kenneth Bowen
Principal



Noah Lyon
Athletic Director



Every Child. Every Day. For a Better Tomorrow.

Mallard Creek High School

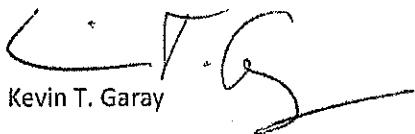
3825 Johnston Oehler Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28269

September 26, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

We, Mallard Creek High School, release J.M. Robinson High School from the MeckKa 4A Conference for realignment.

Sincerely,



Kevin T. Garay

Principal

Phone: 980-343-1341 ■ Fax: 980-343-1342 ■ www.cms.k12.nc.us ■ CMS-TV

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REACH FURTHER.
Global competitiveness starts here.

Hopewell High School

11530 Beattles Ford Road
Huntersville, North Carolina 28078

TO: NCHSAA

Date: 9/23/14

From: Hopewell High School

Jamie Billings- Athletic Director

Dino Gisiano- Principal

Hopewell High School would like to formally document the approval of release for Jay M. Robinson High School from the MECKA 4A conference. We understand that Robinson is requesting release from the MECKA 4A athletic conference and we are in agreement with their release.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB", is written over the text "Thank you,". Below the signature, the name "Jamie Billings" is printed in a sans-serif font.

Jamie Billings

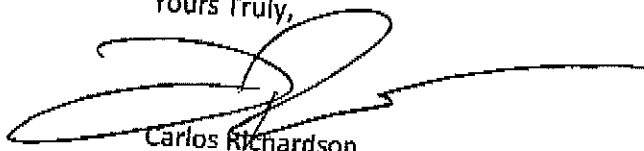
Phone: 980-343-5988 ■ Fax: 980-343-5990 ■ www.cms.k12.nc.us

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To: Whom It May Concern

The Vance Athletic Department fully supports J.M Robinson high school leaving the MECKA conference to pursue being in another 3A NCHSAA Conference. Athletics play a major role within a school climate; therefore it is very important that schools be placed in conferences that mirror their own student head count to ensure the competitive field is level. For further questions please feel free to contact the Vance Athletic Department.

Yours Truly,


Carlos Richardson
Vance Athletic Director



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

REACH FURTHER.

Global competitiveness starts here.

William A. Hough High School

12420 Bailey Road
Cornellus, North Carolina 28031

To: NCHSAA

Date: 9/26/14

From: William Amos Hough High School

Masanori Toguchi Jr. - Athletic Director

Dr. Laura Rosenbach - Principal

William Amos Hough High School would like to formally document the approval of release for Jay M. Robinson High School from the MECKA 4A Athletic Conference. We understand that Jay M. Robinson is requesting release from the MECKA 4A Athletic Conference and we are in agreement with their release.

Thank you,

Masanori Toguchi Jr., CAA

Phone: 980-344-0514 ■ Fax: 980-343-2215 ■ www.cms.k12.nc.us

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*South Piedmont Conference
523 North Church Street
Mooresville, NC 28115*

North Carolina High School Athletic Association:
222 Finley Golf Course Road
P.O. Box 3216
Chapel Hill, NC 27515

We, the members of the South Piedmont Conference, agree to take Jay M. Robinson as a member of our conference starting the school year 2015-2016.

Membership:

Jesse Carson High School- *M. Way*
Central Cabarrus High School- *K. R. [Signature]*
Concord High School- *[Signature]*
Cox Mill High School- *By [Signature]*
East Rowan High School- *Ch. Mitchell*
Hickory Ridge High School- *Adam Deagat*
Northwest Cabarrus High School- *J. Gale*
South Rowan High School- *Ch. [Signature]*
West Rowan High School- *T. [Signature]*

note: the next two could effect same conference (Big Eight)

Webb: move from 3-A to 2-A due to declining numbers, wants to go from Big Eight to Northern Carolina

--Current football ADM is listed as 1087, although letter indicates "student population stands at 1013"; number for last realignment was 1092 with 3-A range 1410-999

--says opening of a couple charter schools in county will hurt it

--Northern Carolina Conference has agreed to accept, Big Eight to release if Board approves

Big Eight, currently has 8

Cedar Ridge, Chapel Hill, Northern Vance, Northwood, Orange, Southern Durham,

Webb, Cardinal Gibbons

Northern Carolina, currently has 8 (2 non-football)

Bunn, DSA, Franklinton, NCSSM, Roanoke Rapids, South Granville, Southern Vance, Warren County, ***Webb***

J.F. Webb High School

3200 Webb school Road
Oxford, N.C. 27565
Phone: 919-603-7358
Fax: 919-693-2589
E-Mail: givensr@gcs.k12.nc.us

October 28, 2014

North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board Members
222 Finley Golf Course Road Chapel Hill, N.C. 27517

Dear Board Members of the North Carolina H.S. Athletic Association,

J.F. Webb High School located in Oxford, N.C. would like to apply for early realignment. Our student population has steadily decreased in the last 3 years and now stands at 1013. Our largest grade level is the 11th grade which will surely bring down our school enrollment even more. We feel that moving from 3A to 2A will allow us to compete with schools our size and allow us to renew rivalries that we cannot accommodate with our current schedule. These are schools that are generally 30 minutes from Oxford and would bring larger crowds with them.

The Northern Carolina 8 conference has unanimously voted to accept us if granted early alignment and the big-8, a great conference with some of the best Athletic Directors and Coaches in North Carolina, have given us their permission to carry out this endeavor. I think that this can be an easy transition. We are very familiar with the Northern Carolina Schools and have a great relationship with them also.

These school sizes were taken from last years playoff numbers but do not reflect 20 day admin numbers of these schools but playoff numbers from last season. The Northern Carolina-8. South Granville-1005, Southern Vance-798, Franklinton-1056, Bunn-922, Roanoke Rapids-909, Warren County-767. The Big-8 conference has much larger numbers. Chapel Hill-1444, Cedar Ridge-1143, Cardinal Gibbons-1287, Southern Durham-1335, Northwood-1189, Orange-1272 and Northern Vance-1137. Talking to Athletic Directors in the Big-8 most schools did have an increase in attendance. We feel that our numbers are greatly aligned with the Northern Carolina-8 conference. This combined with two new prep schools in Granville County, Falls Lake Prep and Oxford Prep will bring down school populations in all three public schools in Granville County.

In conclusion we feel that with declining numbers, a renewal of rivalries, less travel and larger gates make this move imperative for us. Any consideration that is given will be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me, Richard Givens, Athletic Director, at 919-603-7358 or Mr Reginald Brooks, Principal J.F. Webb at 919-693-2521.

Sincerely,

Richard Givens
Athletic Director

From: **Que Tucker** que@nchsaa.org
Subject: RE: J.F. Webb Reclassify
Date: October 30, 2014 at 1:41 PM
To: Davis Whitfield davis@nchsaa.org, Rick Strunk rick@nchsaa.org



Fyi

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Jarvis, Greg"
Date: 10/30/2014 12:52 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Que Tucker
Cc: Richard Givens , Charles Mann , "davist.co@rrgsd.org" , Donald Colgan , Jeremy Buck , Joseph Sharrow , Mark Kadlecik , Wanda Thompson
Subject: J.F. Webb Reclassify

Ms. Tucker,

I am writing to the NCHSAA and yourself in the capacity of the President of the Northern Carolina 2A conference. At our last meeting we unanimously voted to support J.F. Webb to become a member of our conference if they are granted permission to reclassify to 2A. Please let me know if you have any questions.

--

Greg Jarvis
Athletic Director/Director of Physical Activity and Wellness
North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics
President, Northern Carolina 2A Conference
(919)416-2842
www.goUNIs.com

GO UNIs!!!



'Big-Eight'-3A Athletic Conference

500 Orange High School Road
Hillsborough, NC 27278
#919-883-6547 or #919-883-6551

President: Earnie Price
Secretary: Melissa Knight

MEMO

TO: NCHSAA ~ Mid-Year Realignment Committee

FROM: Coach Earnie Price, Conference President
Melissa Knight, Conf. Commissioner/Secretary

DATE: October 29th, 2014

RE: J.F. Webb proposing to move to 'Northern Carolina'-2A Athletic Conference.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The 'Big-Eight'-3A Athletic Conference member schools met on Wed., October 15th, and discussed the possibility of J.F. Webb H.S. applying for mid-year realignment (2013-2017), and the decision for the next two years (2015-2017).

It is our understanding that the 'Northern Carolina'-2A Athletic Conference has welcomed J.F. Webb into their conference, for this mid-year realignment, if approved by the NCHSAA.

The 'Big-Eight'-3A Athletic Conference does not have any reservations releasing Webb to this 2A Conference. We know that it will benefit the 2A Conference, and it will also be more manageable for J.F. Webb with transportation (travel distance) issues; and the rivalry between the 2A member schools will make for a better 'turn-around' at the gate (ticket receipts). Webb's student population numbers have really dropped, and they probably should be in a 2A Conference. This realignment move will really help both parties 'cost wise,' & also in 'bringing-in' more revenue for all parties' involved (better gates/crowds)!

We hate to lose J.F. Webb in our 3A Conference, Ricky Givens and his school administration. We have developed such wonderful working relationships, and have had many productive & successful years together. Webb will be an asset to the 'Northern Carolina'-2A Athletic Conference. We hope that your decision will be favorable in that Webb & the 'Northern Carolina'-2A Conference will be a 'good fit.'

We wish J.F. Webb much success, and we know that our 3A member schools will still be able to schedule non-conference games with Webb, (even if they are realigned to this new 2A Conference). It will be a 'win-win' situation for all parties involved.

'Big-Eight'-3A Athletic Conference

500 Orange High School Road
Hillsborough, NC 27278
#919-883-6547 or #919-883-6551

President: Earnie Price
Secretary: Melissa Knight

MEMO

TO: NCHSAA ~ Mid-Year Realignment Committee

FROM: Coach Earnie Price, Conference President
Melissa Knight, Conf. Commissioner/Secretary

DATE: October 29th, 2014

RE: J.F. Webb proposing to move to 'Northern Carolina'-2A Athletic Conference.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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We hate to lose J.F. Webb in our 3A Conference, Ricky Givens and his school administration. We have developed such wonderful working relationships, and have had many productive & successful years together. Webb will be an asset to the 'Northern Carolina'-2A Athletic Conference. We hope that your decision will be favorable in that Webb & the 'Northern Carolina'-2A Conference will be a 'good fit.'

We wish J.F. Webb much success, and we know that our 3A member schools will still be able to schedule non-conference games with Webb, (even if they are realigned to this new 2A Conference). It will be a 'win-win' situation for all parties involved.

Cardinal Gibbons: to move from 3-A to 4-A

--due to growth in numbers

--current football ADM is listed as 1430; number for last realignment was 1249 with 3-A range 1410-999

--has letter of support for leaving from Big Eight; also has letter from PAC-6 4-A accepting if Board approves move

Big Eight, currently has 8

Cedar Ridge, Chapel Hill, Northern Vance, Northwood, Orange, Southern Durham, **Webb, Cardinal Gibbons**

PAC-6, currently has 6

East Chapel Hill, Hillside, Jordan, Northern Durham, Person, Riverside, **Cardinal Gibbons**

Date: October 31, 2014

To: NCHSAA Board of Directors
Davis Whitfield, Commissioner, NCHSAA
Que Tucker, Deputy Commissioner, NCHSAA

Re: Mid-cycle realignment petition

NCHSAA Board of Directors:

Cardinal Gibbons High School formally requests a change in classification, with the desire to re-classify from the 3A level to the 4A level for the remainder of the 2013-17 alignment period. Cardinal Gibbons has the unanimous support of our existing Big Eight 3A Conference members in this request. Cardinal Gibbons would like to accept an invitation to join the PAC-6 4A Conference, welcoming the unanimous support of the current PAC-6 membership.

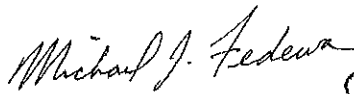
Given our competitive experience as an NCHSAA member institution since 2005, the positive growth trend of our student enrollment during the current alignment period (2012 = 1249, 2013 = 1287, 2014 = 1430), the growth in our athletic programming, our membership as a non-traditional school, our metropolitan location, and our enrollment boundary, it is our belief that Cardinal Gibbons aligns well with NCHSAA 4A member schools. We believe that this change in classification, effective with the 2015-16 school year, best reflects the interests of our student-athletes, as well as the interests of the NCHSAA and its 400 plus member schools.

Given the current uncertainty with the NCHSAA alignment process and model (i.e. possible move to a 20-30-30-20 model, possible change in the number of classifications, etc) moving forward, we recommend that Cardinal Gibbons and the NCHSAA re-evaluate this decision and consider the most appropriate classification of Cardinal Gibbons as part of the next 4 year re-alignment cycle.

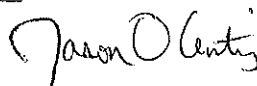
We have attached a letter of support from the Big Eight 3A Conference. We can obtain a letter of support from the PAC-6 4A Conference if needed. Cardinal Gibbons is willing to provide additional documentation (i.e. enrollment, participation numbers by sport/level, etc) to support our request if the NCHSAA deems it appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Fedewa
Superintendent
Catholic Diocese of Raleigh



Jason Curtis
Principal
Cardinal Gibbons High School



Todd Schuler
Athletic Director
Cardinal Gibbons High School

Date: November 4, 2014

To: NCHSAA Board of Directors
Davis Whitfield, Commissioner, NCHSAA
Que Tucker, Deputy Commissioner, NCHSAA

Re: Cardinal Gibbons realignment petition

NCHSAA Board of Directors:

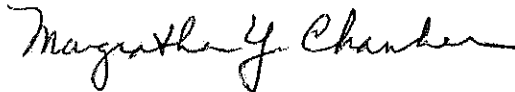
Cardinal Gibbons High School has notified our conference of their plans to appeal to the NCHSAA to re-classify as a 4A member school for the remaining 2 years of the 2013-17 alignment period. The PAC-6 4A member schools voted this Summer to extend an invitation for Cardinal Gibbons to join the PAC-6 4A Conference, effective for the 2015-16 school year, if the NCHSAA permits Cardinal Gibbons to re-classify as a 4A institution. The PAC-6 4A member schools are unanimous in their support of Cardinal Gibbons joining the PAC-6 Conference.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Bob Hill
President, PAC-6 Conference
Athletic Director
Hillside High School



Margratha Y. Chambers
Secretary, PAC-6 Conference
Athletic Director
Riverside High School

'Big-Eight'-3A Athletic Conference

500 Orange High School Road
Hillsborough, NC 27278
#919-883-6547 or #919-883-6551

President: Earnie Price
Secretary: Melissa Knight

MEMO

TO: NCHSAA ~ Mid-Year Realignment Committee

FROM: Coach Earnie Price, Conference President
Melissa Knight, Conf. Commissioner/Secretary

DATE: October 31st, 2014

RE: Cardinal Gibbons proposing to move to 'PAC-6 4A' Athletic Conference.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The 'Big-Eight'-3A Athletic Conference member schools met on Wed., October 15th, and discussed the possibility of Cardinal Gibbons applying for mid-year realignment (2013-2017), and the decision for the next two years (2015-2017).

It is our understanding that the 'PAC-6-4A' Athletic Conference has welcomed Cardinal Gibbons into their conference, for this mid-year realignment, if approved by the NCHSAA.

The 'Big-Eight'-3A Athletic Conference does not have any reservations releasing Cardinal Gibbons to this 4A Conference.

EP/mwk