Submission #6

Submission information

Form: 2017-2021 Alignment Adjustment Request
Submitted by Anonymous (not verified)
Wed, 10/31/2018 - 08:41
152.26.176.39

School Name Southwestern Randolph High School

Principal's name Shon Hildreth

Superintendent's name Stephen Gainey

Current Classification 3A

Current Conference 3A Mid-Piedmont 3A

Proposed Classification 2A

Proposed Conference, if different 2A PAC 7 2A

Conference Approved? Yes

Request

Please state your request
We are requesting re-classification from being a 3A school to being a 2A school. Please see the attached file. Thank you.

Criteria
Significant disparity in current size of the school - either a significant increase or decrease in enrollment/ADM (NOTE: Significant is defined as greater than a 10% decline in enrollment in one of the years since 2015)

Files Uploaded

Remember: all information that supports, defines and/or explains the request must be submitted with this form. Up to 3 files can be uploaded and attached to this request.

Document 1 SWRHS Re-classification appeal form for NCHSAA---October 2018.docx

Document 2

Document 3

Email Address shildreth@randolph.k12.nc.us

Our request for the re-classification of Southwestern Randolph High School as a 2A school is based on the following reasons:

1. Uwharrie Charter Academy opened during the 2013-2014 school year. This school is located three and a half miles from Southwestern Randolph High School and has an address aligned with the southwestern zone of the Randolph County School System. Furthermore, the number of students attending Uwharrie Charter Academy who were assigned to attend Southwestern Randolph High School has increased considerably when comparing the 2013-2014 school year to the 2018-2019 school year. This data is outlined in the following table:

School Year	Total Number of Students
2013-2014	59
2014-2015	92
2015-2016	124
2016-2017	143
2017-2018	140
2018-2019	153

   In addition to the previously-noted information, during the 2018-2019 school year, the Randolph County School System's six traditional high schools have lost 354 students to Uwharrie Charter Academy. In terms of individual schools, Southwestern Randolph High School has lost the largest number of students to Uwharrie Charter Academy during the 2018-2019 school year when compared to the other five traditional high schools in the Randolph County School System. More specifically, 43% of the high school students who have left the Randolph County School System to attend Uwharrie Charter Academy during the 2018-2019 school year came from Southwestern Randolph High School. Thus, the presence of Uwharrie Charter Academy in the southwestern zone of the Randolph County School System has had a direct, and substantial, negative impact on the enrollment of Southwestern Randolph High School.

2. Southwestern Randolph High School has experienced a significant decline in enrollment since the opening of Uwharrie Charter Academy during the 2013-2014 school year. More specifically, during the 2015-2016 school year, Southwestern Randolph High School's enrollment as of the 20th day was 1,061. However, as of the 20th day of the 2018-2019 school year, Southwestern Randolph High School's enrollment had decreased to 901. Thus, Southwestern Randolph High School's enrollment has decreased by 160 students when comparing the 2018-2019 school year data to the data used to place the school in the 3A classification under the current re-alignment plan.

   It also should be noted that a special application school, Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve, opened during the 2017-2018 school year. As of the 20th day of the 2018-2019 school year, 112 students in grade 9 and grade 10 attend the school. Furthermore, the enrollment at

Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve is attached to Southwestern Randolph High School for athletic purposes. However, despite the addition of the extra 112 students to Southwestern Randolph High School for athletic purposes for a total of 1,013 students, the number of Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve students participating in athletics at Southwestern Randolph High School has been minimal during the 2017-2018 school year and the 2018-2019 school year. In fact, a total of seven (7) Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve students participated in athletics at Southwestern Randolph High School during the 2017-2018 school year. The number of Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve students participating in athletics at Southwestern Randolph High School during the 2018-2019 school year only increased to 14. Another important note is the fact that Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve only had grade 9 during the 2017-2018 school year. Grade 10 was added during the 2018-2019 school year. Grade 11 will be added to the school during the 2019-2020 school year; whereas, the 2020-2021 school year will include the addition of grade 12.

3. Based on the 20th day enrollment numbers for the 2017-2018 school year, a notable number of 3A schools have surpassed Southwestern Randolph High School in enrollment since the development of the current re-alignment plan that placed the school in the 3A classification. More specifically, at the time of the development of the current re-alignment plan, 10 schools in the 3A classification were smaller than Southwestern Randolph High School in terms of enrollment. However, by the end of the first year of the current re-alignment plan, the enrollment for nine (9) of those 10 schools had surpassed Southwestern Randolph High School's number of students. Furthermore, by the end of the first year of the current re-alignment plan, 15 schools in the 2A classification had enrollments larger than the number of students at Southwestern Randolph High School.

   Please note that the 20th day enrollment number for grade 9 at Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve for the 2017-2018 school year, 62 students, is not included in the previously-noted comparison. While the 20th day enrollment number for grade 9 at Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve was attached to Southwestern Randolph High School for athletic purposes during the 2017-2018 school year, the number of Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve students participating in athletics at Southwestern Randolph High School was minimal during that school year. In fact, a total of seven (7) Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve students participated in athletics at Southwestern Randolph High School during the 2017-2018 school year.

4. At the time of the re-alignment process that led to Southwestern Randolph High School's current classification as a 3A school, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association had a total of 409 member schools. In terms of enrollment, 179 schools were larger than Southwestern Randolph High School at that time. However, based on the 20th day enrollment numbers for the 2017-2018 school year, the decrease in the school's enrollment has resulted in 203 schools, out of 413 member schools, being larger than Southwestern Randolph High School by the end of the first year of the current re-alignment plan.

Please note that the 20th day enrollment number for grade 9 at Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve for the 2017-2018 school year, 62 students, is not included in the previously-noted comparison. While the 20th day enrollment number for grade 9 at Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve was attached to Southwestern Randolph High School for athletic purposes during the 2017-2018 school year, the number of Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve students participating in athletics at Southwestern Randolph High School was minimal during that school year. In fact, a total of seven (7) Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve students participated in athletics at Southwestern Randolph High School during the 2017-2018 school year.

5. As a result of the previously–noted decline in the enrollment of Southwestern Randolph High School, the leaders of the Randolph County School System have continued to transition the school to a 2A size school in terms of the allotment of resources such as teacher positions during the past few years. More specifically, through the use of our allotment formulas for high schools, Southwestern Randolph High School's level of staffing has gradually been aligned with the other 2A schools in the Randolph County School System. Thus, while not an athletic issue, the school system's planning for Southwestern Randolph High School, in terms of academic resources, during the past few years clearly forecasts its movement to a 2A school.

Conclusion

Due to the continued decline of the enrollment of Southwestern Randolph High School, the leadership of the school, including Shon Hildreth (Principal), and the leadership of the Randolph County School System, including Stephen Gainey (Superintendent), are aligned in terms of our request for Southwestern Randolph High School to be re-classified as a 2A school. Our preference would be the placement of Southwestern Randolph High School into the PAC 7 2A Conference due to the school's familiarity with its current members. The principal of Southwestern Randolph High School, Shon Hildreth, has reached out to the President of the PAC 7 2A Conference to communicate his desire for his school's membership in that conference. Also, Shon Hildreth of Southwestern Randolph High School has shared his school's plan to appeal for re-classification as a 2A school with the President of his school's current conference, the Mid-Piedmont 3A Conference. While the placement of Southwestern Randolph High School into the PAC 7 2A Conference is the preference of Shon Hildreth and Stephen Gainey, the assignment of Southwestern Randolph High School to another 2A conference within the region also would be a favorable result. The ultimate goal of this request is the re-classification of Southwestern Randolph High School to the 2A classification regardless of the assigned conference.