Submission #11

Submission information

Form: 2017-2021 Alignment Adjustment Request
Submitted by Anonymous (not verified)
Mon, 11/05/2018 - 09:20
152.26.182.31

School Name Parkwood High School

Principal's name Carole Alley

Superintendent's name Andrew Houlihan

Current Classification 3A

Current Conference 3A Southern Carolina 3A

Proposed Classification 2A

Proposed Conference, if different 2A Rocky River 2A

Conference Approved? Yes

Request

Please state your request
We would like for the NCHSAA to consider our request to move from the 3A Southern Carolina Conference to the 2A Rocky River Conference. We hope to show the board that our 9% reduction in enrollment from 2017 to 2018 is a trend that will continue to make us smaller over the next 2 years due to a district realignment plan that was enacted by Union County Public Schools last spring. We were already a small 3A school struggling to compete in the Southern Carolina Conference before the local realignment plan began taking students away from our school.

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	Parkwood Appeal letter.doc
Document 2	SCC - Release.pdf
Document 3	RRC - Parkwood.pdf

Email Address nelson.garner@ucps.k12.nc.us

Parkwood High School
3220 Parkwood School Road
Monroe, NC 28112
704-764-2900
704-764-2907 Fax

Carole Alley, Principal | John DeLucia, Asst. Principal | Dr. Camela Bell, Asst. Principal | Eldridge Moore III, Asst. Principal

November 2, 2018

To whom it may concern:

Parkwood High School would like to ask that the NCHSAA consider our request regarding alignment adjustment for the 2019-20 school year. Currently we are part of the Southern Carolina 3A conference. It is our desire to be placed back in the Rocky River 2A conference where we competed before the last realignment.

We are appealing our current alignment based a local realignment plan that was approved by the Union County Board of Education last school year and enacted this school year. The specific details of this school realignment were sent to the NCHSAA staff earlier by district Athletic Director Doug Jones. The new alignment plan called for 190 students at Parkwood to be redistricted to other schools in the county. Due to a grandfathering option presented by the county, a large percentage of those students chose to stay at Parkwood. Despite those students remaining at our school we still saw a drop in enrollment from 1235 students during the 2017-18 school year to 1122 this fall after 20 days. This was approximately a 9% reduction in students.

While this reduction may not seem significant enough to merit a NCHSAA realignment, we believe that enrollment numbers will likely continue to drop based on the reduction in enrollment in the 7th and 8th grades at our only feeder middle school Parkwood Middle (PWMS). The 8th grade class at PWMS saw a 9% reduction in enrollment from 2017 to 2018 and the 7th grade class saw a 22% reduction from 2017 to 2018. Below is a chart that shows the forecasted enrollment numbers 2 years from now based on current enrollment data.

Current Grade	**2020-21** **Based on current class enrollment #'s**
7th	257
8th	280
9th	261
10th	296
11th	
	-30 students lost to charter and magnet schools
Total	**1064**

*Figures likely to be lower with students returning to their assigned school after middle school.

It's important to note that the figures in the chart above don't take into consideration the fact that many of the students coming from the middle school are likely to forgo the grandfather option and return to their assigned school once they complete middle school. It is possible that some currently at the high school through the grandfathering option will return to their home schools during their high school career. In addition, Parkwood High School typically loses an average of 30 students a year from the rising 9th grade class at PWMS to our charter and magnet schools in Union County (as shown in chart).

Following these trends it is easy to speculate that our enrollment figures will continue to drop into the next 2 years of our current alignment.

The redistricting plan here in Union County has also made the playing field much more uneven for us here at Parkwood. While our school's enrollment continues to drop, the affects have been to increase enrollment at the schools we compete against. The chart below shows the disparity we face.

School	2018 20 Day ADM
Cuthbertson High School	1832
Marvin Ridge High School	1771
Weddington High School	1538
Sun Valley High School	1495
Piedmont High School	1368
Parkwood High School*	**1122**
Monroe High School *	**1088**

*UCPS schools appealing current alignment

As you can see by the chart there is a significant difference in enrollment between the other Southern Carolina Conference schools in our county and the 2 schools appealing for realignment. Our biggest concern with being a school with up to 710 less students than some schools in our conference is safety, particularly in the sport of football. Our varsity football team has been depleted by injuries this season due to players having to play on both sides of the ball due to lower roster numbers. We have seen about a 10% reduction in the number of students playing football at Parkwood since the local realignment. Our participation numbers in football at the middle school are also down due to the same reasons stated above.

We are pleased that our current conference has agreed (see attachment) that we belong back in the 2A classification where we were better able to compete before realignment. We are also pleased that the 2A Rocky River conference has agreed (see attachment) to take us back as a member should the NCHSAA accept our appeal.

Let me finish by saying that Parkwood High School is a small close-knit rural community. The families and local community take great pride in our school and its athletic programs. We were disappointed to have fallen a few students over the ADM number needed to stay in 2A during the last reclassification. The latest district realignment plan was difficult for our school and community for many reasons, athletics being one of them. Trying to compete with much larger and wealthier schools has at times been demoralizing for our students and at times put them at greater risk for injury. We hope the NCHSAA will take all these factors into account when deciding which conference and classification we belong in. It is our hope that we can stand in front of the board of directors and further explain why we think a reclassification is in the best interest of our students here at Parkwood High School. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nelson Garner
Athletic Director
Parkwood High School

SOUTHERN CAROLINA CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM

TO: NORTH CARLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

FROM: DR. MIKE HARVEY

SUBJECT: PARKWOOD AND MONROE HIGH SCHOOL REALIGNMENT APPEAL

DATE: 10/17/2018

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Southern Carolina Conference, we hereby agree to release Parkwood High School and/or Monroe High School (contingent on the approval of their realignment appeal) from the Southern Carolina Conference. Each member school of the Southern Carolina Conference supports their decision to drop to the 2A Rocky River Conference.

Dr. Mike Harvey
Principal
Sun Valley High School

Rocky River Conference
700 Walker Road
Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124

Chris Shinn, Mt. Pleasant, Secretary
Jay Niessner, CATA, Secretary

Dear NCHSAA,

On September 10th, 2018 the Rocky River Conference (2A) voted 5-1 to approve allowing Parkwood High School to return to the Rocky River Conference, if they met all of the guidelines set in place by the NCHSAA to be reclassified to a 2A school, with the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

If you have any questions or need anything else from the Rocky River Conference please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Chris Shinn

Chris Shinn
Athletic Director
Mount Pleasant High School
Rocky River Conference Co-Secretary

Jay Niessner
Athletic Director
Central Academy of Technology & Arts
Rocky River Conference Co-Secretary