

**Legislative Assembly Meeting
March 13, 2019
Charleston, South Carolina**

Dan Matthews, as Past President of the South Carolina High School League, called the meeting to order and passed the gavel to Ozzie Ahl on March 13, 2019.

President Ahl introduced Dr. Clint, who then delivered the invocation.

Associate Commissioner Skip Lax conducted the roll call of delegates. All were present in person or via proxy.

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2018 Legislative Assembly Meeting was approved.

Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Jerome Singleton delivered a report on the financial status of the League. As of February 28, 2019, the operating account had a balance of \$44,966.22, the Wells Fargo Investment account had a total of \$551,428.08, and the Morgan Stanley Investment account had \$788,642.04; totaling \$1,385,320 in reserves. These amounts provide a one-year reserve for the league. Collectively, the SCHSL is in good financial standing.

Constitutional Amendment Proposals:

Mrs. Helen McFadden served as Parliamentarian during the Legislative Assembly.

The following proposals were presented to the delegates for their vote:

By-Laws, Constitution & Rules Section

Constitution

Article V Section 2-A

Submitted by: River Bluff High School

Currently Reads:

How to Join

A. Application for membership shall be made in writing to the coordinator of the region in which the school wishes to compete and to appropriate classification. Before being admitted, the application must be approved by two-thirds majority of the schools in the region and by the Classification Executive Committee. The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee must grant final approval. During periods of reclassification/realignment, application for membership shall be made in writing to the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee for consideration and possible approval.

Change to Read:

Application for membership shall be made in writing to the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee and must be received prior to the meeting in the winter of the year in which the school will open. Included in the application must be the year at which the school will open, the geographic location to include the school's physical address and school's district of origin and anticipated enrollment on the first day of school including the grades that will be served. The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee will consider enrollment and geographic location when advising the South Carolina High School League Staff about the school's approval and orientation within a region. Once determined the South Carolina High School Executive Committee will instruct the South Carolina High School League to place the team in the region for upcoming sport seasons. This notification will be made in writing to the school's principal and the region coordinator of the region to receive the new school's athletic competitions. The president of the classification will also be notified by the South Carolina High School League of the new school within the classification and instructed to communicate to the Classification Executive Committee.

Rationale:

New school's entering the South Carolina High School League should not be subject to a vote amongst the school's future competitors during a year in which the body is not under realignment proceedings in order to enter the league for competition.

The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee can consider the school's size and geographic location when making the recommendation to the league for admission of this school into the league.

Regardless of the year of origin, the school should have the same right to join and be entered into a region and classification.

Failed

A motion to approve failed with a vote of 42.29 to 173.72

Constitution
Article V Section 3-A
Submitted by: Whale Branch High School

Currently Reads:

The membership will be divided into minimum of three classifications determine by enrollments in grade 9-12. The reclassification process will use the 135 ADM from each school during the spring semester of the odd number years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two years.

Change to Read:

The membership will be divided into a minimum of three classifications determined by enrollments in grades **9-11**. The reclassification process will use the **45 ADM** from each school during the fall semester of the realignment year. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two years.

Rationale:

Proposed amendment will more accurately reflect the growth of a member school one year from realignment and this will allow schools to be classified properly with like sized member schools.

Passed

A motion to approve passed with a vote of 150.94 to 63.07

Constitution
Article V Section 3-A
Submitted by: Whale Branch High School

Currently Reads:

The membership will be divided into minimum of three classifications determine by enrollments in grade 9-12. The reclassification process will use the 135 ADM from each school during the spring semester of the odd number years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two years.

Change to Read:

The membership will be divided into a minimum of three classifications determined by enrollments in grades **9-11**. The reclassification process will use the **45 ADM** from each school during the fall semester of the realignment year. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period **of four years, which will be amended in two years based on an increase/decrease in population using the 45 ADM the fall semester of the even-numbered year. If a school's population increases/decreases during the even-number year by 20%, it will be moved to the appropriate class based on its new number. The classification involved shall make any necessary mid-term (two-year) adjustments prior to May of the second year.**

Rationale:

Proposed amendment will more accurately reflect the growth of a member school one year from realignment and schools will now be able to establish rivals over a four-year period verses a two-year period. If a change in enrollment such as a new school opening or a school closing or other factors, which may cause a fluctuation in the original enrollment numbers associated with the

initial classification placement occurs, the classification involved shall make any necessary mid-term (two-year) adjustments prior to May of the second year.

Failed

A motion to approve failed with a vote of 27.28 to 186.73

Constitution

Article V Section 3-A

Submitted By: Mr. Robbie Binnicker, Anderson School District 1, Dr. Richard Rosenberger, Anderson School District 2, Mrs. Kathy Hipp, Anderson School District 3, Dr. Joanne Avery, Anderson School District 4, Dr. Tom Wilson, Anderson School District 5, Mrs. Crystal Stapleton, Barnwell School District 45, Dr. Steve Wilson, Calhoun County Schools, Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Charleston County Schools, Dr. Carl Carpenter, Cherokee County Schools, Dr. Angela Bain, Chester County School District, Dr. Harrison Goodwin, Chesterfield County Schools, Mr. John Tindal, Clarendon County School District 2, Dr. Sheila Quinn, Clover School District, Dr. Tim Newman, Darlington County Schools, Dr. Morris Ravenell, Dorchester School District 4, Dr. Robert Maddox, Edgefield County Schools, Dr. J.R. Green, Fairfield County Schools, Mr. Neal Vincent, Florence School District 2, Dr. Chuck Epps, Fort Mill Schools, Dr. Burke Royster, Greenville County Schools, Dr. Darrell Johnson, Greenwood School District 50, Dr. Fay Sprouse, Greenwood School District 51, Dr. Rick Maxey, Horry County Schools, Dr. Jonathan Phipps, Lancaster County Schools, Dr. Gregory Little, Lexington School District 1, Dr. Bill James, Lexington School District 2, Dr. Christina Melton, Lexington/Richland District 5, Dr. Lana Williams, Orangeburg Consolidated School District 4, Dr. Danny Merck, Pickens County Schools, Dr. Harvey Livingston, Saluda County Schools, Dr. Mike Thorsland, School District of Oconee, Dr. Kenny Blackwood, Spartanburg School District 3, Dr. Rallie Liston, Spartanburg School District 4, Dr. Scott Turner, Spartanburg School District 5, Dr. Debra Hamm, Sumter County Schools, Dr. William Roach, Union County Schools, Dr. Rose Wilder, Williamsburg County Schools, Dr. Kelly Coxe, York School District 1

Currently Reads:

The membership will be divided into a minimum of three classifications determined by enrollments in grades 9-12. The reclassification process will use the 135 ADM from each school during the spring semester of the odd numbered years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period two years.

Change to Read:

The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications **and a maximum of six (6)** determined by enrollments in grades 9-11. The reclassification process will use the **45 ADM** (Grades 9-11) from each school during the **fall semester** of odd number realignment years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two (2) years.

Rationale:

Using the 45-day ADM and using only grades 9-11 of the realignment year will allow the numbers to more accurately reflect the numbers when the realignment goes into effect.

Passed

A motion to approve passed with a vote of 171 to 23.0

Constitution

Article V Section 3-A-D

Submitted by: Greenville High School

Currently Reads:

- A. The membership will be divided into a minimum of three classifications determined by enrollments in grades 9-12. The reclassification process will use the 135 ADM from each school during the spring semester of the odd numbered years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two years.
- B. The number of classifications will be determined by the Executive Committee. In making this decision the Executive Committee will consider the number of schools to be in each of the resulting classifications and the number of regions into which these will be further divided. The schools will be divided among classifications, numerically, as evenly as possible, based on school enrollment count.
- C. Representatives of the schools in each class will meet and determine the divisions that are necessary. By vote of the Legislative Assembly, this may be delegated to a single committee representing all classifications or to a separate committee for each classification.
- D. Any appeals from the classification placements will be determined by the Executive Committee of the South Carolina High School League, or its designee. The Executive Committee of the South Carolina High School League may delegate region appeal duties to Classifications Appeals Committees selected to represent the member schools of the class, which will determine the appeal as to region assignment. Member schools may appeal decisions made by the Classification Appeals Committee to the SCHSL Executive Committee.

Change to Read:

- A. The membership will be divided into **five (5)** classifications determined by enrollments in grades **9-11**. The reclassification process will use the **45 ADM** from each school during the fall semester of the odd numbered years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two years.
- B. The SCHSL Executive Committee will initially place schools **in classifications. The schools will be divided among classifications as follows based entirely on school enrollment count: Total number of member schools will be determined and then divided by 5 to determine the number of schools in each classification. (Example if there are 200 member schools, each class will have 40 schools.)** If that year the total number is not divisible evenly by 5, **A will be increased in number by 1. If needed AA will be also be increased by 1, etc... until the total number is again evenly divisible by 5. (Example if there are 202 member schools AAA-AAAAA will have 40 and A and AA will have 41).** In the event that at the point of division of a class, two schools have the same number of students (Example: 200 schools and the 40th and 41st schools both have 1700 students), they both will play down a class for that alignment period. Once the classes are evenly divided by enrollment, the SCHSL staff will provide that list to member schools and districts. There will be a two-week period during which members can submit requests to the Classification's Executive Committee for consideration. This process will be facilitated by SCHSL staff. If a school requests to play up a classification, and the request is granted, then the smallest school in the classification they are moving to will have the option to move down a classification to keep the numbers even. After classes are finalized the

SCHSL staff will meet with the current year Classification Executive Committee for each class and provide a draft proposal of region assignment and Upper/Lower State divide. Each Class' Executive Committee, assisted by League Staff, will be responsible for determining final school placement within the regions to the extent necessary in their judgment to take into account travel and region size.

- C. A completed reclassification draft will be presented to all member schools and districts for a period of not less than two (2) weeks for study, and following receipt of comment and requests for adjustment, will be considered for final approval by the Class Executive Committee & League Staff.**
- D. After the two-week review period and the Executive Committee for each class has finalized the realignment, no further appeals will be heard.**

Rationale:

Proposed amendment allows for cooperation of member schools with the League staff instead of completely relying on one group or the other. It also allows for a period of comment prior to the acceptance of realignment where requests for changes can be made and considered by more people at the school level instead of the league staff or Executive Committee. This process should provide member schools with a transparent process they can trust and have input without an option for appeals at the end.

By dividing by 5, it also allows for classes to be determined in a completely unbiased format. It allows for 45-day count and 9-11 enrollment to be used to have the school size as closely reflect the next two year's projected size as possible for each school.

Failed

A motion to approve failed with a vote 10.78 to 164.65

Constitution

Article VI Section-1-B-10

Submitted By: Mr. Robbie Binnicker, Anderson School District 1, Dr. Richard Rosenberger, Anderson School District 2, Mrs. Kathy Hipp, Anderson School District 3, Dr. Joanne Avery, Anderson School District 4, Dr. Tom Wilson, Anderson School District 5, Mrs. Crystal Stapleton, Barnwell School District 45, Dr. Steve Wilson, Calhoun County Schools, Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Charleston County Schools, Dr. Carl Carpenter, Cherokee County Schools, Dr. Angela Bain, Chester County School District, Dr. Harrison Goodwin, Chesterfield County Schools, Mr. John Tindal, Clarendon County School District 2, Dr. Sheila Quinn, Clover School District, Dr. Tim Newman, Darlington County Schools, Dr. Morris Ravenell, Dorchester School District 4, Dr. Robert Maddox, Edgefield County Schools, Dr. J.R. Green, Fairfield County Schools, Mr. Neal Vincent, Florence School District 2, Dr. Chuck Epps, Fort Mill Schools, Dr. Burke Royster, Greenville County Schools, Dr. Darrell Johnson, Greenwood School District 50, Dr. Fay Sprouse, Greenwood School District 51, Dr. Rick Maxey, Horry County Schools, Dr. Jonathan Phipps, Lancaster County Schools, Dr. Gregory Little, Lexington School District 1, Dr. Bill James, Lexington School District 2, Dr. Christina Melton, Lexington/Richland District 5, Dr. Lana Williams, Orangeburg Consolidated School District 4, Dr. Danny Merck, Pickens County Schools, Dr. Harvey Livingston, Saluda County Schools, Dr. Mike Thorsland, School District of Oconee, Dr. Kenny Blackwood, Spartanburg School District 3, Dr. Rallie Liston, Spartanburg School District 4, Dr. Scott Turner, Spartanburg School District 5, Dr. Debra Hamm, Sumter County Schools, Dr. William Roach, Union County Schools, Dr. Rose Wilder, Williamsburg County Schools, Dr. Kelly Coxe, York School District 1

Currently Reads:

Up to five members at large, representing superintendents, assistant superintendents, and principals may be appointed by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee to insure gender, geographical, ethnic, private schools and charter schools' representation.

Add:

Up to three of the at-large members will be selected by the S.C. Association of School Administrators to insure gender, geographical and ethnic representation. Geographical areas for representation are as defined in the Bylaws.

Rationale:

• The S.C. Association of School Administrators can appoint the at-large positions for three of the five positions to ensure gender, ethnic, and geographic representation. In most cases geographic representation is addressed other position representation, so that leave two positions that need representation (gender and ethnics).

This will provide the S.C. Association of School Administrators with an opportunity placed four or possibly five superintendents without increasing the number of executive committee members.

Passed

A motion to approve is passed with a vote of 191.23 to 22.78

Constitution

Article VI Section: 5-B

Submitted by: Greenville High School

Currently reads:

The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee shall hear appeals from classification executive committee decisions and protests between schools in different classifications.

Change to Read:

The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee shall hear appeals from classification executive committee decisions, **not involving classification and/or region placement**, and protests between schools in different classifications.

Rationale:

The schools are the ones that are most directly affected by changes to a reclassification/realignment plan. They have elected a classification(s) executive committee(s) to address this/these matter(s).

This change allows the classification(s) executive committee(s) decisions about reclassification/realignment to be the final level of appeal.

Failed

A motion to approve failed with a vote of 48.42 to 165.59

Constitution

Article VII Section-1-B

Submitted By: Mr. Robbie Binnicker, Anderson School District 1, Dr. Richard Rosenberger, Anderson School District 2, Mrs. Kathy Hipp, Anderson School District 3, Dr. Joanne

Avery, Anderson School District 4, Dr. Tom Wilson, Anderson School District 5, Mrs. Crystal Stapleton, Barnwell School District 45, Dr. Steve Wilson, Calhoun County Schools, Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Charleston County Schools, Dr. Carl Carpenter, Cherokee County Schools, Dr. Angela Bain, Chester County School District, Dr. Harrison Goodwin, Chesterfield County Schools, Mr. John Tindal, Clarendon County School District 2, Dr. Sheila Quinn, Clover School District, Dr. Tim Newman, Darlington County Schools, Dr. Morris Ravenell, Dorchester School District 4, Dr. Robert Maddox, Edgefield County Schools, Dr. J.R. Green, Fairfield County Schools, Mr. Neal Vincent, Florence School District 2, Dr. Chuck Epps, Fort Mill Schools, Dr. Burke Royster, Greenville County Schools, Dr. Darrell Johnson, Greenwood School District 50, Dr. Fay Sprouse, Greenwood School District 51, Dr. Rick Maxey, Horry County Schools, Dr. Jonathan Phipps, Lancaster County Schools, Dr. Gregory Little, Lexington School District 1, Dr. Bill James, Lexington School District 2, Dr. Christina Melton, Lexington/Richland District 5, Dr. Lana Williams, Orangeburg Consolidated School District 4, Dr. Danny Merck, Pickens County Schools, Dr. Harvey Livingston, Saluda County Schools, Dr. Mike Thorsland, School District of Oconee, Dr. Kenny Blackwood, Spartanburg School District 3, Dr. Rallie Liston, Spartanburg School District 4, Dr. Scott Turner, Spartanburg School District 5, Dr. Debra Hamm, Sumter County Schools, Dr. William Roach, Union County Schools, Dr. Rose Wilder, Williamsburg County Schools, Dr. Kelly Coxe, York School District 1

Currently Reads:

B. Each classification will have one delegate representative from each region.

Add:

At least one-third of the delegates in each classification must be superintendents or superintendent's designee to include assistant superintendent or district athletic director.

Rationale:

While the executive committee is considered the most visible authority group of the membership, the actual power of the membership resides within the Legislative Assembly. The legislative assembly consists of delegates selected by each region. Superintendents wishing to have an impact on the workings of the League, should seek positions as delegates of the Legislative Assembly.

There are usually 6, 7 or 8 regions in a classification. This would provide the superintendents with at least 2 of 6, 3 of 7 or 3 of 8 delegate positions to fill.

This position of legislative delegate gives the superintendents a front seat in helping to proactively dictate the direction of the League and its workings.

Passed

A motion to approve passed with a vote of 155.44 to 58.57

ByLaws

Article 3 Section 7-B

Submitted by: Chapin Middle School

Currently reads:

To be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition, including practice, a student must be enrolled in the seventh grade or above.

Change to Read:

To be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition, including practice, a student must be enrolled in the seventh grade or above **or be a sixth-grade student during the month of May (April and May for competitive cheer).**

Rationale:

Our proposal is to provide an opportunity for equity in all sport seasons, fall, winter, and spring, for 7th graders. We are requesting that 6th graders be allowed the opportunity to participate in the fall sports open season in May (April and May for competitive cheer) as this is currently the only open season that excludes their participation.

These students would remain within all of the Middle School Activities regulations as set forth by SCHSL to include not participating on varsity interscholastic teams in football, wrestling, lacrosse, and soccer. No changes would need to be made to the catastrophic insurance policy.

We believe this proposal is in the best interest of students, coaches, teams, and schools. It will provide equity to students for participation in fall, winter, and spring sports open season practices, allow these student athletes the same opportunities as the 7th and 8th grade student athletes prior to tryouts, help with the assimilation from 6th to 7th grade for students transitioning to a new school and help with inclusion and unity for students in a 6th-8th grade school, as well as assist coaches with preparing all athletes for tryouts.

We are not proposing that student athletes be allowed to participate in tryouts (except competitive cheer) or participate in any athletic competitions as 6th graders. We do not believe this would be in the best interest of students. We simply propose that 6th grade students be allowed to participate in fall sports open season approximately one month (two for competitive cheer) earlier than they are currently allowed to do so. This proposal was unanimously agreed upon by the Middle School Task Force.

Amendment proposed to add proviso that states to change effective date to say “April and May of 2019”

Amendment passes with vote of 174.8 to 46.5: Proviso is adopted

Passed

A motion to approve passed with a vote of 180.8 to 33.21

ByLaws**Article 3 Section-9****Submitted by: SCHSL Commissioner****Currently reads:**

Section 9 Original Eligibility

A student establishes his/her eligibility when he/she is academically promoted to and first attends school in the seventh grade. He/she is eligible at this school and the school that it feeds until he/she attends another school. Should the feeder school supply students to more than one high school, each student's eligibility on a high school team will be determined by the attendance area of the high school in which he/she lives. The residence must be in the school district of the middle school that the student is attending. If the residence is not in the school district of the middle

school, which feeds multiple high schools, that the student is attending, that student shall be eligible at district's public high school in whose attendance area the middle school's physical plant is located.

Change to Read:

Section 9 Original Eligibility

A student establishes his/her eligibility when he/she is academically promoted to and first attends school in the seventh grade. He/she is eligible at this school and the school that it feeds, **unless alternately assigned by the school district**; until he/she attends another school. Should the feeder school supply students to more than one high school, each student's eligibility on a high school team will be determined by the attendance area of the high school in which he/she lives, **unless alternately assigned by the school district**. The residence must be in the school district of the middle school that the student is attending. If the residence is not in the school district of the middle school, which feeds multiple high schools, that the student is attending, that student shall be eligible at district's public high school in whose attendance area the middle school's physical plant is located, **unless alternately assigned by the school district**. **All assignments are in effect the affected school year.**

Rationale:

This change allows the school district to determine the high school in which a seventh and/or eighth grader will participate.

Passed

A motion to approve passed with a vote of 179.65 to 25.36

New Business:

Motion to have SCHSL staff to handle to realignment process for the membership passed unanimously.

Motion to keep current classification fee structure passed unanimously.

Ozzie Ahl recognized outgoing members of the Executive Committee: Dan Mathews, Robbie Roach, Ray Cooper, Dr. Shawn Johnson, Dr. Kathy Coleman, Ann Miller, John Tindel, Patrick Finneran, and Dr. Rechel Anderson.

He then announced new members as follows: AAAA- Marty Conner, AAA- Ray Cooper, Middle School- Ann Miller, A- Andrea Pridgen.

Dan Matthews shared closing remarks with membership and stated to serve students and community is an honor. He reflected on the status of world affairs and the importance of athletics to children.

A motion to adjourn passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner
South Carolina High School League