

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 211575
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221-6575
January 29, 2020

The AAA Classification Executive Committee of the South Carolina High School League met on January 29, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at the SCHSL Office, 121 Westpark Blvd, Columbia, South Carolina. The following members were present: Chad Cox, Andrew McMillan, Tommy Plumblee, Shane Clark, Mike Morris, Chris Arnould, Martha Brothers, and Paul Runey

Chad Cox called the meeting to order.

Appeals:

West Oak High School (Brandon Blackwell, Principal; Tim Sherrif, Athletics Director)

West Oak High School requested an open session for the change in classification and region placement appeal

Mr. Blackwell presented the case for appeal for a change from Class AAA – Region 1 to Class AA – Region 1 for football only. He stated that they have not had a JV football program in two years and that this year, the varsity football team had 25 players with 11 seniors. They expect 20 players to play next year. Since 2012, the football team has won 1 of 43 competitions with a 1600 point differential.

He expressed concerns about trying to save the football program which, with the current placement, may be lost due to lack of participation. The loss of football would also affect the non-revenue sports. He also expressed concern more students will transfer to other schools if the school does not offer football. While the current enrollment is 789 and the 45-ADM submitted was 611, they consider the school to be more like a Class AA school athletically and believe they are at a disadvantage, particularly in football. All other sports programs are competitive.

When asked about feedback from the regions, Mr. Blackwell stated he believed that Class AAA – Region 1 was split and in Class AA - Region 1 all but one school are in support.

Mr. Morris, Region 3, stated that he empathized with the school but believed this would set a bad precedent if the appeal were approved. The League has never had this type of request before to allow a school to play in a different classification for one sport only.

A motion made by Mr. Runey, seconded by Mr. Plumblee, to approve the appeal failed 4-4 (8 members present).

Battery Creek High School (Chad Cox, Principal; Sara Hayes, Athletics Director)

Battery Creek High School requested an open session for the change in classification and region placement appeal.

Chad Cox, Classification President and Principal of Battery Creek High School recused himself from the committee for the appeal.

Sara Hayes presented the case for a change from Class AAA – Region 8 to Class AA – Region 6. In the current region placement, all of the current schools are in the Charleston area. Battery Creek High School is in the Buford area. Ms. Hayes stated that this distance adds an hour and a half of travel time for the school not including traffic which could add an additional 15-20 minutes.

Due to the increased travel time, the school is concerned about the loss of instructional time for student-athletes. Students would have to leave school at 2:30 for away games, possibly missing an entire class as they are on a block schedule. This would also affect the students getting home later in the evening and having to then get up early for school the next day.

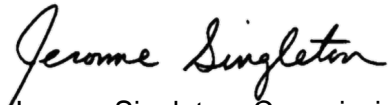
Ms. Hayes also stated the increased travel distance increases the school's cost for travel. They already have a tight travel budget as the school's budget is a per-pupil allocation for all travel, not just sports. Ms. Hayes stated that the superintendent says this will add approximately \$6,600 in cost to the travel budget.

When asked about support from the current region, she stated that they had polled the region and had support.

A motion made by Mr. Runey, seconded by Mr. Morris, to approved the appeal failed 1-6 (7 members present).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Singleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

Note: In all votes, the President only votes in the event of a deciding vote.