

October 14, 2010

Mr. Julian Tackett  
Commissioner  
KHSAA  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, KY 40505

RE: 2011-2014 FOOTBALL REALIGNMENT

Dear Mr. Tackett:

We are in receipt of your letter of October 1, 2010, regarding 2011-2014 Football Alignment. We are also in receipt of your response to our request for additional information dated Monday, October 11, 2010 (Attached hereto and marked as Exhibit A).

Pursuant to your directive, please accept this letter as part of our FB104 appeal.

#### Opening Statement

We understand the difficult task the Board of Control's Ad Hoc Committee on Football faced to complete a tentative realignment of football districts for 2011-2014. Because of this enormous task, we can only assume that in an effort to be consistent, fair and in accordance with the KHSAA Constitution, the Committee developed objective, reasonable factors to be used in realigning proposed Football Districts.

#### Background

Your response provided us with a background of how the Ad hoc committee came into existence and its purpose with regard to 6A realignment. Your response states "the primary criteria was travel and no other criteria was specified or to be used."

We assume that travel was the "sole" criteria so as not to bring subjective, unreliable and biased factors into the development of the 6A Districts.

Our frustration with this background information is that there is a widely held belief in Jefferson County by public school and private school administrators that Trinity and St X were put into the same district for competitive balance purposes and then schools were assigned.

Your response also reflects that in dividing the 6A schools, you looked at the map of schools found on the KHSAA website.

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Appeal

Appeal Item #1

*KHSAA response:* "We took Oldham Co and knowing that they come in on D-71, put them with Ballard and Eastern. We then had to find a fourth school, and wanted to find one that like Eastern and Ballard, was close to the highway for lots of reasons."

*Male HS position:* Since we are not aware of the "lots of reasons" it is hard to respond to this argument. We would hope that if highway access was a legitimate criterion, it was also used for other Jefferson County schools. Given the demographics and traffic patterns of Jefferson County, we would submit that this reasoning is not significant.

Appeal Item #2

*KHSAA response:* "As best I remembered, their non-varsity games that are played through the week are usually at 5:30 or 6:00 and they have a pretty organized schedule of playing non-varsity games against varsity opponents in Jefferson Co."

*Male HS position:* All of our Jefferson Co teams play non-varsity games at 5:30 and each of our schools are required to make travel arrangements weekly and adjust departure times based on where they are going. Again, given the demographics and traffic patterns of Jefferson County, we would submit that this reasoning is not significant.

Appeal Item #3

*KHSAA response:* "That like school to me, turned out to be Fern Creek. Travel is made easier by them being able to stay on Snyder freeway, but go a little further down and get to Fern Creek. Just seemed like the best travel choice versus fighting over to Seneca, or fighting Shelbyville Road early afternoons to get to Trinity."

*Male HS position: We are concerned that this reasoning uses subjective criteria, and not objective facts and/or evidence. There are dozens of websites that give driving directions and tentative travel times from points A to B. Indeed, the KHSAA's own website has a link to MapQuest for the purpose of obtaining accurate directions and travel time.*

*Using the KHSAA link, the travel from Oldham Co to Trinity is 18.13 miles. The travel time from Oldham Co to Fern Creek is 28.37 miles. This is a huge disparity in any discussion of travel time within Jefferson County.*

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*If travel time/geography is to be sole criteria and no other criteria was used, then we would submit that the Committee's reasoning herein is invalid. Not only is Trinity considerably closer to Oldham County (using a true objective criteria) but Trinity is closer to every single school in Fern Creek's district than Fern Creek.*

*We believe that the committee's travel analogy herein is subjective, and not supported by the traffic patterns of Jefferson County. Residents of Jefferson & Oldham County would tell you that travel to/from Oldham County High School to/from Fern Creek High School is much more difficult than travel to/from Oldham County High School to/from Trinity High School.*

*The committee may also have been unaware in aligning districts that the Kentucky Department of Transportation recently constructed a new exit off the Watterson Expressway at Westport Road allowing a school bus to exit prior to the Shelbyville Road exit and take Westport Road directly to the back of Trinity High School where the football facility is located without ever traveling on Shelbyville Rd. In any event, the travel time from the Snyder to Fern Creek HS is longer than the travel time from Shelbyville Rd to Trinity HS.*

*Given the fact that our Principal resides within a 1/2 mile of Ballard HS, our Athletic Director resides within a 1/2 mile of Trinity HS and our Head Football Coach resides within a 1/2 mile of Fern Creek HS, we are extremely knowledgeable of the traffic issues/concerns with travel in Jefferson County.*

*We are concerned that the underlying motivation for aligning this district may be competitive balance, not travel.*

*Appeal Item #4:*

*KHSAA response: "I knew that Butler, PRP and Southern were all sixth region schools as was developed in the last geographically based basketball alignment, and that St Xavier, Manual and Male were all in the same basketball district."*

*Male HS position: After being advised that "travel" was the sole criteria to be used for realignment, we believe based on the KHSAA response that a different criteria was also used by the committee, i.e., basketball districts. This contradiction again provides a belief that the true motivation of the 6A realignment in Jefferson County was to create a super district for competitive balance purposes.*

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*Appeal Item #5:*

*Male HS position: It is interesting to note that in a discussion of basketball districts, the fact that Seneca, Trinity and Ballard play in the same district is omitted. Seneca HS has to drive past Male HS to get to all three of its district opponents under this proposal which is clearly inconsistent with the travel criteria presumably used by the committee.*

*Suggested Alternative Alignment:*

*Class 6A, District 3-Butler, DuPont Manual, Pleasure Ridge Park, St Xavier*

*Class 6A, District 4-Fern Creek, Male, Seneca, Southern*

*Class 6A, District 5-Ballard, Eastern, Oldham Co, Trinity*

*Conclusion*

*We are hopeful that the Board of Control will re-examine the 6A realignment to ensure that only objective, non-arbitrary criteria are utilized in the process. We understand the need to move this matter forward, but we would respectfully ask the Board of Control to take whatever time is needed to thoroughly review this proposal.*

*Thank you for your prompt consideration herein and we look forward to appearing before the full Board of Control on Monday, October 18, 2010.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*R. Ted Boehm, Principal  
John E. Kelsey, Athletic Director  
Chris Wolfe, Head Football Coach  
Louisville Male High School  
Louisville, KY*