

AREA MEETING COMMENTS - 2008-09

1. Affiliate Registered School -- Interpretation that Affiliate Registered School Category does not allow for home school associations, home schools, or other non-traditional schools such as on-line schools, virtual schools, etc.

Smith-Cotton (Central District): Does affiliate status allow moving to a full membership? Do they have appropriate insurance? Do they have to follow coaching requirements? (no) Transfer requirements do not apply. Vote 90 - 5% to look at changing.

Moberly (Northeast District): What is the difference between home school and virtual school? Don't feel that kids are not going to school. Are there any restrictions? Do same rules apply for transfer? Fear of good basketball kids forming a new team. Fear of just becoming an AAU team and a side show. 100% against.

Blue Springs South (Kansas City District): Will home school associations have to follow same rules as member schools (age, bona fide student, officials, rules of sport)? Concern that the home schools will want to be members. Jim Cook, Kansas Home School Association, voiced his views from Kansas and how ARS worked in Kansas. If we are allowing Kansas to play why not Missouri. 50% - 50%.

Waynesville (South Central District): Would not affect ability of home school kids to be eligible at a member school, still ineligible at member schools. Schools got off subject some - individual home school students. Will it cause college prep schools (Milestone) to crop up? How many such associations - Springfield, Kansas City? [Six years - 75 kids, the Springfield football coach there. Play public in 7 on 7 and in camps; travel to Oklahoma (many miles each year); use MSHSAA rules as their rules. Supportive of MSHSAA and rules. Thanks. He thinks 6 or 7 home school associations in Missouri. Don't want/need post season, just regular season with approval of member.] MSHSAA insurance? Not mandated. Good thing for now - worry about later wanting to play in districts. Salem - club programs available elsewhere for those kids (baseball, club track, etc.). HAS responded we also believe extracurricular activities with school is good for our kids. Hard to coordinate if we don't have consistent seasons. Few football home school associations - hard time finding opponents. 50% - 50% straw.

South Harrison (Northwest District): Like the definition. Afraid of recruiting. Like the ability to play anyone. If it is a close school have no problem paying affiliate. 80% - 20% in favor of change. Can they get their foot in the door? Can we look at other?

McCluer South-Berkeley (St. Louis District): Separate group, All-Star team possible. Academy environment attracting players. Worry about opening door for state playoff request. Mileage limit, restricting attendance area. Sportsmanship, checking grades, who is responsible? Application process and acceptance. Member school ineligible - transfers to home school - eligibility? Insurance coverage - member schools coverage in place. How do other states handle? (KS allows this) Now cannot become members - not easier to become members. Five in favor the rest of the group against.

Republic (Southwest District): Does it open it up to allow home school to play on their regular school? Does it open it up to virtual schools forming groups? Would they have to meet the academic requirements? Would they have boundaries? Concerned about citizenship. Who checks for eligibility standards? What about coaching certification? No jurisdiction. Liability insurance, do they have? Five year high school - are they eligible? Do they have eligibility rosters, they do not have to provide? Is there a minimum age. Section 167 - states home schools have right to exist. Independent schools would like it. 10% in favor, 90% opposed.

Dexter (Southeast District): District boundaries concerns. Do they have to meet state standards? Suspension for kids who transfer: Would it affect conference, etc.? Are affiliates allowed to coop? Keep definition. 95%

2. Basketball -- Should there be a sixth class in the sport of basketball?

Smith-Cotton (Central District): Can the tournament be played in the same weekend? Upside would recognize another state championship. Won't this just be another exception (why not do away with By-Law 312)? Is six the right number and when does it stop? What does it do to district tournaments? This it is good for basketball. Vote 70 - 30% in favor of increasing.

Moberly (Northeast District): There is a large disparity in Class 3 in favor. Can the final site work with 6 classes? Has there been a big increase in number of schools playing basketball? Going to 6 classes would solve the disparity in differences between the enrollment of bottom of the class to the top of the class. Concern is a travel increase for teams and school time missed. Agree with the statement. More classes will make smaller districts. 99% against 1% for 6 classes.

(Question 2 continued - Should there be a sixth class in the sport of basketball?)

Blue Springs South (Kansas City District): What would the break down be for classes? Would this be a special exception just for basketball? Why not adjust the by-law to set the number of schools to allow 6 classes? How could it affect the final site? 90% in favor of adding, 10% in opposition. Is it easier to do equal breaks? Difficult to answer. Don't want to penalize the large school with equal breaks.

Waynesville (South Central District): Not too much demand for 6 classes. Would like to see 6 classes in basketball. Not equitable in small classes to larger classes. How would the breaks be made. Instead of 8 teams, it could be 6 of fewer in districts. Like the idea of equal breaks it is difficult for Class 3 under current system. How do basketball coaches feel about this? 50% - 50% on 6 classes.

South Harrison (Northwest District): Only in favor of 6 classes if 1 and 2 left alone. What will it do with districts? Not in favor of watering down. In football is not fair with breakdown. Equal then all out. 70% - 30% investigate further.

McCluer South-Berkeley (St. Louis District): Some feel that small schools have a disadvantage. Cost could be a factor (expand at the final site). Large range of enrollments in Class 3 (catch-all class). How would the classes be divided? Number of schools participating is fairly consistent. 50% for - 50% against.

Republic (Southwest District): Increase travel is not good. How would the classes be broken down? Ever looked at the same classification for every sport? If we do it for basketball then have all sports with. Can we have the Basketball Advisory Committee determine how the breakdowns for classes will be? Want to see what the members reflect. Do not like the equal enrollment breaks. 70% in favor - 30% opposed.

Dexter (Southeast District): Class 3 is the catch all class. Would there be 3 classes on each weekend? Would finding a facility be of concern? Is there a concern about expanding the format to bring more schools to the finals? 80% in favor of expanding - 20% opposed. If we are going to allow 50% of football schools in playoffs why not expand basketball to 6 classes.

3. Summer Activities -- Discussion of summertime sports activities and contact with school sport coaches.

Smith-Cotton (Central District): Can it be another week, like last week of July? It made the summer more hectic, it was great for that one week but made it a lot busier the rest of the year. It worked great at Helias. Do these two things have to go together? All you are doing is stopping your coaches not your kids. Does it have to be a defined date? Isn't that what is happening now with schools not following rules and won't schools just ignore the rule? In favor or opening it up (simplify the summer). It sends a good message, don't like the opening of the summer to deter specialization. If it is mandatory, it has to be the end of July (week after July 4th). End of July would be dangerous for football. Dead Period - everyone is in favor of. Summer restrictions - 50 - 50.

Moberly (Northeast District): In favor of both parts. What about summer school? Have to change the wording to use buildings. A lot of parents were extremely happy about the dead period. Would this include junior high? What about dead periods and fund raisers? What about schools picking the week? Think it would be better for the school to pick. This it should be set and it should be two weeks. Afraid it would have softball teams having to pull out of state tournament. Coaches are going to look at ways to get around the rules. Can we look at different weeks to avoid the conflicts? Would like to see it be a two week period at the end of July. is a camp more important than national competition? Did it the last week of July and first week of August. We are pushing kids more to nonschool teams. Need to have it towards the end of summer. Many schools have 4th of July parades. Kids and parents are in favor of this. The opening up of the summer will allow the coaches to be more active and keep them away from nonschool. The summer has coaches trying to keep up with the Jones'. Needs to be state set. Need the A.D.s, principal, and superintendent groups to provide support for dead period. In favor of two weeks. Dead period means it was dead period. Why are we looking at July 4th and not the end of July when things are slowing down? 100% in favor of a dead period. Dead period - July 4th week - 0%, last week of July 40%, last week of July and 1st week of August - 60%. 100% in favor of opening it up.

Blue Springs South (Kansas City District): Would this include competition? Would not work for baseball because of July 4th. What about summer school? Where is this coming from? Everybody was in favor of it? If it is a non-school team, why can't the school coach not coach them? Why not do it on a school by school basis? Should be up to the local schools. 70% opposed to dead period, 30% in favor of dead period. Who is going to police the summer? leave it up to the area schools. Is it being asked to not open facilities? Don't want to hand cuff the coaches. Open the summer up. Summer is an extra burden. Push comes from parents and students for dead period.

(Question 3 continued - Discussion of summertime sports activities and contact with school sport coaches.)

Waynesville (South Central District): Needs to be set by the school - not standard. July 4th baseball legion tournaments. Band - July 4 parades. Like consistent week - that could cause colleges to know not to schedule camps, etc. youth camps? Not in your facilities. Summer school avoidance for camps limits weeks available. Good - A reality check for everyone - families, coaches, time away. Camdenton - used last summer - good but hard to make all activities happy. Worries about band if week is standard. Coaches are overboard now and need to take breaks - if doesn't happen naturally this could help due to mandate. Maybe different/more rules for activities than we have now - limits. **2nd part:** Coaches contact/235 open up summer? Kids will be involved with some group in summer if they aren't with coach - AAU, etc. Better to have them with school personnel. Dead period could be determined by school, as part of this. Conditions on football camps - acclimation before.

South Harrison (Northwest District): Two week dead period, people loved. Feel that coaches sacrifice enough. Don't want the state to set, want schools to set. State needs to set dead period. Schools need to set dead period. Schools may pick a week when nothing is going on. If everyone had different dead periods it would be impossible to police. What is the best interest of the kids? Look hard at this topic. Consider making sport specific with exception for baseball and softball. Want the state to assign dead period. Year around sports. More specialization. Two weeks dead period. Last week of July. How do you police and enforce the rules? We have gotten too far from leaving two weeks. Good for a set date so no favoritism. What about the last week of July? Make sense to start with last week of July. Use number of days instead of week. Include all facilities are closed. 100% in favor of dead period. 90% in favor of state setting dead period. 10% in favor of the school setting dead period. Could not coach any high school kids in favor opening it up.

McCluer South-Berkeley (St. Louis District): What is the purpose (vacations)- defined? Unintended consequences - teaching community programs. Make up of teams - American Legion. Contact days - suggestion. Time mandate may be problem. Pushing kids away by setting dead period. Focus on one sport. Multiple kids/multiple sports creates problem. Include Activities. Dead Period - 10 in favor, rest against. If have dead period - same date - 1/3 in favor, 2/3 against. Open summer - 50% in favor and 50% opposed. Summer is when recruiting goes on. Dead period may lead to kids going to AAU. Opening up summer totally is scary.

Republic (Southwest District): What about bands and parades? How is this going to be policed? Does this mean activities for August? Length of dead period and if for all sports? What is the intent? Can each school set their own dead period? Bands are a huge activity and creates additional issues. Makes it more difficult with activities. Like the concept. How about the last week of July or 1st week of August? Don't include band. What about the 1st of June. Why not trust the school to enforce the rules? In favor of activities to be included with sports. Can each local district just shut it down? For some districts it may work fine but others not. Schools must select 7 consecutive days and submit it to MSHSAA. What about summer school? What is best for kids? Don't create a dead period with no teeth. That is a choice and not a school putting pressure. Don't do away with rules for summer.

Dexter (Southeast District): Why have a dead period? Why is it the July 4th week? Not good for baseball, either last of July or later the better. End of July is better. Let the schools make their own dead period. End would affect volleyball, football and band. Let the schools set their own and not have state mandate. Turn in dead period to MSHSAA. 97% opposed to a dead period 3% in favor. Agree with opening up the summer. What do other states do? Are there states that open it up? 80% in favor of opening summer up. Don't want to be able to practice all summer. Would that include weight training? Coaches fight over kids. Totally unrestricted is way out of line. Let coaches coach who we've hired. Schools need to have control over. Pressure to go to much on kids. Disadvantage on large districts. Local school choice. Priorities different for district. Not as many opportunities for small schools.

4. **By-Law 212 (Citizenship) -- Possible revisions to By-Law 212 (Citizenship Requirements).**

Smith-Cotton (Central District): Do we need to remove accident? 99% in favor of removing accident.

Moberly (Northeast District): Accident should be removed. C & I should count. Bad driver doesn't make you a bad kid. Remove accident - 100% remove.

Blue Springs South (Kansas City District): Take accidents out. Have we had an attorney look at the wording? Most everyone felt new by-law was more restrictive.

Waynesville (South Central District): Should be eliminated. Depend upon the county. Think it should be removed. If there is a major or minor traffic ticket difference. 100% in favor of removal.

South Harrison (Northwest District): Remove the word accident. Reasoning behind should be for consistency.

McCluer South-Berkeley (St. Louis District): Accidents may be charged. "May be" - school use to have flexibility, now taken away. Independent school lawyer - says this by-law would not be held up in court. "May be" may lead to lengthy suspensions. Local code of conduct may be obsolete - try this change this year. Charges are filed/ticket issued then ineligible. Happens much quicker in out state than St. Louis. Minor traffic tickets out. Accident out - 100%. "May be" - 50% in favor, 50% opposed.

(Question 4 continued - Possible revisions to By-Law 212 (Citizenship Requirements)).

Republic (Southwest District): Accidents involves law, individual school would determine (80% yes). May be charged concerns do not like it in. Innocent until proven guilty. People put themselves in that position. Like the wording. Juvenile office claims have no right. Provide conditions have been cleared.
Dexter (Southeast District): Accident - unintentional? 100% in favor of removing accident.

5. Baseball -- Discussion regarding a Class 4 Baseball experiment to mirror current NCAA approach to pitching which provides for a pitching staff as opposed to only one or two pitchers.

Smith-Cotton (Central District): Horrible idea. Difficult to get games in - weather. Why single elimination at championship? 100% not in favor.

Moberly (Northeast District): Cairo - Absolutely not a good thing. Coaches association presented. In favor of college style baseball - 5% - 5% opposed - 90% did not vote.

Blue Springs South (Kansas City District): Baseball Coaches Association endorses the double elimination format. Adds another round, begins the Thursday of the current last week of the season. What about weather? What if it rains in your area and not the rest of the state? Team may have to play a double hitter. Like the concept but don't like the Class 4 only. School days missed? Weather could bring in competition issues. The cost would increase and hard to sell in tough times. Smaller districts would mean less travel. No lights, taking kids out more during the school day. Taking kids out during the school day at the end of the school year. Could this move to the regular season? Effect graduation schedule with more games. 2% in favor, 98% opposed.

Waynesville (South Central District): Harv Antel, Camdenton Baseball Coach, spoke for baseball Coaches Association - Why Class 4 only, why not softball too? Different with softball pitching. Worry about all sports wanting to do this. Lights a problem. Officials availability and cost. How about 2 teams out of district for basketball. Majority in favor of proposal - want in all classes. If worried about more of best teams just seed entire state.

South Harrison (Northwest District): Like the idea, takes two days. Gets a true champion. Don't like that it is only Class 4. Where does this stop? Can this be changed too?

McCluer South-Berkeley (St. Louis District): Why not go to double elimination at final site (due to costs of travel). Concerned that more school time will have to be missed. Concerned with schedule when weather problems occur. Not worried about other sports having one athlete dominate. Concerned with the range in enrolments in Class 4. Would like to see double elimination at the state finals first. Should see how equal class breaks works first. Take two teams from districts was suggested. Possibly increasing conflicts with AP testing and final exams. 25% in favor, 75% against.

Republic (Southwest District): Time frame? Three games 1st. Two games 2nd day. 50% - 50%.

Dexter (Southeast District): Host school claiming too wet. Try something in all classes. State championship should be more than single elimination if the proposal change. One player can dominate. Do it for everyone. 90% in favor of change for all classes. 90% not in favor of just experiment in Class 4.

6. Academic Competition -- To restrict nonschool competition during the season.

Smith-Cotton (Central District): Is this an issue? Put some sportsmanship rules in. Discipline that child. If one advisory does this for an activity then other activities may. Could academic competition reduce the season time line? if you can discipline this student then do, if not maybe this should change. 100% against this.

Moberly (Northeast District): Not a big concern. All about kids getting smart. 100% opposed to restricting nonschool academic competition.

Blue Springs South (Kansas City District): Struggle to field teams, if the advisory committee recommended something to better the activity we should support them. Would this be more restrictive and cause fewer to participate? It would be difficult to say kids are learning too much. 100% oppose.

Waynesville (South Central District): Let them have fun and go do whatever they want. 100% in favor if letting them do what they want.

South Harrison (Northwest District): Athletics is safety.

McCluer South-Berkeley (St. Louis District): Trivia nights - policy. Limit academic knowledge. 100% opposed.

Republic (Southwest District): No comment. 100%opposed.

Dexter (Southeast District): Would this affect Beta or local trivia nights? Why not? Here for academics. 100% opposed.

7. Golf -- Recommended to reduce the number qualifiers from 120 to 96.

Smith-Cotton (Central District): In favor of reducing. if reducing the number of qualifiers could you bring it to the golf rules meetings? Set a cap on qualifiers. 95 - 5% in favor.

Moberly (Northeast District): 120 is too many. A lot of bad golfers out there. What if you had a cut after the first day? In favor of cutting the number down, not sure of how to cut it down. Kind of like track. Cuts on the second day would be in favor even with reducing the number of participants. 100% in favor.

Blue Springs South (Kansas City District): It is difficult to get all the kids without having to wait. Concerned with limiting kids and unfair to the sports. Sending a mixed message. If we are expanding the other sports then why decrease golf - it is a mixed message. Variety of ideas on how to get to 96. How about adding a sectional round to golf. Are we not getting the round done? Very much opposed to. Can we require a member be from Missouri? 100% opposed.

Waynesville (South Central District): Is golf prestigious? Should be about participation, talking the opposite. Sports are not the same and cannot be treated the same. Advisory committee feels that this is the best thing for their sport. Restrict. Maybe add a sectional to reduce number. Vote = All to 1.

South Harrison (Northwest District): Golf is backwards. Like 1 team, 8 individuals. One team gives more quality golfers.

McCluer South-Berkeley (St. Louis District): If have five teams - cut to 7 individuals. Suburban West/Southwest - No. Really high scores slows down play. 5th team golfer causes the problem. Cut to second day. 40% in favor, 60% opposed.

Republic (Southwest District): Take kids that are beginning and give them the experience. Against eliminating 5th player. Against removing the 5th player. Don't pull the kids off the 3200. Don't believe speed affects the quality of play. Set a max score. 95% opposed.

Dexter (Southeast District): Why not have a cut after the first day? It affects a kid's score on the second day because there were kids out there that did not score well on day one. Cut back on the team players.

8. Academic Credit -- What defines credit for academic eligibility?

Smith-Cotton (Central District): Behind times if we don't accept if school boards accept for credit. If in building taking it credit should be accepted. 100% in favor.

Moberly (Northeast District): If credit counts for graduation should count. Embedded credit would take care of itself. Enrolled in seven period day started an on-line class. Starting October finished in January. Failed two classes. On-line and Internet classes must be completed as normal semester classes. 100% in favor.

Blue Springs South (Kansas City District): Most schools give credit in other ways. Credit recovery - most opposed to using credit recovery (80%-20%). Need to define credit recovery. Is it credit recovery or credit completion?

Waynesville (South Central District): Yes, it needs to be changed. Correspondence courses - why not in summer? Would need to add "finished by" date. Should it match with summer school? Majority in favor of change.

South Harrison (Northwest District): Embedded credit. % of credits available.

McCluer South-Berkeley (St. Louis District): Dual credit at university. If school Board approves - OK. 100% in favor.

Republic (Southwest District): Look at definition - yes 99%. Summer school allowing - questionnaire. Remedial and credit recovery supplement but can't gain credit.

Dexter (Southeast District): Embedded credit would not count. Completion of class. Restriction of number of virtual classes. On-line college classes. Use of technology should be allowed to gain credit. Timeline for summer school. Class taken in spring regardless when started must complete by last day of spring semester. 100% in favor of change.

9. Middle school cooperative sponsorships with multiple schools.

Smith-Cotton (Central District): 100% in favor. No discussion.

Moberly (Northeast District): It would help. Best for kids. 100% in favor.

Blue Springs South (Kansas City District): No comments. 100% in favor.

Waynesville (South Central District): OK as long as they meet same requirements. How about enrollment? No current restrictions. Most in favor.

South Harrison (Northwest District): Like the idea. 100% in favor.

McCluer South-Berkeley (St. Louis District): No discussion of this topic.

Republic (Southwest District): No comments. 95% in favor.

Dexter (Southeast District): 80% in favor - 20% no opinion.

10. Affiliate Registered Junior Highs.

Smith-Cotton (Central District): If allowed to coop in favor. 100% in favor.

Moberly (Northeast District): Come full member or not at all. Would affiliate members go both ways? Three vote yes, three vote no. Not much discussion.

Blue Springs South (Kansas City District): Barstow - would support this so they can compete. Junior high music could compete in festivals. 100% in favor.

Waynesville (South Central District): Dues? - yes they pay. Allows you to play closer schools if you choose. Gives us more options of schools to play. Most in favor, but a lot that didn't vote.

South Harrison (Northwest District): Could 6th graders play?

McCluer South-Berkeley (St. Louis District): If junior high was affiliate member band could compete at junior high level. One person opposed, rest all in favor.

Republic (Southwest District): 95% in favor.

Dexter (Southeast District): Could they coop? What would keep schools from full to affiliate? No catastrophic insurance. 80% in favor - 20% against.