

Bellefonte Area School District

Resolution to Amend PIAA Classifications to Level the Competitive Arena

WHEREAS, the Bellefonte Area School District Board of Education is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, heretofore identified as PIAA, and is committed to making policy decisions that enable the school district to provide quality academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs and services to the school-age children of our community; and

WHEREAS, the PIAA was formed in Pittsburgh on December 29, 1913, by a group of high school PUBLIC school (districts defined by geographic boundary) Principals who wanted to eliminate abuses, establish uniform rules, and place interscholastic athletics in the overall context of secondary education; and

WHEREAS, Act 219 (1972) amended the public school code and demanded that private (non-boundary) schools shall be permitted, if otherwise qualified, to be members of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association; and

WHEREAS, non-boundary schools now include brick and mortar charter schools who comprise 40 of PIAA's 765 high school membership as of 2016-17; and

WHEREAS, the last three years continue to demonstrate that non-boundary schools who constitute 18% of the PIAA membership, have a greater chance of getting to the basketball championship game and winning the basketball championship. Close to 60% (59.6) of the schools who made the basketball championship game over the last 3 years have been non-boundary schools. Seventy-seven percent (77%, 23/30) of the PIAA boys basketball champions over the last three schools years were non-boundary schools; and

WHEREAS, 56% of the high school football champions have come from non-boundary schools (that represent only 5% of PIAA membership). 60% of the girls basketball champions have come from non-boundary schools; and

WHEREAS, the athletic playing field is not level; non-geographical boundary schools should not be competing against traditional PUBLIC (boundary) school in section, district, or state championships; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bellefonte Area School District Board of Education joins school districts around the state in calling for PIAA classification reform including: regular season competition may be a blend of PUBLIC and non-boundary schools, however postseason competition should be exclusive; PUBLIC schools should compete against other PUBLIC schools. Non-boundary schools should compete against non-boundary schools. The state can divide the non-boundary school in half (6A, 5A). The state can divide PUBLIC schools by 4 (4A, 3A, 2A, 1A). If a student athlete transfers after their ninth grade year, for the purpose of athletics, they forfeit the following year of varsity athletic eligibility. The student athlete may play at the junior varsity level. The PIAA may develop criteria to account for mitigating circumstances.

Adopted by the Governing Board of the Bellefonte Area School District on July 17, 2018, by the following vote of the Board: 7 yes 0 no 2 absent

Attest by:



Board President/Board Vice President



Board Secretary