

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

CLASS A COMMITTEE November 30, 2021

The Class A Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on November 30, 2021, at the GHSA office in Thomaston, Georgia, by Executive Director Dr. Robin Hines to come up with a plan for Class A reclassification.

Present - 10; Absent - 0

Donnie Drew
Jesse Crews
Bradley Warren
Harley Calhoun

Michael Langston
Kevin Petroski
Julie Jones
Chris Hanson

Scott Queen
David Lowery

NEW BUSINESS

After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Hines asked Associate Director Don Corr to go over the proposals that were discussed at the last reclassification meeting. Corr summed up several ideas that were discussed before the issue was tabled at the Nov. 18 meeting.

Crews then asked how many more Class A private schools were likely to withdraw from the GHSA. Petroski said he had heard of at least six more indicating they may leave.

Much discussion then ensued and it became obvious that the issue of having too few football and softball teams left in the Class A private division to have a meaningful playoff was the biggest issue for the private school representatives.

Hanson and Queen voiced their opinion that the only "fair" solution was to apply the 3.0 multiplier to all Class A schools and let them play in whatever classification their multiplied reclassification number warranted.

Dr. Hines pointed out that the committee's mission at this meeting was to work out a plan for Class A, not to come up with a plan that would affect Classes 2A and 3A also.

Drew pointed out that the multiplier came about in order to help balance the playing field in the classes above Class A (which has split championships) and said he thought putting private schools together with public schools would be a "step backward."

Several plans and ideas were brought forward by different members of the committee, but the private school representatives kept coming back to using the 3.0 multiplier on all schools and "letting the chips fall where they may."

"We already have the highest multiplier in the country," said Lowery. "And it was put in to level the playing field, we were told. Well, then we should use it and see how it works. There is only one solution to this issue – use the multiplier and move schools out of A into 2A and 3A."

Crews answered by saying, "If we come up with a plan that reconfigures what we have done in 2-3 classes, then we are going to have a problem."

After much more discussion and exchanges of ideas, the committee settled on the following proposal:

Apply the 3.0 multiplier to all Class A private schools only and let those schools fall into the classifications where that multiplied reclassification number puts them. Then, still using the reclassification number, the remaining schools in Class A (public and private) would be divided by size into two divisions (large and small) with each playing for a separate state championship. These teams would be placed in eight (8) regions for regular-season play, but would be broken out into the large and small divisions for the playoffs based on a yet-to-be-determined "power rating" system. Under this plan, no teams will automatically be moved down from 2A or 3A when the Class A private schools that are multiplied out of Class A come into that classification. But schools in any of the affected classes will be given an opportunity to appeal out of that classification.

That proposal was approved by the committee by a 9-1 vote, which Crews voting "no."

After much discussion about whether or not this proposal would be approved by the Reclassification Committee and/or the full Executive Committee, the committee decided to come up with a backup plan.

Called "Plan B" by the committee, this plan calls for Class A public and private schools to be placed into the same regions (the number of which will be determined later) for regular-season play, but then to be split into separate public and

(more)

private brackets for state playoffs. The number of teams in the Private school playoff bracket would be dependant on the number of teams playing that particular sport. Care would be taken to try to prevent overly-large regions, which is why more than the normal eight (8) regions might be required.

Also, as part of the Plan B proposal, the service areas of Class A private schools (only) for transfer eligibility would be returned to the county in which the school is located instead of the recently-adopted public school service area in which the private school resides.

The committee approved Plan B unanimously, but still voted to submit the first proposal as their No. 1 choice to the Reclassification Committee.

The Reclassification Committee can approve, deny or modify either of these proposals, or come up with a different plan entirely. After the Reclassification Committee makes it's decision, any schools affected by whatever plan is adopted for Class A would then be given an opportunity to appeal its placement.

Dr. Hines thanked the committee for their long day's work and the meeting was adjourned.

Attached is a listing of the changes that would be caused by the first proposal, if adopted.

SCHOOLS	2021 FTE/ Enrollment	Out of Zone	Reclassification Count
3A			
Savannah Christian	421	394	1209
Wesleyan	497	335	1167
Hebron Christian	438	363	1164
St. Vincent's Academy*	582	279	1140
North Cobb Christian	371	334	1039
2A			
Savannah Country Day	359	318	995
Landmark Christian	347	324	995
Walker	338	303	944
Calvary Day	367	281	929
Providence Christian	306	304	914
Athens Academy	350	281	912
Eagles Landing Christian	337	277	891
Fellowship Christian	389	230	849
Whitefield Academy	310	267	844
Darlington	562	136	834
St. Francis	281	268	817
Paideia*	465	150	765
Tallulah Falls*	351	207	765
Atlanta International*	391	181	753
Weber School*	271	238	747
Prince Avenue Christian	289	202	693
Mt. Paran	444	118	680
Mt. Vernon Presbyterian	456	100	656
Brookstone	327	162	651
1A - Division 1			
ACE Charter	504	240	984
Gordon Lee	428	272	972
Pelham	432	250	932
Trion	381	250	881
Commerce	489	139	767
Armuchee	509	75	659
Dublin	544	54	652

Early County	559	39	637
Bryan County	598	4	606
Riverside Military	574	14	602
Galloway*	327	132	591
King's Ridge	275	156	587
Screven County	576	5	586
Brooks County	524	28	580
Schley County	401	88	577
Stilwell Arts*	534	21	576
Athens Christian	224	173	570
Claxton	524	12	548
Crawford County	529	8	545
Seminole County	423	57	537
Drew Charter*	493	21	535
Mt. Pisgah	275	129	533
Chattahoochee County	471	28	527
Loganville Christian	202	161	524
Our Lady of Mercy	187	167	521
Irwin County	484	12	508
Metter	452	26	504
Mt. Zion, Carroll	450	24	498
Atkinson County	440	28	496
Georgia Military College	316	78	472
Lanier County	446	9	464
Charlton County	435	5	445
Emanuel County Institute	330	52	434
Christian Heritage	194	116	426
Bowdon	395	15	425
Telfair County	414	4	422
Mt. Bethel Christian*	144	139	422
Manchester	405	6	417
Hawkinsville	350	32	414
Greene County	409	1	411
1A - Division 2			
Taylor County	366	20	406
Pataula Charter	171	113	397

Marion County	382	3	388
McIntosh Co. Academy	385	0	385
Washington-Wilkes	385	0	385
Wilkinson County	378	0	378
Wilcox County	345	13	371
Mitchell County	346	8	362
Macon County	359	0	359
Lincoln County	349	4	357
Johnson County	316	14	344
Turner County	339	0	339
Clinch County	317	10	337
DeKalb School of Arts*	327	0	327
Wheeler County	265	27	319
Jenkins County	316	0	316
Dooly County	310	3	316
Baconton Charter	225	45	315
Terrell County	312	0	312
Montgomery County	288	10	308
Towns County	303	0	303
Treutlen	274	14	302
Miller County	251	23	297
Portal	270	6	282
Echols County*	233	17	267
Greenville	264	0	264
Lake Oconee Academy	263	0	263
Randolph-Clay	263	0	263
Pinecrest Academy	178	42	262
Fulton Leadership Acad*	226	17	260
Ben Franklin*	92	79	250
Hancock Central	245	0	245
Atlanta Classical*	192	24	240
Twiggs County	206	1	208
G.S.I.C.	203	0	203
Rainey McCullers*	166	11	188
Glascocock County	170	0	170
Savannah Early College*	170	0	170

Calhoun County	168	0	168
Warren County	159	1	161
Furlow Charter*	140	0	140
Central, Talbotton	131	0	131
Stewart County*	122	1	124
Southwest Atlanta*	100	10	120
W.D. Mohammed*	45	35	115
Georgia School of the Deaf	107	0	107
Baker County*	77	11	99
Quitman County*	89	0	89
STEAM Academy*	86	0	86
Webster County*	66	7	80
Greenforest Christian*	52	10	72
Savannah Classical Academy*	64	0	64
Taliaferro County*	49	6	61
GA Academy for Blind*	55	0	55
Southwest Georgia STEM* - projected	55	0	55
GA Fugees Academy* - projected	50	0	50
Excel Christian*	23	4	31
Woody Gap*	20	1	22