

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

August 26, 2019

A working meeting of the Reclassification Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on August 26, 2019, at the GHSA office in Thomaston, Georgia, by Glenn White, President.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Lisa Moore Williams. The invocation was given by Associate Director Carror Wright. Present - 15; Absent - 1 (shown by "A" below)

Gary Long - A
Greg Tillery
Earl Etheridge
John Kelly

Dexter Wood
Curt Miller
Jim Finch

Britt Adams
James Jackson
Shawn Peek

Jasper Jewell
Myron Newton
Jesse Crews

Donnie Drew
Glenn White
Lisa Moore Williams

Note: This was a working meeting and no binding votes were taken on any proposals.

After President White called the meeting to order, and thanked Senator Ellis Black (R - Valdosta) for his attendance, he turned the meeting over to Chairman Miller. Miller went over several items that the committee had already decided in meetings of April 15 and April 30, asking if there was any discussion on those.

White expressed his concern for possibly making a school go up two (2) classifications by use of the out-of-zone multiplier. He said safety and competitive balance were issues with schools having to play opponents with almost twice as many students. Miller and Williams echoed those views.

White then made a motion to limit the number of classes a school could be bumped up via the multiplier to just one (1). Jewell seconded the motion and the committee voted 11-4 to approve the reduction to just one class.

White next expressed his belief that the multiplier of 2.0 was too high. Miller and Jewell said they understood White's points, but still favored the 2.0 number. Jewell pointed out that because of the decision saying a school could only be forced to play up one class, the number used for the multiplier itself was not as important.

White made a motion to reduce the multiplier from 2.0 to 1.75 and Crews seconded. The committee voted and the motion failed by a 12-3 count, thus leaving the multiplier at 2.0.

Miller then went over some items that had not been decided at previous meetings. The first was how to handle Charter Schools when it came to the use of the multiplier. After some discussion, Miller made a motion to treat Charter Schools exactly the same as Private Schools in that their zone for reclassification would be the same as the public school's zone in which the Charter School resides. Williams seconded the motion and the committee passed it unanimously.

The committee then discussed the issue of single-gender schools and decided that the multiplier would apply only to the actual number of students enrolled in the school and not to the doubled enrollment figure.

Next the committee discussed how the multiplier would apply to homeless students, foreign exchange students and special education students and it was decided that schools would be allowed to appeal to the committee if students in any of those categories resulted in the school having to go up in classification.

Miller then thanked the audience members for being so engaged in the reclassification process, and he thanks Sen. Black for his continued attendance at GHSA meetings. Black spoke briefly about how some of the reclassification decisions are viewed by the voters and the other legislators.

Jewell then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Crews seconded and it was unanimously agreed to adjourn.