

MEMORANDUM

TO: KHSAA Member School Principals

FROM: Louis Stout, KHSAA Commissioner
Kathy Johnston, President, KHSAA Board of Control

DATE: December 17, 2001

SUBJECT: KHSAA Board of Control Membership Proposal at Annual Meeting

The Kentucky High School Athletic Association was formed over 85 years ago to promote the highest quality of interscholastic athletic programs in an efficient manner as possible, emphasizing participation, sportsmanship and integrity, thereby promoting the educational experience of the student athlete. This continues to be the mission of your great Association.

The founding fathers of the organization decided that, should a school desiring to become a member be willing to meet established membership guidelines and comply with KHSAA rules, the KHSAA would include that school among its members, whether they were a public or non-public school. Since its inception in 1917, the KHSAA has consistently fostered and promoted the idea of brotherhood and a spirit of cooperation among all of its member schools. With consolidation, our total membership numbers have diminished over the years and the balance in membership numbers between public and non-public members has changed considerably. In recent years the percentage of non-public school membership has grown to a point that those schools now represent slightly less than 20% of the Association's total membership and non-public school membership is likely to continue to grow.

Currently, KHSAA Board of Control representation consists of twelve elected members from the member schools and four appointees from the Kentucky Board of Education. The KHSAA Constitution has established that the elected Board of Control members are identified through a defined, representative, member school voting process.

Given the tremendous growth of non-public school membership, there has been some discussion over the last few years regarding how non-public membership might be represented on the Board of Control and in issues related to KHSAA. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed, not to study representation opportunities on the Board of Control, but to address many of the issues between and concerning public and non-public schools in high school athletics today. The Ad Hoc Committee consisted of equal representation from both public and non-public schools and met several times during 2000-2001, eventually developing a unified set of excellent, thoughtful recommendations and items for consideration. One of these recommendations regarded the need for Board of Control representation for non-public member schools.

The Board of Control took the report of this committee and studied it very carefully. Much consideration was given to a variety of alternatives for ensuring equal representation for all members. Throughout the discussion, one sentiment became clear: the best way to deal with issues and concerns between private and public school relationships was to ensure inclusion of all parties in the discussions, so that all facts were known and view points were clear.

After additional study for nearly a year, the Board of Control is offering a proposal at the January 9, 2002 KHSAA Delegate Assembly Meeting that calls for non-public high school representation on the Board of Control. This proposal calls for two additional seats on the current Board of Control. These members would serve four-year terms, as do other members and would be elected in the same manner as our current Designated Representatives.

While this proposal has taken some time to evolve, it is consistent with the KHSAA's historic commitment to the principles of inclusion, fairness and equity in representation for all member schools. It is firmly believed that possible misunderstandings occasionally arising among member schools can be better addressed with this form of representation on the governing body of this great organization. And, it is the best way to maintain a healthy, cooperative and productive KHSAA as we strive to better serve our student athletes throughout the Commonwealth.

We would also be remiss if we didn't address another reason we sincerely ask for your support. Without question, the KHSAA is not the only group concerned over this issue. By taking this aggressive and thoughtful action and supporting this proposal, it is the opinion of the Board of Control, staff and legal counsel, that we may be better able to maintain the leadership role in athletics through such a proactive step, rather than react when another entity, be it legislative or judicial, might mandate such involvement at a future date. We believe that these decisions are best left to the people who manage athletics everyday.

You are urged to encourage your Delegate to the Annual Meeting to **VOTE IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL 1** when it is presented at the Delegate Assembly Meeting.

In closing, we wish each of you the very best throughout this Holiday Season.