



District Administration
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February 28, 2021

To: CIML Superintendents
Re: Notice of Intent to Withdraw from Conference
From: Marshalltown CSD Superintendent Theron J. Schutte on behalf of (Ames, DSM, Ft. Dodge, Marshalltown, Mason City and Ottumwa CSD's).

Dear CIML Superintendent Colleagues,

As you are aware, there has been much discussion for a number of years about what, if any, realignment of the Central Iowa Metropolitan League (CIML) should take place in order to provide a more equitable competitive experience for all member schools. At different stages, this effort and/or desire has been publicly communicated by the suburban Des Moines Schools; as well as, the non-suburban schools. All one has to do is look at the long history of success; or lack of, to recognize there is great disparity and inequities amongst the schools currently forming the CIML.

Most recently, the CIML Athletic/Activity Directors have voted to support proposals for realignment. The initial proposal of creating two divisions within the conference received a 13-4 affirmative vote of the AD's and a revised proposal was put forward to the high school principals' that received a 12-5 affirmative vote (with the Des Moines Principals voting against). That proposal included a round-robin basketball schedule that would not have allowed home & away games to be played annually within the two separate subdivisions of the conference. Though only a majority vote is necessary for such an issue to be approved at the AD and principal levels, many of us CIML superintendents feel that the most recent proposal is not acceptable relative to our ultimate goal of creating a conference that provides equitable opportunity for healthy competition and success.

The most recent data compiled relative to the success of CIML non-suburban schools vs. the suburban schools in the major sports over the past five year is startling:

Sport	Winning Percentage	Wins	Losses
Volleyball	7.4	20	251
Girls Soccer	9.2	13	142
Girls Basketball	10.9	40	327
Softball	14.4	56	332
Baseball	18.4	96	426
Boys Soccer	21.5	38	139
Boys Basketball	28.6	113	282
TOTALS	16.5	376	1899

Below I have shared the mission and belief statements of our respective governing bodies of high school interscholastic sports and activities. I have highlighted the portions of those statements where I believe the significant disparities that exist amongst the current CIML's student bodies and/or communities inhibit us from serving the best interests of our student-athletes and communities.

IHSAA: The mission of the Iowa High School Athletic Association is to promote sportsmanship, interscholastic activities, health, and wellness for all Iowa high school students.

IGHSAU: The mission of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union is to govern fair, safe and sportsmanlike interscholastic competition in a manner which emphasizes the educational enhancement of all participants.



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NFHS: The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) serves its members by providing leadership for the administration of education-based high school athletics and activities through the writing of playing rules that emphasize health and safety, educational programs that develop leaders, and administrative support to increase opportunities and promote sportsmanship.

The NFHS has also developed some believe statements which I believe are relevant for our consideration: Student participation in education-based high school athletics and activities:

- Is a privilege.
- Enriches the educational experience.
- Encourages academic achievement.
- Promotes respect, integrity and sportsmanship.
- Prepares for the future in a global community.
- Develops leadership and life skills.
- Fosters the inclusion of diverse populations.
- Promotes healthy lifestyles and safe competition.
- Encourages positive school/community culture.
- Should be fun.

For these reasons, I believe it is in the best interests of our student-athletes, high schools and communities to recommend to our Boards of Education withdrawing from the CIML Conference for the purpose of creating a new conference where our students can have a more equitable and successful interscholastic experience. For many, this will provide an opportunity to rebuild our program participation and focus interscholastic competition attention first and foremost on conference; instead of, state championships and recognize more of our student-athletes for their achievements. Those Districts' and/or program's that are positioned best to compete on a state-wide level will have the latitude to schedule non-conference competitions accordingly and it will also enable long-standing rivalries often based on geographic proximity to continue as well.

The CIML Conference Constitution and Bylaws require that member school/s anticipating withdrawal from the league provide as much notice as possible, but no less than one calendar year. I propose that we work with our coaches, administrators, school boards and communities to educate on the benefits of withdrawing from the CIML and forming a new conference so that we can submit our respective letter/s of intent to withdraw from the CIML no later than April 1, 2021. From our previous discussions, it would appear that all considering Districts would be able to seek Board approval no later than Monday March 22, 2021.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or comments concerning this communication. Thanks for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Dr. Theron J. Schutte, Superintendent
Marshalltown Community School District
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