

Cambria Heights School District
Resolution to Amend PIAA Classifications to Level the Competitive Arena

WHEREAS, the Cambria Heights 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 extra-curricular programs and services to the school-age children of our community; and

WHEREAS, the PIAA was formed in Pittsburgh on December 20, 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 the PIAA's 765 high school memberships as of 2016-17; and

WHEREAS, the last three years continue to demonstrate the non-boundary schools, which 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 over the last three years have been non-boundary schools. Seventy-seven percent (77%, 23/30) of the PIAA basketball champions over the last three school years were non-boundary schools; and

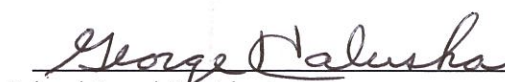
WHEREAS, the athletic playing field is not level, non-geographical boundary schools should not be competing against traditional PUBLIC schools in section, district, or state championships; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cambria Heights School District Board of Education joins school districts around the state in calling for PIAA classification reform including: regular season competing may be a blend of PUBLIC and non-boundary schools, postseason competition should be exclusive. PUBLIC schools should compete against other PUBLIC schools. Non-boundary schools should compete against other non-boundary schools. The state can divide the non-boundary schools in half. The largest non-boundary schools by four. The largest schools will play 6A. The smaller non-boundary schools play 5A. The state can divide the PUBLIC schools by four. The largest schools will play 4A. The next largest 3A, then 2A and the smallest schools 1A. A transfer rule will also be in effect. If a student-athlete transfers after their ninth grade year, they forfeit the following year of varsity athletic eligibility. The student-athlete may play at the junior varsity level. The PIAA could develop criteria to account for mitigating circumstances.

Adopted by the Governing Board of the Cambria Heights School District on December 4, 2018 by a vote of 9 yes and 0 no, with 0 abstaining and 0 absent.

Attested by:


School Board Secretary


School Board President