

## CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT COMMITTEE

March 5, 2026

The conference realignment committee meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Marty Fonley (West Monona, West Harrison, Whiting). Members in attendance included Brent Jorth (Central Lyon), Brandon Ruffridge (Fort Dodge), Deron Durflinger (Van Meter), Bill Watson (Martensdale-St. Marys), Scot Lamm (Mount Pleasant), Barb Schwamman (Osage, Riceville), Tara Paul (Indianola), Zach Clark (Central Decatur), Cade Lambert (Des Moines Christian), Adam Riley (Decorah), Eric Boyle (Waukee), Trevor Miller (Exira-EHK, Audubon), Tara Williams (Pleasantville), Julie Girsch (Columbus Catholic), Jeff Bissen (Glenwood), and Andy Crozier (Central Lee). Representing the IGHS AU: Erin Gerlich, Kylee Walker, and Elise Boulton. Representing the IHSAA: Tom Keating. Absent: Brent Cook (Dubuque Senior).

**Motion by Crozier, second by Schwamann to approve the March 5<sup>th</sup> Conference Realignment Committee agenda. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion by Watson, second by Miller to approve the minutes from the February 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference Realignment Committee Meeting. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion by Miller, second by Watson to approve the minutes from the February 27<sup>th</sup> Conference Realignment Committee Meeting. Approved unanimously.**

Fonley presented the application materials for expedited (Fast Track) review and the application materials for standard review. The prioritization of applicants was discussed based on criteria set by the subcommittee. It was also determined that the full committee would hear each case; no case would be heard by only a subcommittee.

The timeline for the standard application process was reviewed by Fonley.

**Motion to approve the expedited review application for conference realignment and the standard application for conference realignment by Durflinger, second by Boyle, and unanimously approved.**

The committee discussed the need to create a modified application and timeline process for schools currently without conferences needing relief to be able to play in the 27-28 season. It was determined that applications from schools applying for conference realignment through this modified process will be due to the committee on March 24. The committee will notify conferences that they are under consideration for conference realignment by April 1. Materials from notified conferences will be due to the committee on April 22. The committee will hold a hearing during the week of April 27 and have a decision for the applying school by May 8.

**Durflinger motion to approve the modified process and timeline outlined above, second by Miller and approved unanimously.**

It was determined that the hearing date for schools applying through the modified process would be held at 9:00am on April 29, 2026 at the IHSAA in Boone. The next CRC meeting will be held at 8:00am on March 25 via Zoom to review applications from schools applying through the modified conference realignment process and determine conferences under consideration for placement.

**With no further business, Miller motioned to adjourn at 9:08am, second by Durflinger and approved unanimously.**

Elise Boulton

Recorder