

Q and A Redistricting and Dissolution – December 3, 2015

Information will be updated and clarified as more questions are asked and more information becomes available.

Gregg Cruickshank – Superintendent

I am a HS student in the Farragut district and I live in a part of the district that is given to Shenandoah. I want to come to Sidney HS so I open enroll in March. Do I still have to sit out the 90 days for varsity sports eligibility when I haven't really been part of Shenandoah's district either? For 2016 - 17, students from the Nishnabotna whole grade sharing arrangement will be immediately eligible for varsity athletic competition. It doesn't matter in what district they reside as long as they file open enrollment papers in a timely manner with the district of their choice. At this time the deadline by March 1, 2016. If redistricting takes longer than expected that deadline could be extended.

After redistricting will the rules for open enrollment still apply?

Yes. As long as parents file open enrollment papers by March 1, 2016 students may attend the district of their choice. If redistricting takes longer than expected, the March 1 deadline may be extended.

I am a HS student in the Hamburg District and my school decides to tuition its students out to Shenandoah or FM or wherever besides Sidney. I want to go to Sidney and I open enroll in March. Do I still have to sit out the 90 days for varsity sports eligibility when I haven't really been a part of whatever new district my school tuitions out to? Same answer as the previous question.

Who will decide redistricting? How long will the process take?

I will tell you as well as all of the other contiguous districts the same thing. We (Department of Education) will figure this out. There will be no solicitations for land accepted. It will be a decision that will make the most sense for the land configuration and the kids.

Jeff Berger, Ph.D.

Deputy Director

Iowa Department of Education

Dr. Berger has also communicated the Department of Education will begin this process Monday, November 23.

On a somewhat related note: What talking points would you use to compare Sidney Schools to Shenandoah and FM if a student was contemplating open enrolling between the three? The approach of the administration over the last several years has been to encourage individual families to schedule a visit to meet with staff, students, and tour facilities. We also encourage families to visit other schools to gain as much information as possible to make the best decision for their families. Staff can encourage families to contact the Principals and Guidance Counselors to arrange a visit.

There is a question about whether or not Sidney has enough room for more students? The Sidney Board will accept all open enrollment requests. The Board is discussing facilities scenarios both short term and long term and the district has space to accommodate all students in an environment conducive to learning.

We've heard a lot of students want to come at semester to Sidney. How will that be handled? Families need to go to the board of the district that they live in to request consideration for open enrollment past deadline. If the open enrollment is denied and it is past the deadline, they will need to pay tuition if they wish to attend the Sidney district.

For Farragut, regarding open enrollment past deadline is it their Board decision or the AEA board decision? Suggest contacting the Green Hills AEA office at 844-366-0503.

How will this affect our board? Will we need to add a member or more after the districts are reconfigured? A topic for future discussion by the Sidney Board. Currently Sidney has a 5 person board that is elected at large.

Tuition out agreements

Tuition out agreements are negotiated by respective boards. The % of money that is kept by each district is negotiated by the boards involved.

It has been communicated to the Hamburg administration that if the Hamburg Board is interested in discussions about the future, including a tuition out agreement, the Sidney Board would like the initial communication to come from Hamburg Board officers to Sidney Board officers.

Farragut facilities- who is responsible for the upkeep of facilities. Any liabilities and assets of the district would be assigned to the district the property is redistricted into. However, we believe it is the responsibility of the taxpayers of

the previous district (Farragut) to address liabilities. More information will be shared as the process continues.

They will be redistricting Farragut, but will the state look at changing the boundaries of other districts? They won't be carving out existing districts to accommodate changes, will they? District boundaries will change, but only through expansion of current boundaries. No district will shrink or be carved up as a result of redistricting.

Will there be legislation this next Iowa session on funding for bus routes?

Transportation equity is a top priority for education advocacy groups such as Iowa Association of School Boards, School Administrators of Iowa, and Rural School Advocates of Iowa.

Will the Department of Education increase the Hamburg School District knowing that they are also having decreasing enrollment and financial concerns? Refer back to the statement from Deputy Director Berger on page 1.

How many high school students can Sidney's certified enrollment absorb (receive) and remain under the 115 count for participation in 8-man football? Sidney's count for 2015/16 classification was 93.

This is a redistricting year by the IHSAA for football districts, classifications, etc. Since Sidney's current certified enrollment is under the 115 limit the IHSAA will place Sidney's football program in an 8-man district during the process which takes place this coming January-February. What if, due to the dissolution of Farragut district and the Hamburg high school students (Nishnabotna high school students) being tuitioned out and/or open enrolling to Sidney, Sidney's 2016-17 high school enroll is more than 115 when school starts in August 2016 - what class/level of football will Sidney play in the 2016 football season? With the IGHSAU having five classes (1A-5A), what high school enrollment increase would move the Sidney Cowgirls' from 1A to 2A?

Sidney will be 8-man for the next two years. After that we can petition for a two year waiver to stay 8-man for the next two years. We would probably be looking at moving to 11 player in four years provided our enrollment is over the 115 cap for the 3 grade period that counts on the Beds enrollment. I would think that we would stay 1A in all other sports. For the girls the cutoff for 1A was 131 for this year in volleyball. We will be ok for next year because they use this year's

number for 2016-17 school year. After that it will depend on how many new students we get. This year our BEDS (grades 9 - 11 enrollment from 2014/15 which determined classification for 2015/16) was 93.

How about the boys' athletics beyond football - how much of a high school enrollment increase would move the Sidney Cowboys' from 1A to 2A in basketball, baseball, etc. ?

Answered above. St Albert is at 145 and they are 1A in basketball so we should be fine