

PRESS RELEASE

CLINTON COUNTY SCHOOLS STAND ALONE IN SCOL

During the week of February 22, 2016, Clinton County Schools of Clinton Massie Local, East Clinton Local and Wilmington City received notice that the other five SCOL schools (Miami Trace, Washington Court House, Greenfield McClain, Hillsboro, and Chillicothe) will be seceding from the SCOL to form a new league which would include the addition of Jackson. This comes after discussion of expansion from the league. The league was set to vote on the admittance of Jackson into the league on March 7. This secession precedes that vote and any subsequent discussion.

In December, East Clinton requested a meeting with SCOL Commissioner Jim Winner. In that meeting, the possibility of expansion was discussed along with the fact that East Clinton had received multiple invitations to apply for other conferences. East Clinton voiced its concern about its standing in the league and notified the commissioner that they would seek information from the other leagues. That meeting concluded with the thought that if the league was all-in on expansion, East Clinton would remain in the league and do its part to make the league work. Proper procedures were followed in notifying the commissioner and the league members of the concerns. The Board of Directors were called together by the commissioner and agreed upon expansion. A meeting was then held with Superintendents, High School Principals, and Athletic Directors to discuss expansion and confirm the leagues resolve.

At a January 7th meeting, each Superintendent was asked to voice their standing with the league and with the idea of expansion. Miami Trace Superintendent David Lewis began by stating that expansion was a positive idea for the league and that Miami Trace was committed to the league. Jon Saxton of Chillicothe, Jim Smith of Hillsboro, Matthew McCorkle of Washington Court House, Ron Sexton of Wilmington, Cindy Running (standing in for Clinton Massie Superintendent), Joe Wills of Greenfield, and Eric Magee of East Clinton all echoed this status. Magee reiterated that with these commitments, East Clinton would not pursue other leagues and remain with the SCOL. Discussion was held as to possibilities of expansion into a two division league, based more on size and competitive balance. This discussion included the idea of adding multiple schools to remain at an even number. By adding one school, with that school being a large school (Jackson), the competitive balance did not shift- except in an eastward direction.

There was a second, similar meeting where Jackson came to pitch the idea of joining the SCOL. It was decided to allow an extension for applicants to apply for the league as there was another school interested in the possibility. That extension was to be March 2. The vote was then to be held on March 7 at the Board of Control meeting.

The news of the secession comes as a surprise to the Clinton County Districts. We are disappointed in the breakup of the SCOL as well as the process that these five districts took to get to this point. No open discussion with the Clinton County schools took place; in January, a face-to-face statement of solidarity, to the February announcement of their decision to leave.

The remaining SCOL schools will remain strong in their endeavor to provide competitive balance for all our student athletes. We will work together to determine our best course of action. Whether we can remain together as we move forward is undetermined at this time, but our schools will always strive toward positive relationships with one another. All decisions will be made based upon what will be best for our student athletes, coaches, and communities.

Clinton Massie, East Clinton, and Wilmington Schools would like to thank our communities for your tremendous support.

Go Falcons, Go Astros, Go Hurricanes.

Clinton Massie Schools
Joe Scholler, Superintendent
Barrett Swope, Principal
Cindy Running, AD

East Clinton Schools
Eric Magee, Superintendent
Matt Baker, Principal
Jim Marsh, AD

Wilmington City Schools
Ron Sexton, Superintendent
Mindy McCarty-Stewart, Principal
Troy Diels, AD