

To the Sheridan School board,

From: Classification committee,

The classification committee met to discuss the option of petitioning the OSAA to play down a classification in the next four year block. The committee was made up with parents, students, coach, administrators and board members. We held two meetings and had some very good discussions. Although the board members were unable to attend the 2nd meeting, the committee overwhelmingly was in support of petitioning the OSAA to play down during the 2018/19 cycle. The cycle is a four year time period, that if granted would allow Sheridan HS athletics to play down at the 2A classification (if the OSAA keeps its current 6A format).

We heard from the students that they want to keep their rivalries in sports and want to be able to compete in state tournaments. The parents had concerns about the injuries in football when we have so many younger kids competing at the varsity level. The parents want their kids to have a positive experience in sports, to be able to go into a game and feel they have a chance to win the contest. This past year(15/16) our boys sports have had a difficult time being competitive in football and basketball. Whereas the girls have had some success, although their numbers are starting to decline. The administrators would like to see more kids involved in the extra-curricular activities. These past two years have seen our numbers dwindle in volleyball, football, girls basketball, wrestling, baseball and softball. Even though our numbers have remained steady in cross country, track and boys basketball, our win percentages have declined over the past five years.

Schools that have petitioned to play down for a four year time block have seen their participation numbers increase, which they point out has had a positive impact on school pride and morale. Along with their increased numbers in activities, they have seen a dramatic improvement in their success in competitions. This improvement in their ability to compete has had an impact in their community. There is a noticeable pride and support in the community (banners, window posters etc.). Taft has noticed more community support towards programs as they have become more successful. People are once again becoming involved in school activities.

We realize there is a concern for the rivalries that we now have. Let me point out that over the years we have had rivalries with Delphian, Nestucca, Gaston, Western Mennonite, Faith Bible, Neah Kah Nie and other 2A schools. We have continued those rivalries over the years with non-league games just as we can with current schools in this league.

The sports programs over the years have provided many successes for our school. We have teams that have competed at the highest level of sports and even won some state championships. The memories for those players are invaluable and lasting and something we would like our current students experience. Students have learned to work as a cohesive group in difficult situations, created lasting memories with classmates, developed pride and sportsmanship and competed in tense games in state championships. By petitioning to play down it gives our school a better opportunity for all of our programs (athletic and activity) to compete in state tournament competitions.

Thank You,

On behalf of the classification committee
Bob Bennett