



## WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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The following are the recorded comments compiled from member schools attending the seven Area Meetings conducted throughout the state in September.

Multiple comments of the same nature are indicated with the number of reoccurrence within parentheses. The comments are not those of the WIAA Executive State or the Board of Control, but those of the member school representatives in attendance. The accuracy of claims in any or all of the statements has not been verified. Specific references to schools may have been edited, but implied sentiment was maintained.

### WATERTOWN - District 6 (Sept. 9, 2009)

**Important Note: The five division basketball proposal was one question on the Watertown questionnaire. At subsequent meetings the five division component and the rural/urban component were separated.**

*“The discussion about “bumping schools” is good in that it will hopefully educate the general public about where the private schools get their students. The idea that private schools recruit and get many students from the public schools is not reality.”*

*“Bump up proposal is discriminatory if it doesn’t include all schools with ‘open enrollment.’ It would be a huge disappointment to treat a portion of the membership differently.”*

*“This is an equitable proposal.”*

*“Unfair.”*

*“More opportunities for teams to get to the state tournament. Those in 400-800 enrollments may see some relief, more ability to compete. I still don’t think that we have leveled the playing field. If I look at our conference, a private school wins 50-75 percent of the conference championships. They draw from several large communities in contrast to we only have our own rural community to draw students. We have a different type of student. We have students from mostly blue collar families, several special education students that are counted in our enrollment and very few that actually go out for an activity. Families in some of these non-public schools have the dollars to send their kids to camp, to play in leagues and clubs. I really don’t know if there is a true solution to this problem, every school has a different take on this issue.”*

*“Inequitable in its effects on private schools.”*

*“Private school enrollment in urban setting (those who meet the criteria) is not equal to public school setting with similar enrollment (public schools take all in community--the poor, the special needs and the special education students, etc.) Private schools have enrollments that are by choice and many times athletics (basketball) is the draw.”*

*“Targets one element of the membership.”*

*“We do not have strong feelings regarding this proposal. We would not wish to be a road block if others are being advantaged.”*

*“Strongly agree with the five division plan, some reservation with urban and rural.”*

*“Not OK with targeting private schools.”*

*“Going to five divisions and leaving all else the same is fine.”*

*“The plan has promise.”*

*“It’s not a matter of the quantity that privates enroll. It’s a matter of the quality of students they enroll. Somehow they end up with the best basketball players from their own feeder schools and public junior highs.”*

*“Use a multiplier for private schools and public schools who have a high number of open enrolled students.”*

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*"Be careful! What about private schools in major cities or near the big cities? Cut off points? How about sanctions on schools who truly recruit or is it anything goes?"*

*"We are in favor of the 5 division format, but we need to know more about what will be done with the non-public school enrollment."*

*"Need to have more background information. Cost needs to be considered, travel increases/gate decreases."*

*"It does not impact us either way. I believe four divisions is enough. The real issue is rural/city private schools."*

*"Add another division and don't worry about special placement of independent schools."*

*"I do like going to five divisions."*

*"OK with five divisions, but like four better."*

*"This will create a divisiveness among our membership."*

*"OK with five divisions."*

*"I feel that it gives an advantage to the smaller schools in each current division, allows them to move down to play smaller schools."*

*"The five divisions have merit, other aspects of resolution does not resolve the issue with the schools that are causing the question. Theory is a good start but needs to be refined."*

*"The proposal does not address or result in an equitable solution. Is better education a viable option? Is it truly a problem?"*

*"Find a way to address the Division 3 Boys Basketball."*

*"Present which criteria trumps when determining if a school 'meets the criteria' or not. For example: Aquinas--multi-school district and 'Bottom 30' of a division."*

*"Small Division 2 schools get nothing from this. New proposal mainly benefits small private schools."*

## **WEST ALLIS - District 7 (Sept. 15, 2009)**

*"The urban/rural is public/private in reality. It is discriminatory. If urban/rural is really an issue, then we need to involve both public and private in the plan--not just private schools."*

*Division 1 should qualify eight to State, not four (6)*

*"A different five division proposal should be looked at. There is a nice plan out there from the WBCA which addresses the concerns that exist."*

*"Any proposal should take into account open enrollment numbers and possibly look at a dynasty proposal that would include public. Because this proposal only affects some of the privates, if the schools not affected win championships, the outcry will continue." (2)*

*"Try five divisions first, one step at a time and back fill brackets--128 Division 5; 128 Division 4; 128 Division 3 and split Divisions 1 and 2."*

*"Districts in basketball solve the problem of rural/urban issues in basketball. Having Division 3 basketball teams play only other Division 3 basketball teams will level the playing field."*

*"If you cannot apply the model to all member schools, don't do it! Don't punish all private schools!"*

*"The five divisions clearly dilutes the tournament. Are the best teams going to the state tourney?"*

*"It is not a 'watered down' process by adding a division. Maybe a 'Super Sectional' added to Division 1 to take one game at the State Tournament and have every team at state level play two games. It's worth a 'try' and it could solve the urban vs. rural scenario."*

*"Rural/urban in basketball seems to be more of a White/Black issue for the rest of Wisconsin. If Dominican High School showed up at State with an all white team, would this still be an issue? I doubt it. It isn't an issue in any other sport. Why? Because the other sports are predominantly played by White athletes. On the first issue, 5 divisions is a good idea. Six might be even better! Maybe Supersectionals too! While I do not believe there is any 'hidden agenda' regarding the rural/urban issue on the part of anyone at the WIAA, I believe this is a 'cultural' issue coming from parents, etc in 'rural' parts of Wisconsin that goes beyond the recruiting ability of 'urban' schools."*

*"The problem does not lie in all urban schools, nor does this solution address all urban schools in other divisions (i.e. Division 1)."*

*"Treat all members equally. Adding a Division provides more championship opportunities for member schools."*

*"To give a more proportional representation based on enrollment of schools, look at having fewer teams in Divisions 1 and 2 than in Divisions 3, 4 and 5."*

*"Focus our efforts on educating the public concerning the public/private perceptions they have. If it comes through the media, address it through media channels."*

*"This is not about rural/urban, it is public/private. Justice is violated."*

*"I think Divisions 4, 3 and 2 should stay the same and Division 1 should break into 2 divisions. Why not have 1a and 1b. 1a is the largest schools and 1b is the 2nd tier. I wish there was a way to hold administration/coaches accountable. In the city most of the coaches do not have strong loyalty to their schools. They will hop jobs and leave the kids in disarray. I appreciate the feedback and again feel that making the MPS schools accountable to outside conferences, administration, parents and fans will naturally expose unethical and dishonest practices that continually violate the WIAA guidelines. Without an outside whistleblower, the problem is covered up by all involved."*

*"As a school that is Division 1 by 2 students, we don't stand a chance at state. When our competition has access to 1,000 more kids, it won't change what we see now. We need greater access with more equitable divisions. There needs to be review of the way divisions are done for tennis, soccer, boys volleyball, etc. Access is needed for all. Division 7 football team doesn't look down on its access to State, and they would never experience that if only two divisions existed like tennis, soccer, etc."*

*"Equalizing Division 1 with other schools is a must. Attendance at Division 1 quarterfinals is poor."*

*"The five divisions is a good concept, but it comes at the expense of Division 1 moving from eight to four teams. Eight teams from division 1 must remain in tact."*

*"I believe all member schools should be treated the same based on enrollment."*

*"I see both sides. We need more time. What is in the best interest of the sport or membership (long-term). I agree we need relief at our mid-Division 1 schools."*

*"Please include a super sectional on Tuesday and Saturday supersectional in a large facility."*

*"I have coached at and attended many state tournaments. Many say Thursday afternoon and evening games are the "best games" to watch. I realize that "best" is different for many spectators. The arguments presented by schools at this meeting give evidence that the proposed plan serves to be more of a disadvantage to a greater number of schools than an advantage to schools to make it to State in Divisions 2 and 3."*

*"Leave the tournament alone!"*

*"It should be based on numbers only--how many students go to your school--not where they are from. Open enrollment is state mandated, why fight it? Break the divisions up based on numbers only."*

*"This is purely financial move because of loss of money for Division 1 attendance that has affected the Division 1 football realignment as well. Basically, it seems that financially the WIAA loses money when public schools come to the WIAA's Boys or Girls State Basketball Tournament."*

*"We have continued to change "groupings" for no better reason than to "isolate" certain groups for winning and success. To group teams in a bracket where only "1" goes to the championship when 2 or more would have moved on is not fair to those student/athletes. Attendance at the state championship game doesn't look good on TV when the stands are empty."*

*"What is good for basketball is good for other sports. Reducing Division 1 teams access to the state tournament in basketball could then be easily extended to soccer and volleyball. I would not like to see that happen."*

*"If you go to five divisions, keep eight schools in Division 1 and add another day eliminating the practice day. Use the Field House if necessary. Division 1 schools represent close to 50 percent of the enrollment in the state and should be represented accordingly."*

*"Rural/Urban divided by alignments will not solve your problems. Your problem is not solved. We can not have a set of rules that isolates a part of the population. If the issue is too many state championships for successful nonpublic urban schools, then the rule should apply to successful rural public schools. Set up a FAIR Dynasty Plan. Discrimination will end in a serious and expensive legal battle that would be detrimental to what the WIAA initiated in 2000 with the merger. A group of us would be very interested in traveling to rural areas to educate the build relationships to dispel perspectives of misconceptions. A small segment of the membership should not pay the price for "Centers of Excellence." Successful coaches*

*in rural or urban areas will continue excellence wherever they end up! Choice: Where you live, where you go to school! Our families made that choice! Please don't use attendance at the three-day basketball tour-*

*ney as a problem for Division 1.*

### **APPLETON - District 4** (Sept. 16, 2009)

*"All schools should be treated the same."*

*"Plan will help with equality of divisions and enrollment. Rural/urban--let's look at socio-econ, student base at schools (private and public). Not same opportunities for kids in Phillips as there are for Lourdes."*

*"Competitive equity and competitive opportunity do seem to be the issues. We have ventured down this road in discussions of socio-economic opportunities. Non-public schools operate under different financial constraints through the state. Budgets are limited with public schools by law. Non-public schools do not have those constraints."*

*"All members should be treated equal. If necessary, consider your "regional" rotation idea."*

*Would like additional data provided on this rural/urban situation. Would like to see Division 1 still have the ability to get eight teams to state (play on Wednesday).*

*"It is important that eight Division 1 schools advance to the state tournament." (3)*

*"I like the proposal and feel it makes a better situation for basketball. I feel for small Division 1 team currently and agree with your statement that you are taking nothing away. I also feel nonpublic schools have a different product and geographical draw is a huge factor."*

*"As a member school, nonpublic schools do have a district--it is called our Catholic feeder schools. I believe fellow member schools who happen to be nonpublic, have the same type of district. If this proposal (rural/urban) were to pass, then I believe it should be applicable to nonpublic and public schools who accept open enrollment students."*

*"Also consider Super Sectional."*

*"Switching regional groupings as discussed would make some of the urban/rural issues go away, at least in earlier level playoffs."*

*"We have no objection to a division bump if it was equitable. But to see other nonpublic schools larger*

*than we are remain in Division 5 while we are in Division 4 because of our district is difficult."*

*"Our coaches seem to think it is fine the way it is. Just like to see different opponents during tournament play."*

*"I think the rural aspect of disadvantages is overplayed. Also a school may be in an urban setting yet have mainly rural enrollment."*

*"The wide range in enrollment in Division 1 (2000-950) and Division 2 (950-425) makes the creation of another division necessary."*

*"Will open enrollment data and sport specific data be included as well as transfer data?"*

*"Why not try it? At least we can say we tried something to fix private school (Division 3) quandary."*

*"We appreciate addressing the inequity that currently exists."*

*"Since schools can not recruit for athletics, all can recruit for academics (school choice), what is the need for the bump up. If a school has a school choice student, are they now considered a private school? Shouldn't all members be treated the same?"*

*"Does the proposal address the statistics presented at the Area Meetings of non-public schools competing/winning Division 3 Boys Basketball Tournament?"*

*"As a matter of resources and opportunity, I see the rural/urban movement more impacting in Division 3 Division 1 schools into Division 2, I'm not sure addresses the issue with an equal playing field. A private school class of 50 is far different than a public school class of 50 in terms of socioeconomics, demographics, etc."*

*"Private schools do not recruit for athletics--our students come from our parish schools. Our financial aid is based on need only which is based on their taxes and exemptions."*

*"The WIAA has added divisions in other sports but you didn't take away competitive opportunities for others. This plan does take away those opportunities*

for Division 1 schools. Need to try to solve the problem and keep eight Division 1 schools at State. These schools represent the largest number of students, largest number of teams and largest amount of revenue."

"I believe this issue is much bigger than rural/urban. I believe it is socio-economic based--those schools with higher economic clientele have more opportunities than those schools with lower economic clientele. I would love to see a model based on a multiplier with percent of free/reduced students in school." (2)

"Is this proposal based on private school dominance? If so, is the WIAA going to look at doing the same for baseball where the private schools have been even more prevalent than in basketball at the state tournament. I'm sure it is even more so for sports such as soccer, tennis, etc. Will the urban/rural proposal be used in these other sports other than just basketball?"

"To my understanding, St. Mary's Springs would move up to Division 2 based on the fact that Fond du Lac High School is one of the 30 biggest in the state. If Fond du Lac had two high schools of 1,200, Springs would not move up to Division 2. To me that rationale does not make sense."

"We feel enrollment number differences do contribute to divisional inequities and subsequently playoff success. This proposal has too large a spread in enrollment in our opinion. We are not opposed to an expanded divisional tournament, maybe we need to consider a six or seven division tournament similar to football."

"Would change one division--we don't want to lower competition, but heighten our ability and challenge our kids. Sounds like more data is needed."

"Rural/urban argument is more opportunity in urban areas. Rural school districts have gyms. People create opportunities, not just facilities (YMCA)."

"I feel it important to have division enrollment closer from top to bottom in all divisions."

"Consideration of numbers or percentages of special education students? Apply to all sports. Not necessarily add divisions but apply the urban/rural model to other sports."

"Not enough concrete data for me on this one. Seems like the advantage is from few schools rather than most."

"I feel the real issue is the advantage private schools have. Private schools may educate everyone, but public schools must educate everyone. Until an equitable solution for classifying schools is found, there will always be issues. When we collect data, could we please collect data on special ed enrollment and special ed participation? Transient population?"

"When discussing rural and urban and opportunities for students, should data be looked at pertaining to economics--students on free and reduced lunch. Even though our students are in an urban school, a large population of our students cannot afford the same opportunities."

"Concerns with open enrollment in greater metro areas. Is there a difference with that and private schools?"

"Still doesn't address the dynasty issue in both private/public schools. Open enrollment impact? Why just basketball? Golf, tennis, soccer, wrestling, always same inequities. Will support whatever is adopted, we are appreciative of the WIAA!"

"Why can't they play quarterfinal games on Wednesday night? My experience is the Division 1 games have the largest crowds. How will this affect revenue? We are all for adding teams, but don't take away opportunities."

## ANTIGO - District 2 (Sept. 22, 2009)

"We would consider either proposal. Being a Division 3 team, I think something needs to be done to make things more equitable."

"Sounds like more of an open enrollment issue than a rural/urban or divisional issue."

Apply the proposed "rural/urban" equally to all sports.

"Ad hoc 'brain trust' committee might be formed to further study this issue. More input is needed."

"I'm glad we addressed private schools because their population can't compare to public schools. It involves more participation in their programs and they don't have the special ed component."

*"Only if it affects both nonpublic and public schools." (3)*

*"Open enrollment for public schools needs to be factored into placement." (2)*

*"We are a small, rural school and it's hard to compete with small, urban schools." (2)*

*"Are we acknowledging open enrolled students determine whether a public school will or will not go to state? This does not take into account open enrollment effect or the dynasties that also win a disproportionate number of championships."*

*"Look for other opportunities to differentiate public/private -- no play up."*

*"234 students at Coleman vs. 330 for Aquinas, 248 for Pacelli, 224 for Lourdes means completely different things."*

*"Rural/urban for both public/private."*

*"Bump up urban area teams. Rural schools are at a disadvantage due to not many athletic opportunities because of travel and no big urban areas with summer programs. Funding is drying up. We also get no (very, very small number) of open enrollment students."*

*"Take a look at the WBCA plan that just came out."*

*"Whitefish Bay situation--one high school?"*

*"With lack of opportunities, facilities and programs within a reasonable distance, we are at a distinct disadvantage to the urban areas. Open enrollment is a concern. Our open enrollments are minute to nonexistent."*

*"Private, urban schools make up a tiny percentage of the WIAA membership yet win a disproportionate amount of boys basketball titles. These changes need to happen."*

*"One membership should not have special rules for only a portion of the membership. Rural schools that take advantage of an urban program, will they be bumped up? We will play wherever we get placed. If we get bumped up, we will have to get better."*

*"In our economy, do not do anything to go to court or bring attention to us negatively. Cash strapped communities are looking to cut and go with club sports, AAU, etc. There is some interest in getting sports out of schools. Leave it as it is or work with problem schools individually."*

*"Maintain eight Division 1 qualifiers at State. Apply the concept across multiple sports."*

*"Support movement of five equal divisions for basketball only when the rural/urban criteria is applied."*

*"In favor of sending more teams to state and this will help some good teams that deserve it. Not sure this solves our problems with private schools and open enrollment completely."*

*"Private schools can turn down enrollment, they don't have special education programs, their participation is much higher than public schools."*

*"We overlook issues affecting us and AAU. Urban areas kids gather at a young age and move them to one high school without an eligibility problem. AAU's favor a rural detriment."*

*"Newman uses a third party, independent financial aid program called FACTS. Aid is given to students which show financial need."*

*"Central Wisconsin does not have as much of a problem in this area. Large schools are Division and smaller are Divisions 3 and 4-- the exception is non-public schools that actively recruit--should be bumped up."*

*"Continue to review regional groupings to avoid 'conference tournament'."*

## **BARNEVELD - District 5 (Sept. 23, 2009)**

*"I feel we should take a good look at the WBCA suggestion."*

*"I think the geographics are too huge of an issue. A private in the middle of a city of 50,000 or 60,000 is too much. Also, the numbers thrown out are skewed, students at a private aren't the same as a rural school in a town of 2,000 population."*

*"Teams should be evaluated on a three year basis to determine if they should move up a division. This could go for both public and private schools."*

*"Even out divisions and bring in four teams from each division to the state tournament."*

*"Also address open enrollment."*

*"Inequities in non-public vs. public are real. It is very difficult for our programs to compete with non-public schools. Our students do not have access to the resources (financial, others) as urban non-public students. The disparity is very obvious."*

*"Put schools where they fall enrollment wise. Everyone should be treated the same."*

*"Five divisions all with even numbers (urban schools if in the bottom 20 percent of division) have the option to stay in current division." (3)*

*"All equal."*

*"Please continue to examine the proposal suggested by the WBCA as it appears it may be close to a comfortable compromise. Enjoyed the dialogue." (7)*

*"I like the WBCA proposal except for the fact that still does not address five divisions in equal numbers."*

*"We are all WIAA members, treat all the same."*

*"Believe something has to be done with students with WHA disabilities and lower achieving students. Free and reduced lunches." (2)*

*"Open enrollment throughout the state clouds this issue. Nonpublic schools don't recruit athletes any more than urban public schools do."*

*"Our school will be required to move up. I don't care about what people say about rural/urban, the fact of the matter comes down to opportunities to get better and the students of our town have fewer opportunities because of the location than others."*

*"Agree with the three-day issue for DI being too taxing on players, coaches and communities. Agree with five even divisions."*

*I like the two Division I categories. I don't like schools moving up or down divisions, because it will create the same desires in all sports. We have 22 regular season games to make positive memories. If a team doesn't win the state tournament, they could still have a positive, successive season.*

*"All private schools should be required to play up 1 or two divisions."*

*"Leave private schools alone. I like the dynasty rule with some tweaks."*

*"The inequity created is better than the inequity that currently exists."*

*"Good practice to look at other ideas proposed and to review accordingly by the association process."*

*"Not equal playing field now. Private (urban) schools do not recruit, but through AAU and other club experiences that exist in the large urban setting, enrollment to get an opportunity to appear at state and get more visibility. Private urban schools have criteria and enrollment guides. Tuition is and can be an advantage. Those that can afford tuition at urban private schools have kids enrolled in camps, strength and conditioning programs. Effort to gain advantages/opportunities. Nothing is perfect, as an individual sport athlete, I know it does not take loads of \$ and top notch facilities to be successful. Building a program and achieving a state championship takes hard work and heart!"*

*"Only think we should move non-publics schools from 5 to 4, 4 to 3 and 3 to 2 and end there. Once you go Division 1 too much range 2600-900 even for private schools at 700. I do recognize the urban/rural issue."*

*"A rural public school's Division 1 player is an open enrolled student. You need to address open enrolled students on a basketball roster."*

### **BLACK RIVER FALLS - District 3 (Sept. 29, 2009)**

*"Five divisions are supported. Private school question has been a controversy for our school in the recent past."*

*"Don't penalize success. Don't apply rules for privates that you wouldn't to publics. We have a Division 4 and Division 2 next door, they can attract students for free, the same students we must charge for." (2)*

*"We have Division 2 and Division 4 public schools in our area that would not be moved up a division. The fair practice would be to move them up too. They have access to open enrollment from three other schools."*

*"Despite the private schools' claims, we don't believe we are on an even playing level with them. A step in the right direction."*

*“Concepts in this proposal are based on perceptions not necessarily reality. Added information on September enrollments is very fitting (open enrollment feeder schools). All additional changes to tournament format in the past has been for ALL schools. This proposal applies to only a specific group. If non-public schools weren’t winning, would this discussion take place. Are we through this proposal making restrictions on successful schools? If so, should not this apply to all schools.”*

*“Even number of schools per division.”*

*“Creating an additional level will help. Moving schools under the cover of urban/rural is a poor idea. Schools need to play in the division they fall into based upon enrollment.”*

*“Adding another division is not the answer.”*

*“It is a step, unfortunately, I am not certain if it is a step in the right direction.” (2)*

*“There is no easy solution. Would like to see teams moved to new divisions based on performance, not enrollment.”*

*The rural/urban issue needs to be addressed. This is better than nothing, but I don’t think this is the answer. Apples equal Oranges.” (2)*

*“We cannot discriminate against some of our members. We are academic institutions, not state championship driven. I do not see a problem.”*

*“The fifth division should only be for public schools because of the inequities.”*

*“More equitable to other sports (baseball 5 with summer and football 7). Keep Division 1 with eight teams, needs more time to be discussed.”*

*“More opportunities for urban schools.”*

*“Remember free/reduced meals.”*

*“Small rural schools with declining enrollment economically disadvantaged. Keep the costs down but keep the school size the same. Would rather drive a few miles more to play similar sized schools than play*

*larger schools and get my kids beat.”*

*“Support five divisions, but we need to look at other options. WIAA plan only moves the pain.”*

*“Make four divisions for public schools. Make 1 division for all 65 private schools. Five or maybe six divisions.”*

*“Feel something needs to be done with the public vs. private issue but not sure this is the answer. Tie open enrollment figures to school they come from should be considered. Make all equal to address public school open enrollment. After x number of years, the open enrollment number from district coming from goes away and student is considered one of yours.”*

*“Please split Division 1 into 2 divisions and keep the same enrollment breakdowns. The WIAA proposed plan does not solve the problem, it just moves the problem to a different division.”*

*“Would see the same problems that exist with the present criteria.”*

*“Please take a strong look at the proposal by the WBCA.” (4)*

*“Moves enrollment discrepancies from Division 1 to Division 2.”*

*“If we continue to advance a model based on public/private status, we open ourselves to serious 14th Amendment issues. This will be challenged in court because the privates see this as a funding issue. Please take a strong look at the WBCA idea. Also think if contact rules are relaxed, some equity of opportunity issues will be addressed. In rural areas, the school is the only outlet for group rec activities.”*

*“Lots of small schools are near population centers and have the same opportunities as private, urban schools. Geography is what it is.”*

*“This needs to be tweaked to address the competitive problems for small privates, enrollment discrepancies within divisions, the enrollment opportunities for urban private schools, etc. The WBCA is working to this end. We support their efforts and ask the WIAA to work with them to draft a new proposal.”*

### **RICE LAKE - District 1 (Sept. 30, 2009)**

*What I like about this plan is that we’re going to see some better basketball games at the State level. Five divisions gives opportunities to kids where they might not have had them before, and I think that’s what it’s all about!”*

*“Maybe not all private schools are cheating, but it doesn’t change the fact that currently we are putting small rural schools against small private schools who have an advantage be it cheating or legal.”*

*“Why implement a plan that will not survive a court challenge?” (2)*

*“I feel that some schools just need a little extra help to be competitive and this proposal would give smaller schools more opportunities.”*

*“Although it is against long-standing tradition, the public/private ‘argument’ needs to be addressed.”*

*“I fully support a five division plan. However, the proposed plan does not address the dominance of the private schools in Division 3 athletics. Look at the percent of private schools for the past several years in the Division 1 State Tournament in a sport such as basketball.”*

*“Need to look at demographics—especially special education children, etc.”*

*“I think we are too concerned about non-public. Let’s just play.”*

*“I believe the five divisions don’t address all the problems of unfairness. For example, Division 2 now lays high 380s in enrollment to mid- to high-800s. The new plan has an even larger margin. Rural/urban continues to need further investigation (recruiting, scholarships, why students are going to their schools, etc.). For some, a change should be made, but not for all.”*

*“This will help small rural public schools to compete better in basketball by playing schools more our size.”*

*“Equaling Division 1 with the rest of the divisions.”*

*“The concerns of the small schools in the north seem to be addressed by this proposal. There is value to this if it simply causes more transparency in the non-public policies.”*

*“We would like the separation of large and small Division 1.”*

*“From a business perspective, does bringing in more smaller schools to the State Tournament and sectionals increase revenue? I understand the perception that people want to see the “best” players, which typically play Division 1; thus eight schools, but major metro areas don’t seem to bring in the crowd other divisions do. Would the logistics fit five divisions at 8-4-4-4-4? I do appreciate the attempts being made to make adjustments. Some thing is amiss when non-public schools represent over 50 percent of the State Tournament participants when they only have 65 schools compared to over 400 for public schools.”*

*“Has there been any consideration of decreasing the school population by the percentage of special education students? The populations are well documented and could be supplied by the DPI.”*

*“Determine the division by the size of the district/town the school is located.”*