

Board Resolution, Section VI

May 19, 2021

Submitted and Sponsored by:

President Sharon Belton-Cottman, Ferry District
Mr. Lou Petrucci, Park District
Dr. Kathy Evans-Brown, East District
Terrance Heard, Member at Large
Lawrence Scott, Member at Large
Paulette Woods, Central District

Whereas, approximately twelve years ago, the Buffalo Public Schools dissolved its own athletic league to join Section VI;

Whereas, Section VI is comprised of 74 School Districts and 96 member schools;

Whereas, with 19 high schools, the Buffalo City School District (“District”) represents 20% of the total number of member schools within Section VI;

Whereas, the District pays a proportionate share of annual membership dues to Section VI totaling ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) annually;

Whereas, as a majority-minority school District, a significant number of the District’s student athletes, as well as student athletes at other member schools throughout Section VI, are people of color;

Whereas, the governing bodies of Section VI include the Athletic Council and the Executive Committee;

Whereas, pursuant to the Section VI constitution, “The Executive Committee will have general management of Section affairs during the interval between meetings of the Athletic Council. It will have jurisdiction in all matters not covered by the Constitution or Bylaws, appeals, protests and questions of eligibility when the Athletic Council is not in session.”;

Whereas, while the District and Buffalo League have representation on the Athletic Council, it does not have representation on the Executive Committee;

Whereas, for the 2021-2022 school year, the Buffalo League will be the only league within Section VI that does not have a representative on Section VI’s Executive Committee;

Whereas, Section VI’s Executive Committee does not presently have, nor has it historically had, a member that is a person of color;

Whereas, the District's lack of representation on Section VI's Executive Committee limits its ability to have a voice in the important decisions made by the Executive Committee despite the fact that it represents 20% of the total composition of Section VI and this lack of representation exposes the District's student athletes to disparity of treatment by the decisions made by the Executive Committee;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Education demands that Section VI immediately amend its Constitution and By-Laws to incorporate more proportionate, equitable, and diverse representation on its Executive Committee;

Therefore, be it further resolved, that the Board of Education demands that Section VI amend its constitution and bylaws to ensure that the Buffalo City School District encompasses at least 20% of the total membership of the Executive Committee.