

Clear Lake High School

Lakeland and Dunn-St. Croix Conference Public Discussion

March 26, 2024



Background

Dunn-St. Croix looking for an additional member (why?)

Approached Clear Lake in December

Internal discussions within the district and informal discussions at the Conference Superintendent levels

Goal: transparency, and respectful communication

“Fast Track” Process with WIAA = Two Years = 2025-2026 School Year

Key Points

- No decision has been made
- Not entirely Clear Lake's decision
- Football is not part of this
- Not a small decision to be taken lightly

Factors to Consider?

Opportunities for Students

Enrollment

Travel Distances/Times

Intangibles: Cultural Fit, Familiarity, etc.

Lakeland Pros for Remaining

- History and Tradition
- C.L. enrollment on the larger side
- Traditional rivalries: TL, Clayton, PF, Shell Lake, etc.
- Many schools in conference, allows for “internal” realignment when needed for enrollment size changes
- Existing relationships with Lakeland schools: administration, coaches, ADs, etc.

Lakeland Cons for Remaining

- Many missed opportunities for Junior High and JV due to a lack of teams
- Geography: Long travel distances for many schools
- Competing with many smaller schools is not strengthening our programs
- 20+ schools = fragmented Conference identity at times
- Very little contact with the Eastern part of the conference, different CESA
- Instability: Disparity of enrollment sizes, continual realignment, many schools with declining enrollment

Examples

Several times: No JV Girls BB

Jr. High BB: Many Lakeland Teams Using 5th-6th Graders to Fill Rosters

Wrestling: Quads - CLHS Hosted: Teams there with 2 and 3 total wrestlers

Dunn-St. Croix Pros for Joining

- More consistent JV and Jr. High games in every sport
- More Conference Matches for Wrestlers
- Potential Natural Rivalries with neighbors: Glenwood, Boyceville, etc...
- Geography - less travel distance overall
- Competitiveness of the conference may strengthen our programs
- Stability of the conference
- Similarity with other DSC schools: demographics, size, culture, academics
- Music conference alignment
- Existing relationships with DSC schools: administration, football conference, CESA 11, etc.

Dunn-St. Croix Cons to Joining

- C.L. enrollment on the smaller side over time
- Can we sustain competitiveness with our enrollment declining?
- Need to develop new relationships at some levels: coaches, athletic directors, administration
- Smaller number of schools means less flexibility for internal realignments, etc.

Travel Distances/Times

Lakeland Schools	Miles One Way	Dunn-St. Croix Schools	Miles One Way
Birchwood	56	Boyceville	24
Bruce	59	Colfax	42
Clayton	9	Durand	56
Cornell	66	Elmw./ PlumCity	43
Flambeau	74	Glenwood City	18
Frederic	39	Mondovi	74
Grantsburg	57	Spring Valley	33
L. Holcombe	73		
Luck	34		
New Auburn	48		
Northwood	73		
Prairie Farm	16		
Shell Lake	42		
Siren	46		
Turtle Lake	15		
Unity	26		
Webster	53		
Winter	90		
Median	51	miles	29
Bold Median	37	miles	29
Average	49	miles	41
Bold Average	35	miles	41

Enrollment - Lakeland and D-SC

	2023-2024 9-12 Enrollment		2023-24 Actual	2024-25
Birchwood	67	Elmw./ PlumCity	178	158
Winter	86	Glenwood City	195	195
Northwood	87	Spring Valley	198	201
Lake Holcombe	90	Clear Lake *	201	196
Clayton	93	Boyceville	203	211
New Auburn	95	Colfax	224	
Cornell	111	Mondovi	250	279
Frederic	116	Durand	307	302
Luck	118			
Prairie Farm	129			
Turtle Lake	129			
Bruce	131	Average	221	
Flambeau	145	Median	205	
Siren	145			
Clear Lake	201			
Webster	201			
Shell Lake	204			
Grantsburg	255			
Unity	295			
Average	142			
Median	129			

Enrollment - Clear Lake Trends

Year	WIAA Official Enrollment
2024-2025	201
2023-2024	181
22-23	184
21-22	171
20-21	173
19-20	176
18-19	190
17-18	191
16-17	179
15-16	166
14-15	153
13-14	163
12-13	184
11-12	204
10-11	215
09-10	215
08-09	228
07-08	214
06-07	205
05-06	205
04-05	206
03-04	228
Average	192.4

Clear Lake - Participation Rates

	12th	11th	10th	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th
Football	7	8	9	12	9	8		
Volleyball	4	5	12	14	9	13		
Cross Country	1	6	3	1	4	6		
Boys Basketball	0	4	6	7	6	9	8	15
Girls Basketball	4	3	6	6	9	7	9	5
Wrestling	5	6	2	2	4	5		
Softball	4	8	5	?	10	7	6	12
Baseball	6	2	6	5				
Girls Track	0	3	5	4	6			
Boys Track	1	9	5	1	5			
Golf	0	3	2					

Dunn St. Croix vs. Lakeland Conference Membership: Factors to Consider

Dunn St. Croix Pros	Lakeland Pros
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More consistent JV games in every sport ● More Conference Matches for Wrestlers ● Potential Natural Rivalries with neighbors: Glenwood, Boyceville, etc... ● Geography - less travel distance overall ● Competitiveness of the conference may strengthen our programs ● Stability of the conference ● Similarity with other DSC schools: demographics, size, culture, academics ● Music conference alignment ● Existing relationships with DSC schools: administration, football conference, CESA 11, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● History and Tradition ● C.L. enrollment on the larger side ● Traditional rivalries: TL, Clayton, PF, Shell Lake, etc. ● Many schools in conference, allows for "internal" realignment when needed for enrollment size changes ● Existing relationships with Lakeland schools: administration, coaches, ADs, etc.
Dunn St. Croix Cons	Lakeland Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● C.L. enrollment on the smaller side over time ● Can we sustain competitiveness with our enrollment declining? ● Need to develop new relationships at some levels: coaches, athletic directors, administration ● Smaller number of schools means less flexibility for internal realignments, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many missed opportunities for Junior High and JV due to a lack of teams ● Geography: Long travel distances for many schools ● Competing with many smaller schools is not strengthening our programs ● 20+ schools = fragmented Conference identity at times ● Very little contact with the Eastern part of the conference, different CESA ● Instability: Disparity of enrollment sizes, continual realignment, many schools with declining enrollment

*** Football is not impacted by this decision. The WIAA assigns football conferences separately based on enrollment.**

Time Frame and Steps

February 12 and March 4 - Discussion at Clear Lake School Board Meetings

February 20 - Discussion at Lakeland Conference Superintendent Meetings

March 19 - Additional discussion at Lakeland Conference Superintendent Meetings

March 26 - Clear Lake Community Public Listening Session

6:30 p.m. Clear Lake High School Library

Time Frame and Steps

April 8 - Clear Lake Board of Education potential vote/decision

IF we wish to proceed with requesting to switch conferences:

April 16 - Discussion/request/vote at Lakeland Superintendents meeting

April - Discussion/vote at Dunn-St. Croix Superintendents meeting

If approved by Lakeland, then the Dunn-St. Croix would also have to vote to approve, and that would be submitted to the the WIAA for the “fast track” two-year process. If not approved by Lakeland, Clear Lake could still apply to the WIAA for the change, but it would take 3-4 years to occur.

Questions, Discussion

Survey for Input

Thank You!

Scan the QR Code

Or

Go to our district website:

<https://www.clwarriors.org/athletics/index.cfm>

Or

Use this direct link:

<https://forms.gle/uuV1ZFioCAPH9Mex7>

