

NHSSD Campus Fields Issues Subcommittee

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Subcommittee Members

- John Capriotti
- Chris Shank
- Ted Harrington
- Jan Witte
- Paul Witte
- Malcolm Crooks
- Geri Delevich
- Bill Scherri
- Cobie Hock
- Bob Caramanno
- Chris Flynn
- Dave Hansel
- Tom Hannah
- Rebecca Malamis
- Peter Malamis
- Stella Goodman
- Mel Band
- Lisa Menz
- Dudley Rice
- Leidy Smith
- Bob Buenaga
- Tom Molnar

Mission Statement

The NHSSD Campus Field Issues sub committee is tasked with the collaborative development of options to address the following issues as they pertain to the school district campus:

- **Stadium Field Lights, Announcing System and Trespassing:** Several homeowners and a local business adjacent to the Stadium Field are unhappy and have complained about the lighting, announcing system and trespassing associated with events held at the field
- **New Hope Lower Elevation N. Main St flooding:** Several New Hope homeowners suspect that campus development has caused increased water run off causing flooding on lower elevation N. Main St. homesteads. This will be addressed separately and as a consideration as it pertains to possible solutions to the stadium field issue.
- **Title IX:** Although Title IX requirements are not in the purview of this subcommittee it will be a consideration during the development of approaches to address the Stadium Field issue.

This subcommittee is dedicated to providing thoughtful, collaborative, and timely approaches to address these issues for the consideration by the NHSSD school board.

Subcommittee recommended actions for immediate execution

- ❑ Install natural barrier between stadium field and community to prevent trespassing.
- ❑ Apply for Growing Greener Grant DEP
- ❑ Grow in grass on hill sides
- ❑ Eliminate Pre game Music
- ❑ Student Participation for storm water management solutions

N. Main St Flooding

- ❑ Several homesteads on N. Main Street have experienced excessive water flow onto their property over the last several years.
- ❑ The natural swale for property drainage has been blocked by a neighbors property modifications.
- ❑ Installation of impervious surface at higher elevations is suspected to have greatly increased the water flow to the wetland area west of the canal and then to North Main St. properties via subterranean aquifers which has exacerbated the flooding problem due to the blocked swale.
- ❑ It is suspected that the rapid increase in the level of water in Borough wetland area is directly related to the flooding. When the wetland area builds to several feet of water the flooding begins shortly thereafter on lower-level N. Main St. properties.
- ❑ Homesteads indicate that the flooding problem has gotten worse since the mid 2000's. Water began flowing under the canal berm for the first time in the mid 2000's.

N. Main St Flooding Possible Solutions

- Recommend a storm water management study to understand affects of NHSSD campus and borough drainage and provide resolutions if any problems are discovered.
 - Recommend the borough participate in the study
 - Understand the affects upon the borough wetlands.

- Seek Grant Funding for storm water management control.

Stadium Field Lighting Issue

- ❑ Stadium field lights shine into adjacent homeowners backyard and house.
- ❑ Due to community growth and subsequent athletics growth and Title IX accommodations the use of the stadium field has increased over the last several years.
- ❑ It is the contention of the Riverstone community that their property values are substantially reduced and negatively impacts the quality of living due to the stadium Field lighting.
- ❑ Per Master Plan NHSSD campus has a deficit by 11 fields causing in part over usage of all fields.

Lighting Possible Solutions

- ❑ Do nothing
- ❑ Remove light and audio
- ❑ Limit periodicity and duration of events
- ❑ Combination light lowering and adding barrier between lights and the adjacent community
 - ❑ Hire independent study to determine light and sound mitigation design.
- ❑ Establish collaborative agreement with Township for field development.
- ❑ Rent other stadium fields for evening events
- ❑ Build Field 13 portion of the Master plan with grass
- ❑ Build Field 13 portion of the Master Plan with turf
 - Seek township funding
 - Seek community funding

Solution Pros and Cons

□ Do nothing

■ Pros

- No Cost

■ Cons

- Provides no relief to the lighting issue
- No relief for over usage of stadium field

□ Limit periodicity and duration of events

■ Pros

- Provides some relief for the lighting and announcing system issue.
- No cost to implement
- Less damage to stadium field

■ Cons

- Loss of revenue for various sports
- Forces uses of inferior fields
- Lowers community participation “see slide 10”.
- Possible reimbursement of donated funds of approximately \$31,500.00

Solution Pros and Cons

□ Remove light and audio

■ Pros

- Completely resolves the light issue and announcing system issue.
- Low Cost to implement

■ Cons

- Loss of revenue for various sports
- Loss of Community participation
 - The community , Parents and student body generally cannot come out and enjoy a game other than at night
 - The players lose the experience and thrill and lifetime experience of competing in front of hundreds of parents, extended family, other students and the community
- Provides our community youth constructive weekend evening entertainment.
- Reimbursement of donated funds of approximately \$31,500.00

Solution Pros and Cons

- Combination light fixture modification and adding barrier between lights and the adjacent community. Modifications should be tested to meet light bleed over limits.
 - Pros
 - Lowers the effects of event lighting
 - Medium Cost to implement
 - Cons
 - Technical feasibility
 - Cost

Solution Pros and Cons

- Work with Township to develop field
 - Pros
 - removes light and sound pollution from the present highly urbanized area.
 - Expands the sport fields and therefore helps to provide a balance needed to satisfy title IX requirements.
 - Cons
 - Cost
 - Travel
 - Rent stadium content

Solution Pros and Cons

- Execute Turf Field portion of the Master Plan plus turfing field 12, implementing storm water management
 - Pros
 - Improves and perhaps resolves lighting and announcing system issues
 - No limitations on field usage
 - Increases community involvement
 - Increased revenue due to additional school events and seating capacity.
 - Increased revenue due the ability for increased rentals
 - Increased community revenue stream.
 - Two turf fields meets half of the need as establish in the master plan
 - Cons
 - High Cost

Solution Pros and Cons

- Partial execution of master plan for the building of Field 13 with grass installed as opposed to turf.
 - Pros
 - Resolves lighting and announcing systems issues
 - High Cost but lower cost than installing turf
 - Cons
 - Cost
 - Only partial reduction in field over usage

Rent Stadium Fields

□ Pros

- Resolves lighting and announcing system issue

□ Cons

- Rental Cost
- All evening games are away
- Loss of revenue
- All events are travel

Stadium Field Announcing System Issue

- ❑ Field PA system can be heard inside adjacent homeowners house.
- ❑ It is the contention of the Riverstone community that their property values are substantially reduced and negatively impacts the quality of living due to the stadium Field lighting.
- ❑ Due to community growth and subsequent athletics growth and Title IX accommodations the use of the stadium field has greatly increased over the last several years. Many more lighted and audio events occur currently then ever before.

Independent Announcing Possible Solutions

- Remove Announcing System
- Move bleachers to other side and redo audio

Possible Solutions

- Remove Announcing System
 - Pros
 - Resolves the announcing system issue
 - Low cost
 - Cons
 - Negative impact on events

Possible Solutions

- Move bleachers to other side and update announcing system
 - Pros
 - If the announcing is redesigned for the opposite sideline it has the potential to resolve the issue.
 - Reduces crowd noise
 - Low Cost
 - Cons
 - Cost
 - If the announcing is not redesigned or improperly redesigned then the potential to make the announcing system issue worse exists.

Understanding Title IX

Title IX requires equal opportunities between the two genders. In order to meet this requirement and to comply with an OCR complaint, NHSSD implemented the below field usage.

Tier 1		Tier 2		Tier 3	
Field 2 (Stadium Field): Lighting, Announcing System, Concessions, Seating, Scoreboard, restroom. High School Gym: Seating, Scoreboards restrooms		Middle School Gym: Bleachers Field 3: Portable Bleachers Field 5: Bleachers, Scoreboard Field 8: Bleachers, Scoreboard Field 12: Bleachers		Faciliteis without any amenities	
Boys Teams	Girls Teams	Boys Teams	Girls Teams	Boys Team	Girls Teams
V Football	V Field Hockey	JV Soccer	V Softball	V Tennis	V Tennis
JV Football	JV Field Hockey	V Baseball		JV Tennis	JV Tennis
V Soccer	V Soccer	JV Baseball			
Track and Field	Tack and Field				
V Lacrosse	V Lacrosse				
JV Lacrosse	JV Lacrosse				
Wrestling	V Basketball				
V Basketball	JV Basketball				
JV Basketball	V Volleyball				
	JV Volleyball				