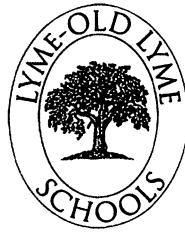


LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

Facilities and Finance Committee Meeting November 18, 2019

Committee Members Present: Rick Goulding, Co-Chair; Jean Wilczynski, Co-Chair; Daniel Hagan; Michelle Roche; Andy Russell; Stacy Winchell

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Philip Neaton; Thomas Sherer; Ryan Ziolkowski

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Hildie Heck, Athletic Director; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; John Rhodes, Director of Facilities and Technology

Incoming Board of Ed Members Present: Jennifer Miller; Suzanne Thompson

Others Present: Kevin Fuselier from Milone and MacBroom Civil Engineer and Landscape Architecture Firm; Allison Gleason, Soccer Coach; George Hudson, Lacrosse Coach; Julia Werth, Connecticut Examiner

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Dr. Goulding. The purpose of the meeting was to begin phase two of the study of the feasibility of a multi-purpose turf field that was originally studied by an ad hoc committee over the last several years. John Rhodes, Director of Facilities and Technology, gave a recap on the Athletic Field Ad Hoc Committee recommendations that were originally presented to the Board of Education two years ago. The following groups were represented on this ad hoc committee: Lyme and Old Lyme Boards of Finance; Lyme and Old Lyme Parks and Recreation Department; school staff (including athletic director and boys varsity soccer coach), Board of Education members; Lacrosse Club; Old Lyme Zoning; parents; and the Facilities Committee.

A summary of this report is below. The presentation is attached in its entirety to these minutes for informational purposes.

Athletic Field Ad Hoc Committee Charter: Evaluate the three multi-purpose athletic fields and develop a Board of Education recommendation for facility improvements which best serves the long-term needs of the school district and community.

Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools

49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

T: 860-434-7238 F: 860-434-9959 E: neviaseri@region18.org www.region18.org

Ad Hoc Athletic Field Committee Membership

David Brown, Lyme Board of Finance	Phil Neaton, Facilities Committee
Donald Bugbee, Old Lyme Parks and Rec Director	Ian Neviasser, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Caulkins, Facilities Committee	Patrick Pryor, Parent
Glenn Fergione, Assistant Director of Facilities	John Rhodes, Director of Facilities and Technology
Kevin Fuselier, Milone and MacBroom Engineer	Tom Risom, Old Lyme Zoning and Fire Chief
Brian Greenho, Lacrosse Club	Michelle Roche, Board of Education Chair
David Kelsey, Old Lyme Board of Finance	Tom Sherer, Facilities Committee
Rick Goulding, Board of Education	Jason Thornton, Lyme Parks and Rec Director
Hildie Heck, Athletic Director	Marc Vendetti, LOLHS Boys Soccer Coach (former)
Nancy Lucas, Board of Education (former)	Jane Wilczynski, Board of Education
	Stacy Winchell, Board of Education

Existing Multi-Purpose Fields and Usage

Track Field

- Soccer and Lacrosse
- Irrigated
- Under Field Drainage
- LOLHS/LOLMS Physical Education

Soccer/Lacrosse Field

- Soccer and Lacrosse
- Irrigated
- LOLHS/LOLMS Physical Education

Practice Field

- Used as Practice Field for Soccer, Lacrosse and Baseball
- LOLHS Physical Education

Current Athletic Field Challenges

- Insufficient irrigation water supply
- Pesticide ban
- Usable field space during early spring
- Repair of field damage following lacrosse season
- Summer months shut down
- 'Regrow' of practice field following each summer season
- Baseball and softball practice area
- Facilities staff workload and field maintenance costs
- Maintenance interruptions in physical education programs
- Weather dependent

Athletic Field Analysis

- Site examination by hydrologist
- Irrigation needs versus irrigation supply
- Field usage
- Ad Hoc Committee survey
- Athletic field test pits
- Existing maintenance costs and staffing requirements
- Soccer and lacrosse layouts on each existing multi-purpose field

Irrigation Demand Versus Water Supply

- Track and soccer/lacrosse fields irrigated using Lyme Street campus water system.
- Lyme Street Campus water system supplies: High School, Middle School, Center School, Town Hall, Fire House, LYSB & Old Lyme Historic Society.
- Added new well winter 2017 due to diminishing well field yield.
- Lyme Street campus water system output = 100,296 gallons/week.
- Existing irrigation system demand (1" water/week).
 - Track + soccer/lacrosse fields = 106,072 gallons/week.
- Estimated irrigation system demand (1" water/week).
 - Track + soccer/lacrosse + practice fields = 195,208 gallons/week.
- Water purchases summer 2015 & 2016 to keep up with irrigation demands.

Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation

- Install a dedicated irrigation system water supply – completed.
- Install artificial turf on practice field:
 - Configuration to accommodate soccer/lacrosse/baseball/softball

Why Artificial Turf on Practice Field

- Minimizes irrigation demands providing long-term Lyme Street campus water supply protection.
- Addresses all athletic program field challenges:
 - Simultaneous athletic program usage
 - Weather independent
 - Early spring season use
 - Baseball and softball practice areas
 - Reduces field maintenance impact on physical education program
 - Preserves community investment in track and soccer/lacrosse fields
 - Preserves track and soccer/lacrosse field grass
 - Size limitations of the soccer/lacrosse field
- Athletic field available during winter and summer seasons.
- Expands athletic field usage to outside groups.
- Reduces overall maintenance burden:
 - Eliminates need to 'regrow' practice field grass at the end of each summer.
 - Protects grass fields during early spring usage.

Proposed Budget

- Artificial turf practice field
 - Town of Old Lyme commission approvals and associated design details \$23,800 – Board of Education approved and contracted.
 - Design, bidding and construction administration \$64,500.
 - Turf field installation with crumb rubber infill and no options \$2,280,000.

**Alternate infill material additional cost range \$350,000 - \$500,000.*

Project Funding Plan

- Utilize School District's Undesignated Fund
- Current balance \$1,773,157
- School district can reserve up to 1% every fiscal year
- Fiscal year ending June 2019 reserved \$368,110

Project Details to be Determined

- Artificial surface infill material selection
- Bleachers
- Scoreboard
- Lights (infrastructure for future lights)
- Ball netting
- Walkways
- Timing
- Communications plan

Kevin Fuselier from Milone and MacBroom, a civil engineer and landscape architecture firm, gave a presentation on recommended next steps for the committee, most relevant being the infill alternatives including crumb rubber (sourced from tires and sometimes controversial) and EPDM rubber, which is not sourced from tire rubber. Mr. Fuselier stated that both these alternatives have been found safe to use if properly maintained. Other fill alternatives that are also being used include coconut husk, cork, sand, walnut shells, wood chips, etc., but are often harder and require additional padding to be added to the field to prevent concussions, and the coconut version requires watering. Mr. Fuselier also discussed the need to develop more detailed plans and getting the necessary approvals from the various town commissions.

Mr. Fuselier discussed the benefits of synthetic grass vs. real grass, the most significant of which is that synthetic grass can be used 24/7 and that real grass is difficult to maintain, cannot be continually utilized and needs a lot of irrigation. Mr. Fuselier showed samples of different products. Mr. Fuselier also discussed the effect to the environment of several of the products used in turf fields.

Mr. Rhodes asked those in attendance for their thoughts on the process going forward. Some of the suggestions include:

- The importance of making the information accessible to the public showcasing success stories, testimonies from experts in the health field, etc.
- Involve the citizens of Lyme and Old Lyme in the planning and discussion.
- Be honest and open so that there is community trust and support.
- Communicate via: newsletters, public forums, information sessions, videos, posting information on the district website, standing displays, etc.
- Realize the importance of safety in their decision-making.
- Realize that the community will be faced with many expenditures (tennis courts, maintenance of the five buildings, the turf field) and all might not be approved. Building maintenance should be number one priority.
- Ensure that the taxpayers have a say in the spending of their money.
- Communicate the maintenance/replacement costs for a turf field as it ages.
- Meet with town commissions (wetlands, zoning) to get their feedback on their limitations on the choice of infill / viability of the project.
- Get student athletes involved in the process.
- Get feedback from other school districts on their success/failure with chosen turf field.
- Possibly getting funding through fundraising/donations.

Discussion followed on the disadvantage to athletes when the surrounding communities all have turf fields in place. It was noted that Lyme-Old Lyme rents turf fields from area towns should there be a need to practice on these fields in preparation for competition solely taking place on turf fields. It was also noted that a town cannot host state competitions without turf fields due to the weather component when the school district only has grass fields.

The group also discussed the feasibility of utilizing fields at Town Woods Park. The availability and number of fields at this park and transportation needs make this usage very limited to the district's athletes.

Mr. Rhodes reported that there will be a presentation for the public on the turf field at the December 4 Board of Education meeting. Dr. Goulding discussed the possibility of holding a public information session after the holidays.

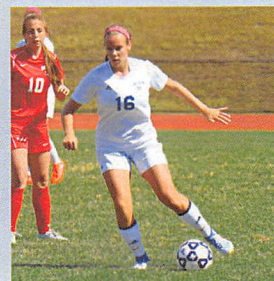
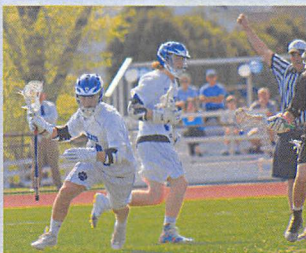
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Hagan and a second by Mrs. Roche.

Athletic Field Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations



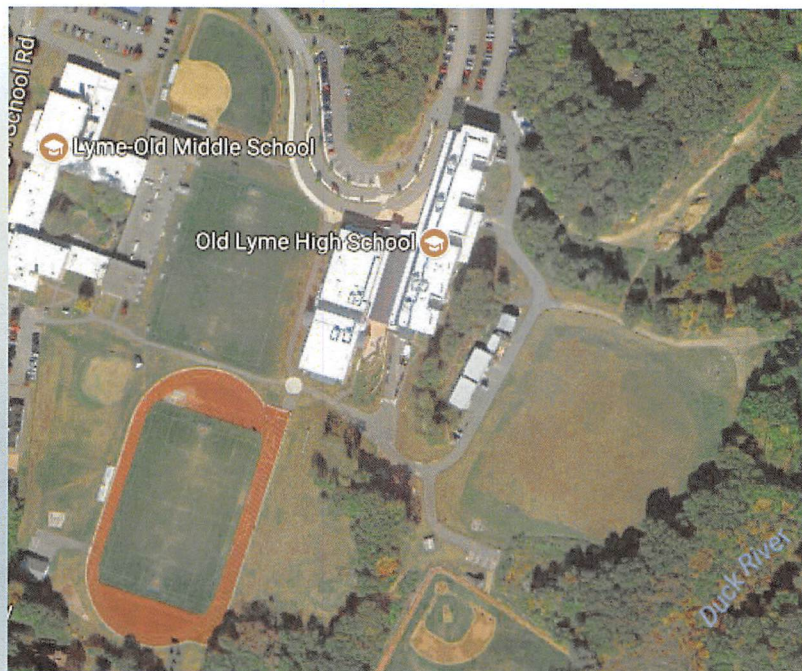
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- Glenn Fergione Asst. Dir. of Fac.
- Kevin Fuselier M&M Lead Engineer
- Brian Greenho Lacrosse Club
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- Nancy Lucas BOE
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