DHS STADIUM

Consideration for Lights and Revision to the Sound System



HISTORY OF LIGHTS PROPOSALS

1980-Present

MUCH DISCUSSED

- There is a long history dating back to September of 1980
 - P & Z allows for lighting given poles do not exceed 20 feet
- Many conversations between 1980 and 2008
- 2008 BOE submits application P & Z to allow for Stadium Field Lighting
 - Included are regulations and special permit request
- 2008 P & Z conducts Mandatory Referral review
 - Findings: proposal not consistent with Town Plan of Conservation and Development
 - Proposal withdrawn by BOE



HISTORY CONTINUED

- November 2008: BOE applies for temporary lighting for Stadium
 - 6 generator powered lighting units utilized
 - Limited use for DHS and DJFL
 - Weeknights until 7pm
- November 2009: 6 portable plug in lights used for practice purposes only at DHS
 - 20 ft poles
 - 7pm curfew
 - Screening hung every evening to limit window reflection
- Fall 2010 & 2011: Lights used at DHS through the end of the DHS football season
- July 2012: P & Z adopts regulation allowing for 30 ft lighting poles
- September 2013: P & Z approve portable lights through 2017



2008 LIGHTS PROPOSAL

Who:

- DHS athletics and school sanctioned activities take priority
- DHS must be a participating team in all contests
 - Exception FCIAC championship series
- Only Darien non-profit youth sports orgs. will be considered for practices or games
- No adult league play

What:

- No more than 12 DHS games (including playoffs) in the fall
- No more than 10 DHS games in the Spring



2008 LIGHTS PROPOSAL

When:

- No evening games or practices on stadium from end of CIAC fall season until beginning of CIAC spring season
- No lights on Sundays
- No lights during the summer from end of CIAC spring season to the beginning of the CIAC fall season
- Practices and other activities (Monday through Saturday) lights out by 8pm
- For DHS games (Monday through Saturday) lights will be out by 9pm with exception of football games—out by 10pm
 - Games not scheduled on Friday and Saturday of the same weekend
- Football exclusively on Friday nights



2008 LIGHTS PROPOSAL

How:

- Amplified sound shall cease by 7pm with exception of DHS football games
- Noisemakers and horns prohibited from night games
- DHS band to play only through halftime
- Administration to document clean up procedures
- Security and traffic control to be coordinated with Darien Police Department

Other:

- Lights Committee recommends examining DHS sound system to reduce ambient noise level
- Consider off site parking at Middlesex or Darien Train Station for special games
- Reentry to games and loitering in the parking lot prohibited
- Guidelines to be evaluated in a year



PROPOSAL

2008

Who:

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- Only Darien non-profit youth sports orgs.
 will be considered for practices or games
- No adult league play

Current

Who:

Unchanged from 2008



PROPOSAL

2008

When

- No evening games or practices on stadium from end of CIAC fall season until beginning of CIAC spring season
- No lights on Sundays
- No lights during the summer from end of CIAC spring season to the beginning of the CIAC fall season
- Practices and other activities (Monday through Saturday) lights out by 8pm
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- Football exclusively on Friday nights

Current

When

- Same
- No lights <u>Saturdays</u> or Sunday
 - Exception: FCIAC mandated games
- Same
- Practices and other activities Monday through <u>FRIDAY</u>; lights out at 8pm
- For DHS games (Monday through <u>FRIDAY</u>) lights will be out by 8pm with exception of football games—out by 10pm
 - Games not scheduled on Saturday or Sunday with exception of FCIAC mandated games
 - Football exclusively on Friday nights





2008

- What
 - No more than 12 DHS games (including playoffs) in the fall
 - No more than 10 DHS games in the Spring

Current

- 2 regular season games per varsity team
 - Fall = 8
 - Spring = 4
 - Total = 12
- Playoff games:
 - 3 year average of 5 additional games

Grand Total: low end year =15

high end year =17

Potential Home Playoff				
Games w/Lights	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	
B Soccer	0	2	2	
G Soccer	1	1	1	
Field Hockey	2	1	2	
Football	1	0	2	
Total Games	4	4	7	
Additional night games				
per varsity team				
B Soccer				2
G Soccer				2
Field Hockey				2
Football				2
B Lacrosse				2
G lacrosse				2
Total Estimated Games				12



PROPOSAL

2008

Current

How

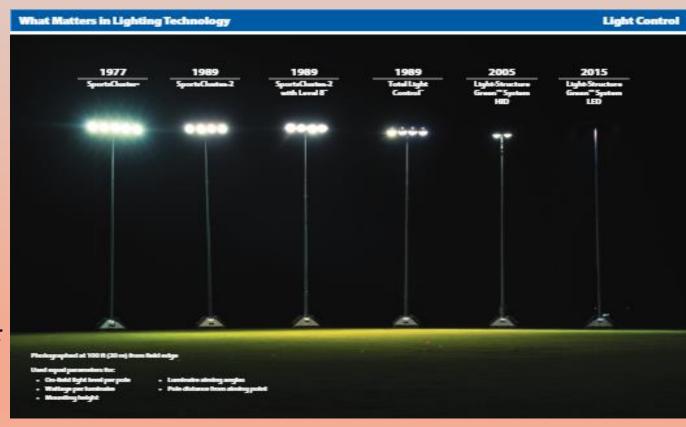
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- Security and traffic control to be coordinated with Darien Police Department

Same as 2008



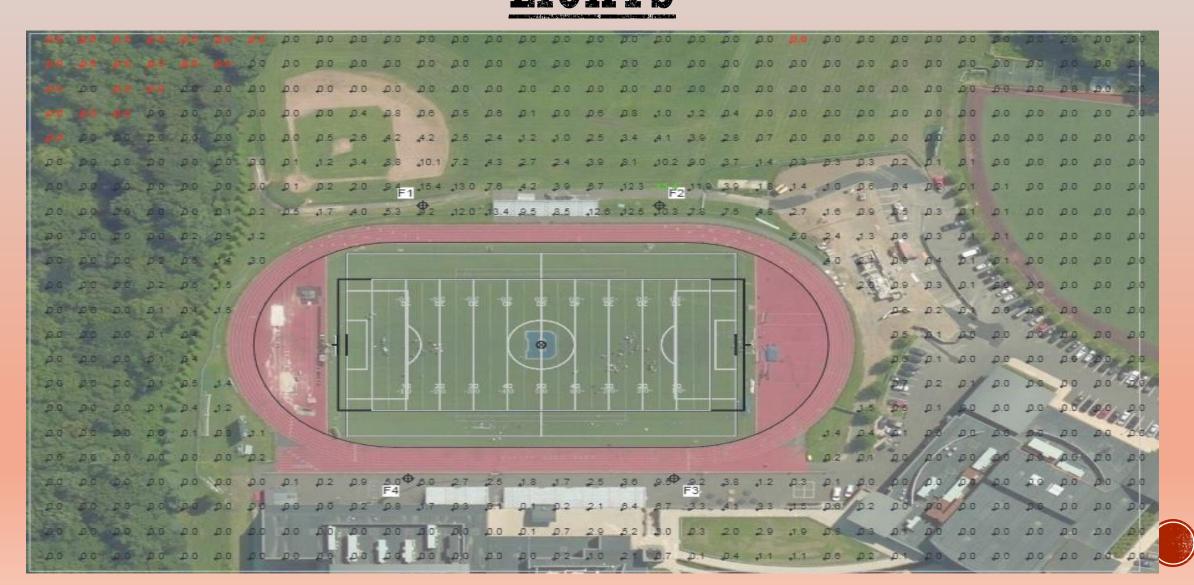
TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES SINCE 2008

- LED lights become the standard
 - Spillage minimized
 - Bulb life increases
 - Illumination more targeted
- Sound systems refined
 - Directional amplification
 - Balancing sound becomes the priority
 - Coverage with balance not with higher amplification





DHS—A CLOSER LOOK AT THE IMPACT OF LIGHTS



DHS—A CLOSER LOOK AT THE IMPACT AT

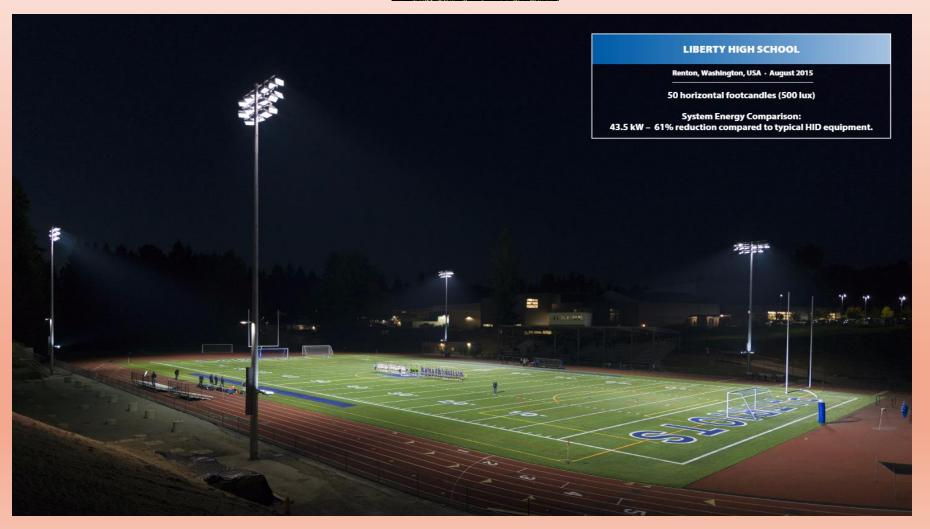
LIGHTS





DHS—A CLOSER LOOK AT THE IMPACT AT

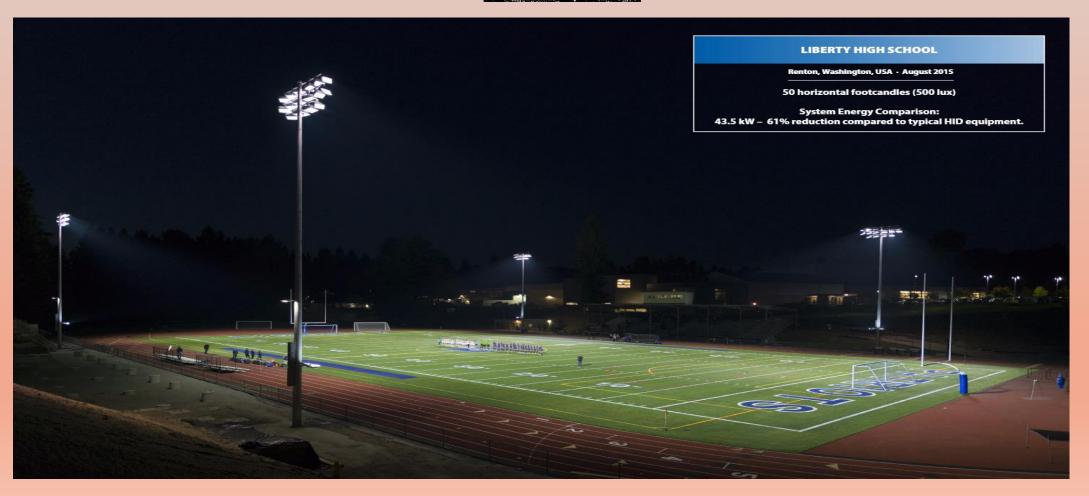
LIGHTS





DHS—A CLOSER LOOK AT THE IMPACT AT

SOUND





DHS-THE GOOD NEIGHBOR

- When creating a plan we want to be:
- Sensitive to impact of lights on:
 - Spillage
 - Hours
 - Usage
 - Crowds
 - Traffic controls
- Sensitive to impact of sound:
 - Hours
 - Volume



ASSOCIATED COSTS

Lights

Approximately \$600,000

Sound System

Approximately \$65,000



PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP WITH DAF

DAF: fundraisers for this project

DAF: assumes full cost and installation

 DAF: gifts in the same form and function as the turf fields



NEXT STEPS

- Further discussion at the next BOE meeting
- Opportunity for community to voice their thoughts at that meeting
- Opportunity for BOE to further discuss proposal and make modifications
- Board considers if they need further information and/if they are ready to direct
 Administration to make application to Planning and Zoning
- DAF awaits Board action before fundraising

