

Scarborough Public Schools

May 5, 2022



Turf and Track Update

To the Scarborough Community,

We wanted to take this opportunity to update the community on the status of the turf and track project, while also sharing information regarding the progress of the new primary school building committee. In November of 2021, the referendum to fund the replacement of the existing turf field and track, at our existing athletic facility located next to our high school, passed by a considerable margin. The turf field has been long overdue for replacement and is currently on the borderline of being unusable and unplayable for safety reasons. The voters approved funding to replace the field and the track, not to exceed 1.9 million dollars. Immediately following this, we began planning with Woodard and Curran to replace both the turf and track, with an anticipated completion date of Fall, 2022.

In January, we received preliminary estimates for a total project cost to replace the turf and track of approximately \$2.5 million, \$600,000 over what was approved at referendum. Also in January, the Building Steering Committee for construction of a new primary school reconvened work that had been put on hold in 2020 and began embarking on a site selection process to identify a location for a new K-2 or K-3 school building. Over the last few months, the building steering committee has met five times, and the existing turf and track location has emerged as one of several potential sites under consideration for a new primary school. After much discussion, it was determined that proceeding with the turf & track project as originally planned would be unwise at this time.

After discussion with town and school leaders, including Town Council, Board of Education members, and Woodard and Curran, consulting engineers advising on the turf and track project, we are

planning to split the project into phases, starting with the immediate need to replace the turf. Estimates for replacing only the turf, at the current athletic complex, have come back at just under \$900,000. Delaying the replacement of the turf field any further would compromise our current school and town programs and incur significant costs and disruption to athletic and community programs once the field is deemed unplayable.

With this revised project plan, if the current athletic complex is chosen as the site for a new primary school, both the new shock pad and turf surface can be repurposed in another location, as a new athletic complex would be needed to support school and town programming. If a different site is selected, the remainder of the Turf & Track project (track replacement and other upgrades) can be completed in a second phase.

We recognize voters approved a project that would replace both the turf and the track, not to exceed a cost of \$1.9 million. As noted, estimates have exceeded this number, and given the existing turf/track is still under consideration as a site for a new primary school, it is advisable to proceed with replacement in a phased approach. Proceeding with turf replacement now, and holding off on track replacement until the site for a new school building is selected, is the most responsible course of action and the best use of our collective resources. It will serve to make sure our facilities are safe for our student athletes, staff, families, and community, while protecting our resources and minimizing disruption to our school and town programming.

Regards,
Geoff Bruno, Superintendent

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