



## WESTBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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To: School Committee  
From: Athletic Fields Committee  
Re: Report of Fall Season Implementation  
Date: January 23, 2019

### Update:

The Westborough High School athletic fields were substantially complete in mid-October after facing a series of weather delays. The fall competition season for all teams was adjusted to allow for each team to have an opportunity to play at least one season game under the new lights. The first night game was played on October 19th, and the season closed in November with the hosting of the Thanksgiving Football game on 11/21. The grand opening on November 2nd recognized the donors and the community for their support of the project.

The "On-Off" Lights record is attached in [Appendix 1](#) and details the record of lights use for the fall season. The guidelines for the fall season were implemented following the guidelines as presented and voted by the School Committee on May 23, 2018, [in Appendix II](#), that adopted the recommendations of the Final report: [Appendix III](#). The Athletic Fields Committee anticipated that the shortened season would provide the opportunity to gather data on implementation targets, and to make needed adjustments to the sound system, the lighting system, and the game protocols.

Night game attendance was tracked to monitor the implementation and adjust planning as needed. Attendance averaged about 600 attendees at the football games, with the largest attendance of 1150 at the Thanksgiving game. The total number of night events during this first season was nine games:

Field Hockey 10/19, 10/24  
Girls Soccer 10/25, 10/29, 11/2 (tournament)  
Boys Soccer 10/26  
Football: 11/2, 11/9, 11/21

A full season is anticipated to be 16 games as noted in the guidelines.

During the fall implementation, the administration maintained notes on feedback received from the community and users of the track and fields. One notable highlight was that the lack of snow allowed the track walking lights to remain on until last week and community members enjoyed the opportunity to access the track for walking.

Calls and Feedback:

- Call inquiry on when lights would be on for walking

- One filed police report for noise 11/2
- Four emails regarding noise concerns
- Three verbal feedback visits to principal regarding PA system
- One phone call to principal (complimentary of fields)
- One phone call to athletic director

The use of the sound system proved the most challenging area of implementation. We had 9 tracked reports of noise concerns. The administration used each of the games to make adjustments. The fall sound assessment by [Cavanaugh Tocci](#) provides benchmark data to guide committee planning. After using the system and receiving the feedback, we met with the sound system company to receive more training and to develop a punch list of adjustments. Proposal attached in [Appendix IV](#). Additionally, the installation of the bleachers was not done correctly and led to the failure of two sections of bleachers. The committee worked with Chris Huntress to implement a design change to eliminate the problem and reinforce the bleacher sections appropriately.

Recommendations from the Fields Committee:

1. Implement changes to sound system as noted in work order revisions following meeting with Mark Hurley, of Scoreboard Enterprize on 11/27.
2. Hold a follow-up Athletic Field's Committee meeting, with Chris Huntress and Scoreboard Enterprize, and concerned neighbors, to collaborate on implementation changes as provided from fall benchmark testing.
  - a. Target: Bring sound benchmarks to within old sound system guidelines (as noted in benchmark report) to demonstrate measurable improvements to sound impacts.
  - b. Provide follow up to SC.
  - c. Continue partnering with our neighbors for 2019 fall review process in place.
3. Collect sound benchmark to maintain performance data. Complete a 2019 fall season implementation summary to SC in January 2020.
4. Maintain lighting system data.
5. Continue to adjust implementation of Marching Band placement on the field.

Conclusion:

The project is currently in the final phases of punch list with remaining items to be completed in the spring. Grounds finalization of seeding and planting, completion of throwing areas for shot put and discus, as well as the sound system modifications will be completed by the early spring. Continuing to work with the community of neighbors will remain a focus as the committee implements changes called out in the punch list.

Overall a tremendous amount has been successfully achieved through the project. The fields repair and improvements provide safe, quality fields and track servicing, as well as an improved viewing experience for the community. The track is enjoyed by the community and the expansion of a second field meets the growing needs of the school population. The commitment to the project was impressive, as demonstrated in the success of substantial fundraising and positive feedback. We look forward to the future experiences ahead for our Rangers and their families and fans.