

**State College Area School District
Office of Physical Plant
Ed Poprik, Director**

To: Board of School Directors, Facilities and Grounds Committee

From: Ed Poprik

RE: High School project – Fields

Date: September 6, 2018

North Field orientation:

As work proceeds on the North athletic field, the approval of field lining drawings is pending. While the field lining drawings themselves do not require Board approval, the issue of future bleacher placement has some impact on the decision making process.

In order to maximize the width of the playing surface for soccer, the district has requested a 10 foot "run-off" area to the perimeter fence. This area would be expanded to 15 feet on one side of the field to allow for player benches. While not a requirement, ideally the player benches would be positioned opposite the bleachers.

The original proposed bleacher location (attached) was on the North side of the field. While the bleacher themselves were not approved at this juncture, subsequent Board discussions suggested a South side of the field location. While the grading at the South side would dictate additional construction considerations, the location of the parking lot and spectator travel paths seemed to point towards this as being a better location.

Based on these discussions, administration is planning on approving field lines with the 15 foot run-off to the North, which would suggest future bleachers would be placed to the South. This decision does not bind the Board or district to future bleachers, nor does it necessarily dictate the bleacher location if installed. While the player benches would ideally be opposite the bleachers, this is not a requirement.

South Field Lights:

Based on the location of the auditorium and music wing in the finished High School, the South track field would be a preferred location for evening band practices.

If the Board would like to pursue lighting the South track field, the next step generally would be for the district to request a text amendment of the Borough's Zoning Ordinance to allow for sports field lighting (up to 70 feet high) to be permitted in the R3B zoning district.

If sought, a text amendment would go to State College Borough Council for consideration. This would then be referred to the Planning Commission for a recommendation and would also be subject to a public presentation prior to a final consideration by the Council. The process itself takes multiple months to complete.

