

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



**Board of Education Presentation
December 17, 2024**

Design & Construction Team



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Agenda

1. Overview
2. Farragut Complex Updated Slides
3. Athletic Field Updated Slides
4. Budget Update
5. Question and Answer Slides
6. Discussion with BoE
7. Questions

Pre-Referendum Planning



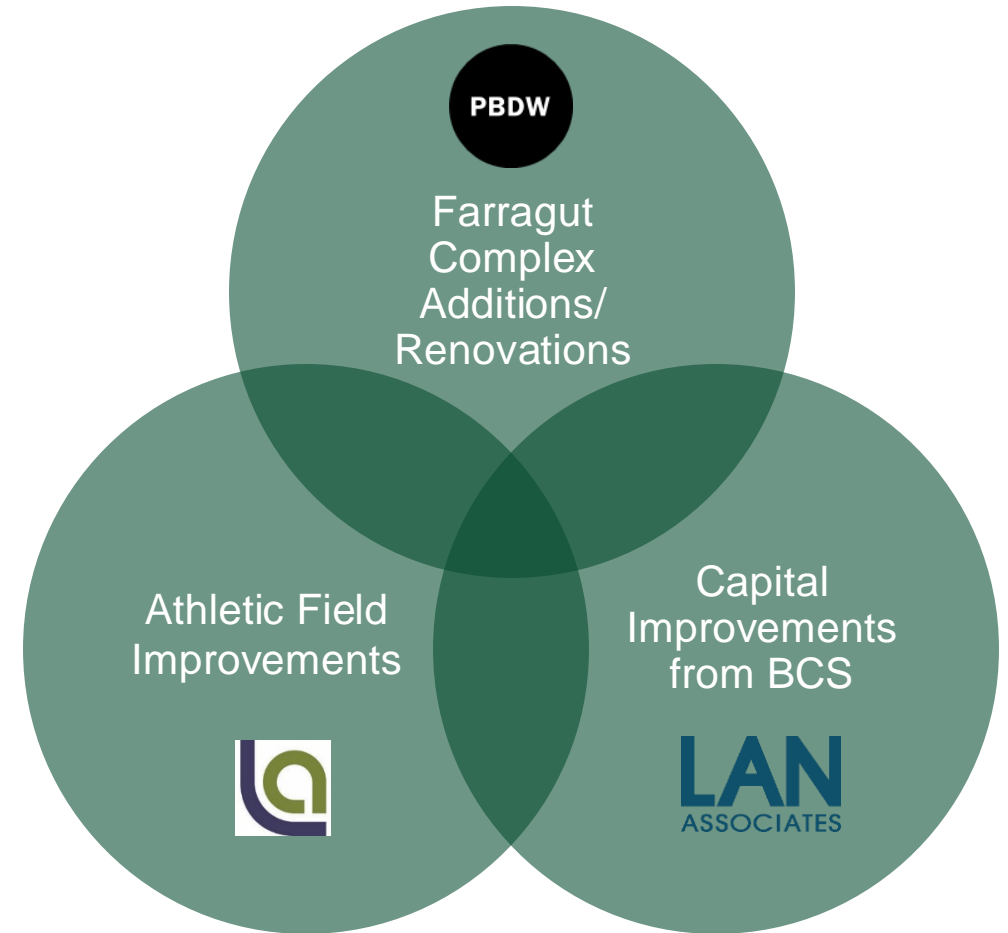
Step #1: Assess the physical condition of facilities. By gaining a clear understanding of your needs, the Design Team can develop options to address your needs and fund the project through a bond referendum.



Step #2: Develop the scope of work, key theme, and timeline for the referendum. It is imperative to develop a clear and concise message showcasing the referendum's benefits for the students and the local community. This should include gaining input from the Administration, Board of Education, and Community.



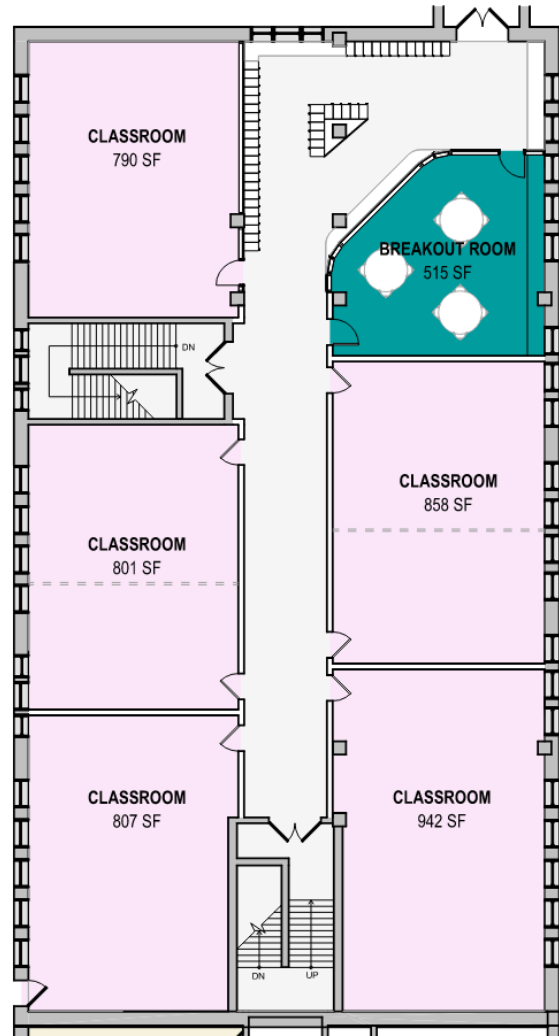
Step #3: Engage the Community. Clear and open communication with the public is key in a bond referendum. Develop a public outreach and communications plan that employs traditional and digital marketing techniques to inform the community. Educating the community on the importance of the critical upgrades proposed in the referendum and the value offered by investing in the student's future success.



3- Key Elements of the Proposed Bond

Farragut Addition/Renovation

New Cafeteria Construction and Reclamation of Old Cafeteria as Instructional Space



WASHINGTON WING - THIRD FLOOR

Reasons for New Cafeteria Addition and Reclamation Recommendation:

Instructional Space in FMS:

- Free Up Space in Washington Wing for 5 Classrooms, Resource Rooms/Special Ed.

Instructional Space for HHS:

- Because classrooms are undersized, break out space and informal flexible workspace is needed. The new plan provides:
 - 3 new flexible class spaces:
 - Community Room off the Cafeteria Level
 - Break out Room at the Mezzanine (level with the HS Main Lobby)
 - Conference Room off the HS Main Lobby level
 - Plus 2 flexible workspaces:
 - Open seating at the Mezzanine (level with the HS Main Lobby)
 - Private pods at the HS Lobby level

Building Circulation:

- Unlock the clogged flow in the building that has existed for decades.

Cafeteria crowding

Farragut Complex Master Plan

PHASE ONE
CAFETERIA ADDITION AND NEW FARRAGUT ENTRY

Reasons for Cafeteria Addition as First Recommendation in lieu of Washington Addition/other:

Washington Addition:

- Doesn't gain large classroom space needed for the MS: Washington addition is shaped and sized to enhance the play yard and not to impede on it so is more appropriate for break out rooms and needed MS faculty offices.
- Doesn't gain any flex space for HHS.
- Could exacerbate circulation issues without solving that first.
- Cost estimation came in at \$10.5M – higher than direct cost of Cafeteria Addition.

Other Phases:

- Are intended to follow the Cafeteria Relocation.
- Can be undertaken over time under Capital Improvements budget.

PHASE TWO
INTERIOR RESHUFFLE

PHASE FOUR
INTERIOR REFINEMENTS

Farragut Entry

Reasons for Farragut Entry Recommendation:

Resolves ADA accessibility and entry circulation to the school.

- Provides equitable access for all users.
- Is aidable by the State.

Extends out from the building in front of the Farragut gym.

- In Historic location of Building Centers
- Does not encroach on the gym space.

Front façade is intended to be metal panels.

- Distinguished from the historic brick.
- Easily customizable with imagery/graphics.
- Potentially a pre-patina eco panel that is highly durable, no maintenance, recyclable and cradle to cradle certified.
- Limited glazed areas at side returns and skylight to be Aluminum/Fiber Reinforced Polymer product for efficient daylighting.





Revised Concept Design

Hudson-on-Hastings Burke Athletic Complex



Proposed Program:

1. Existing Baseball Field with Improvements

1. Maintain Existing Field
2. New Dugouts and Backstop
3. Repair Retaining Walls
4. Drainage Improvements

2. New Softball Field

1. 190' Right Field and Left Field, 200' Center Field
2. Batting Tunnel (shared with baseball)

3. Stormwater Basin / Treatment

4. Accessible Ramp to Fields

5. Arrival Point

6. Existing Grass Field to Remain

1. New Accessible Path to Spectator Area

7. New Multi-Sport Synthetic Turf Field

1. Soccer (200'x360')
2. Football, Field Hockey and Lacrosse Regulation Size
3. LED Field Lights
4. Grandstand and Press Box Capacity: ± 400 Seats

8. Parking for ± 30 Cars

9. Future Skate Park Area





Farragut M.S./H.S.

Recommended Improvements

Building Envelope: (\$1.0M)

- Masonry Restoration
- Façade Preservation

MEP Systems: (\$4.0M)

- Mechanical
 - Replace Critically Obsolete HVAC Units
 - Provide Mechanical Ventilation
 - Replace DDC Controls
- Electrical
 - Upgrade Electrical Service
 - Provide Additional Outlets



Hillside Elementary

Recommended Improvements

Mechanical Systems:

- Replace (4) H&V Units
- Provide Mechanical Ventilation
- Replace Pneumatic Controls
- Replace Lead-Positive Water Piping



Revised Budget Recommendation

2025 Bond Referendum

Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District

LAN Job #4.1716.03

Proposed Changes:

Farragut Addition/Renovation

- No Changes

Athletic Facility & Field Improvements

- Turf Field Increase (Potential Rock) **(+\$200K)**
- Field Lighting Increase (Potential Rock) **(+\$100K)**
- Construction of New Natural Turf Softball Field **(+\$1M)**
- Grandstand Size and Seating Capacity Reduced from 600 to 400 seats **(-\$300K)**
- Added Press Box for Grandstands **(+400K)**
- Installation of New Dugouts at Baseball and Softball Fields (4) total **(+\$500K)**
- Drainage Improvements at Baseball field **(+\$125K)**
- Repair of Baseball Field Retaining Wall **(+\$125K)**

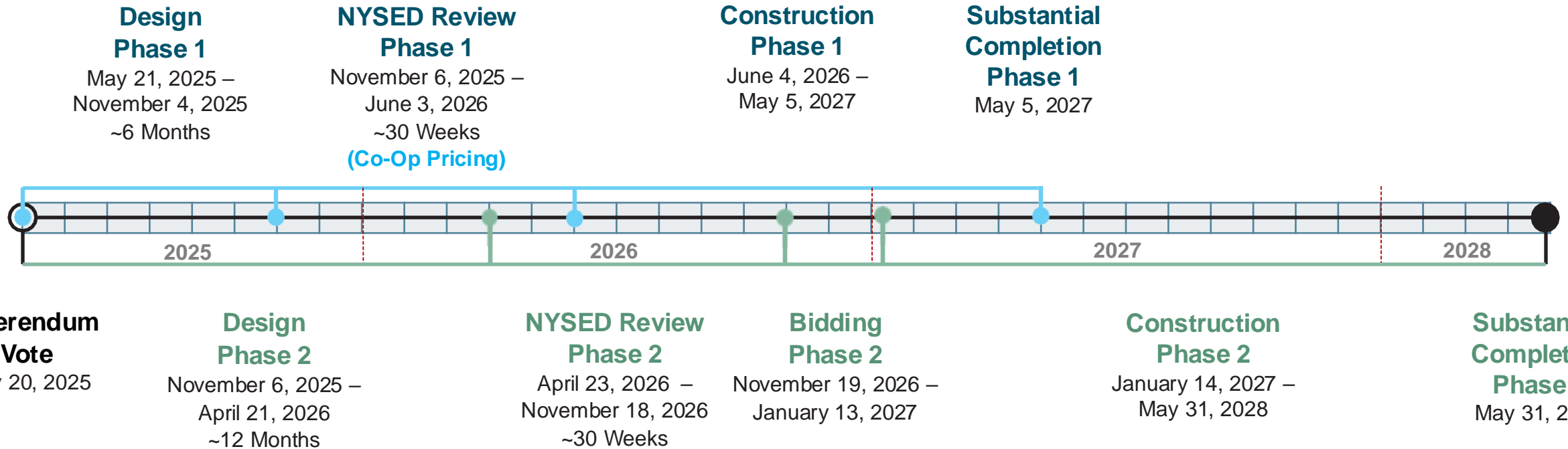
Hillside Elementary School

- No changes

Description	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Subtotal	Notes
Farragut Middle School/High School					
Entrance Addition	SF	1,100	\$850.00	\$935,000.00	ADA/Wayfinding Improvement
Misc. 1st Floor Renovations	SF	2,500	\$400.00	\$1,000,000.00	To be coordinated with PBDW
Cafeteria Addition	SF	8,500	\$1,100.00	\$9,350,000.00	Includes Kitchen
Misc. 2nd Floor Renovations	SF	3,200	\$400.00	\$1,280,000.00	To be coordinated with PBDW
Renovate former Cafeteria	SF	6,700	\$450.00	\$3,015,000.00	Create specialized instructional space & counseling offices. Some work will be performed using in-house resources.
Kitchen FF&E	ALLOW	1	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	
Cafeteria FF&E	ALLOW	1	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	
Office, Specialty & Renovated Classroom Furnishings	ALLOW	1	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	
Miscellaneous Capital Projects					
Masonry Restoration	ALLOW	1	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	Allowance for 25-30% of total building facade
MEP Upgrades	ALLOW	1	\$4,000,000.00	\$4,000,000.00	MEP upgrades from the Five-Year Plan
			Subtotal	\$21,880,000.00	
The Burke Estate: Athletic Facility & Field Improvements					
Installation of (1) Synthetic Turf Athletic Field	ALLOW	1	\$2,200,000.00	\$2,200,000.00	Potential rock
Installation of Athletic Field Lighting at (1) Field	ALLOW	1	\$1,300,000.00	\$1,300,000.00	Includes electrical service & distribution upgrades. Potential rock
Construction of New Softball Field	ALLOW	1	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	Construct a new natural grass softball field
Installation of (400 seat) Grandstands	ALLOW	1	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	Reduced from 600 seats to 400 seats
Installation of Press Box	ALLOW	1	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00	
Installation of Drainage Improvements (Retention Basin)	ALLOW	1	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	Construction of a retention basin & stormwater infrastructure
Construction of Parking Lot (30 spaces)	ALLOW	1	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00	Required for ADA compliance
Misc. Site Improvements	ALLOW	1	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	Construction of Access Drive/Loop & Retaining Walls
Installation of (4) Dugouts	EA	4	\$125,000.00	\$500,000.00	
Drainage Improvements (Natural Turf Baseball Field)	ALLOW	1	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	
Repair Retaining Wall	ALLOW	1	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	
			Subtotal	\$7,650,000.00	
Hillside Elementary School					
Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing Upgrades	ALLOW	1	\$3,000,000.00	\$3,000,000.00	From the BCS & Five-Year Plan
			Subtotal	\$3,000,000.00	
			Subtotal	\$32,530,000.00	
	Contingency		10%	\$3,253,000.00	
	Escalation		12%	\$4,293,960.00	6%/year for two years
	Recommended Construction Budget			\$40,076,960.00	
	Incidental Soft Costs: Subtotal			\$5,959,235.20	Estimated Soft Costs Based on Allowances and Initial % of Construction
	Incidental Reserve/Contingency		5%	\$297,961.76	
	Projected Total Bond Cost			\$46,334,156.96	

\$46,334,157

Proposed Project Schedule





REFERENDUM TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS

The schedule below is for planning purposes only and LAN will be periodically updating the schedule as the project progresses. The final scheduling will be contingent upon the timing collectively agreed to by the entire project team.

- 01** **9/24/24: Schematic Presentation - Athletic Fields**
LAN & The LA Group provided conceptual site plans for the athletic facility improvements at the Burke Estate to the District leadership for review and feedback. The school district provided feedback.
- 02** **10/1/24: Referendum Planning Kickoff Meeting**
LAN, PBDW, HoH UFSD & Triton met to discuss the project. Attendees reviewed PBDW's design progress and approach for project phasing. Attendees discussed the delineation of labor, expectations, milestone goals. Attendees coordinated deliverable milestones.
- 03** **9/30/24 - 10/25/24: Athletic Field Schematic Design Revisions**
The LA Group revised the conceptual site plans of the proposed site development and athletic field improvements based on feedback from HoH UFSD.
- 04** **10/8/24: PBDW Presentation to BoE Farragut Building Additions**
PBDW presented a master plan to the BoE for a multi-phased project with additions and renovations to the Farragut Complex. BoE to provide feedback and direction to PBDW.
- 05** **10/24/24: Meeting to Review BCS and Five-Year Plan**
LAN to meet with HoH UFSD to review a draft of the Five-Year Plan.
- 06** **10/28/24 - 11/22/24: Cost Estimate Preparation**
Triton to provide cost estimating advice. Triton and LAN to prepare master budget document. LAN and PBDW to modify the schematic designs based on feedback from the HoH UFSD.
- 07** **11/6/24: LAN / LA Group to attend BoE Meeting - Athletic Fields**
LAN to introduce the firm(s) to the BoE. The LA Group to present a master plan for athletic facility improvements at the Burke Estate.
- 08** **11/19/24: Referendum Budget Recommendation Milestone**
LAN, PBDW, and Triton to finalize and present a referendum recommendation and budget recommendation for a potential referendum. HoH UFSD to provide feedback and direction.

- 09** **12/4/24: BoE Presentation of Proposed Scope of Work**
LAN, PBDW, and The LA Group present revised scope of work to BoE. Revised changes made based on community and District feedback.
- 10** **12/17/24: BoE Approval of Scope of Work**
The BoE approves the scope of work and begins Public Relations Campaign.
- 11** **12/23/24 - 1/3/25: Hazardous Materials Testing**
QuES&T to perform a pre-renovation survey (over winter break) and collect samples for hazardous materials testing.
- 12** **1/6/25 - 1/24/25: Addition Renderings**
PBDW prepares renderings of the proposed addition(s) and renovations. LAN assists with preparing marketing materials. The HoH UFSD begins an active marketing campaign to notify the Public of a potential bond referendum. SHPO provides feedback on the proposed building additions.
- 13** **1/8/25: Regular BoE Meeting (Begin SEQR Process)**
The BoE declares intent to be the lead agency for the unlisted action and circulates a Notice of Intent to involved agencies (including SHPO again). The BoE begins to evaluate the environmental impact of the project.
- 14** **2/21/25: SEQR 30-day lead agency circulation expires**
The lead agency has (20) calendar days to make its determination of significance.
- 15** **3/11/25: Regular BoE Meeting (SEQR Determination)**
The BoE should be prepared to declare lead agency status and make an environmental determination on the action.
- 16** **4/4/25: The HOH UFSD publishes referendum**
- 17** **5/20/25: Budget Vote & Bond Referendum**

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

1. We are all familiar with the tall field light stanchions (like those at Chemka Pool here in Hastings). However, I have also seen some much shorter (tree-level) lights and am wondering what 'shorter' lighting options may exist? An example of this are the ones used to light the basketball courts at the Irvington riverfront park.

Answer: We are not familiar with the lighting installed at Chemka Pool (yet), but it is possible the lighting used at Chemka Pool is not LED lamps with directional shields. Installing shorter light poles will likely require installing more lighting poles to achieve the same photometric illumination levels necessary for interscholastic competition. Installing shorter lighting poles is not the most cost-effective means to provide the best lighting outcome. When designed properly, using taller light poles permit steeper aiming angles which can help to minimize the visibility of the lamp, and the glare caused by seeing the lamp.

As part of any field lighting design, LAN and the LA Group will prepare a field photometric layout. Field photometric layouts are crucial for accurately assessing and designing lighting systems, ensuring optimal illumination, energy efficiency, and compliance with safety standards by mapping light distribution and intensity across a given area.

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

2. If light pollution were determined to be an issue, particularly for houses along Burnside Drive, would it be an option to bolster the existing treeline with a fast-growing, tall screen comprised of something like Thuja Green Giants or similar?

Answer: The athletic field lighting would be specified as fully-shielded LED lamps with app-based photometric and dimming controls. The shields prevent light from “spilling” over onto adjoining property. The Board of Education will evaluate the potential for the lighting installation to affect neighboring properties. The Board of Education would be supportive of planting a landscape buffer if planting a landscape buffer will be effective in mitigating a direct line of sight to a lit field.

3. Will there be a look at light pollution in the current / Environmental Impact process and if it's deemed to be an issue, ideas around reducing the impact to adjacent homes?

Answer: Yes. The design team will provide photometric analysis and information for the Board of Education to evaluate the potential for the lighting installation to affect neighboring properties. The Board of Education will evaluate options to minimize the impact of the project on the environment and neighboring properties.

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

4. For field lights, I am finding LED systems that can lower nuisance/light pollution as they are intensity-adjustable. For example, the Phillips PerfectPlay system can be set to a range of % intensities. 100% may be used for match play, but lower levels are used to either gently augment natural light or to provide ‘practice’ lighting at a lower intensity, or on only a portion of the pitch. Systems are also app-controlled so coaches can make quick adjustments on the fly. Are any such systems available to us?

Answer: Yes. The athletic field lighting would be specified as fully-shielded LED lamps with app-based photometric and dimming controls. The shields prevent light from “spilling” over onto adjoining property. Musco Sports Lighting is the industry leader in the manufacturing and installation of athletic field lighting. Musco Sports Lighting offers a comparable system, named, “Control-Link”, to manage, control and monitor athletic field lighting from anywhere, at anytime, by using an application on your smart phone.

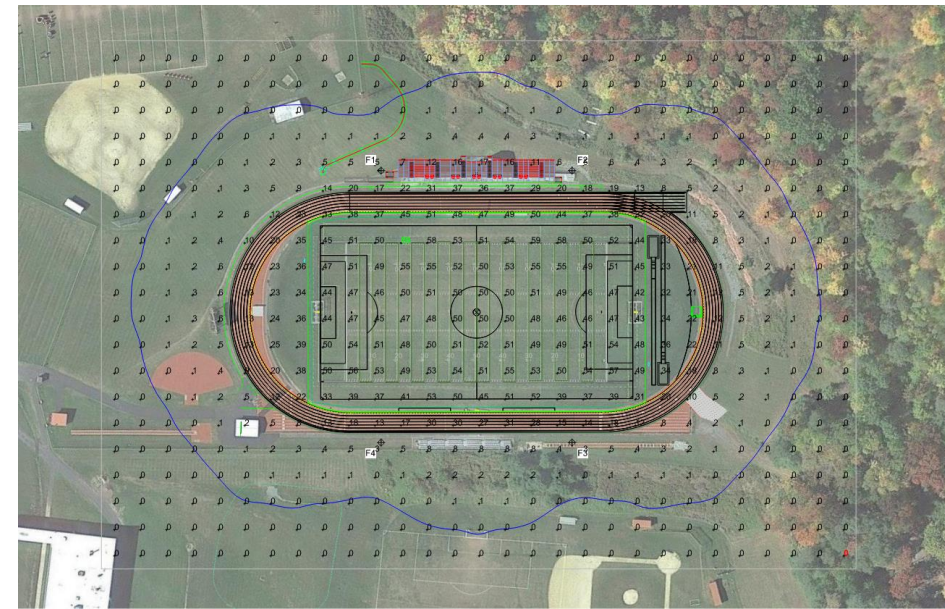
Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

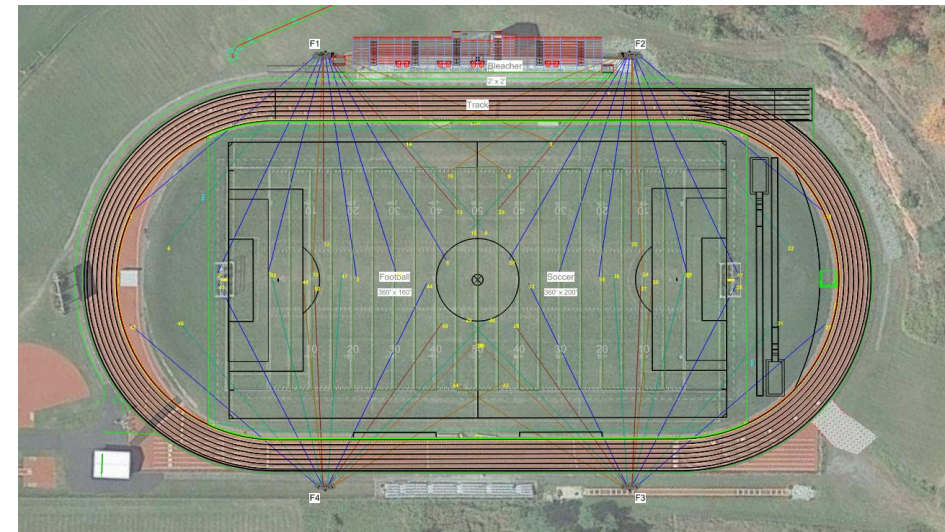
5. Is it possible to obtain DarkSky International Certification for the outdoor sports lighting (OSL) used at the Burke Estate?

Answer: The LED field lighting will be designed to meet Dark Sky standards. For a cost, the lighting can be tested, and the system can be certified to meet Dark Sky standards.

<https://darksky.org/what-we-do/darksky-approved/outdoor-sports-lighting/>



Sample Field Photometric Study



Sample Light Direction Study

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

6. Regarding lighting, at the Nov meeting, the thinking was that lighting should definitely be included in order to lengthen usage time of the fields. At the last meeting, we started to discuss the idea of whether lighting is needed to extend play time. Can we discuss this further? Can we have the architect advise on whether there could be a compromise that, as part of this project, we install the infrastructure to allow future/ temporary lighting hookup?

Answer: Installing athletic field lighting is recommended to maximize the ROI for installing a synthetic turf field.

7. Grandstand is spec'ed for \$800k - could we settle for something less grand?

Answer: Yes, the grandstands have been reduced from 600 seats to 400 seats resulting in a \$300k reduction on the cost estimate projection.

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

8. Would additional parking at the Burke Estate also benefit the Farragut Complex?

Answer: While additional parking would be beneficial, the findings from our geotechnical analysis (such as the presence of bedrock) may indicate that it is not financially viable. Parking requirements will be evaluated alongside associated costs throughout the design phase to ensure an optimal balance between adequate parking and affordability.

9. Should children be playing sports on artificial turf due to health concerns?

Answer: The reality is that HoH students are playing on artificial turf all the time.

- The majority of HoH away games are played on artificial turf fields at other schools.
- When HoH home natural turf fields are unplayable (71 times in 2024), practices and competitions are moved to neighboring Districts to utilize their artificial turf fields.
- Many student-athletes play travel sports for all sports. Most travel sports competitions and tournaments are held on artificial turf fields.

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

10. There are other options available in the market besides artificial turf. Has the BoE and design team looked into hybrid fields such as TurfTalents?

Answer: TurfTalents has been reviewed and considered, however, this product is likely not the right application to meet the Districts athletic field needs.

Concerns:

- It is primarily a natural grass system with approximately 10% synthetic turf with similar maintenance and field demand concerns.
- Special mowing equipment is recommended.
- There are no installations in the United States and in New York State.
- It appears that this is the only company capable of supplying this type of product which does not meet New York State Procurement laws.
 - Sole Source Procurement: Sole source means a procurement in which only one Contractor is capable of supplying the required product or service. The District must justify why the product is the only viable option for the District.
 - NYSED requires all bid specifications to contain an “or equal” clause to eliminate the use of proprietary equipment and materials.

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

11. How will the stormwater be treated in the retention pond prior to being introduced back into the ground?

Answer: Projects that disturb more than 1 acre of soil are required to prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and obtain a NYSDEC SPDES General Permit. The SWPPP must include documentation on how the project will meet NYSDEC Stormwater Requirements. NYSDEC stormwater requirements require stormwater runoff to be captured and treated with stormwater management practices that can remove at least 80% of total suspended solids and 40% of total phosphorus.

It is premature to determine the specific stormwater practice that will be implemented for this project, however, a bioretention pond is commonly designed to remove the suspended solids and pollutants in compliance with the regulations. In addition, plantings within a bioretention pond contribute to water absorption, slope stability, and filtering of pollutants.

Stormwater runoff must also be detained to result in no increase in off-site runoff rates during the 10 and 100-year 24-hr storms.

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

12. Field Cost Benefit Analysis / Life Cycle analysis (add to chart presented by architects on 12/4)
- can we add a column to compare the turf options with natural grass and include costs to maintain / frequency ie sodding is required every x years, upkeep requires x man hours to maintain per year and any associated costs that we need to cover in a rain event.

Answer: LAN and the school district will prepare a comparative life cycle cost analysis for natural grass and synthetic turf fields.

13. Would the centralized entry on Farragut mean that we lose the current (basement) Farragut Gym? This seems so; would this have any impact on programming?

Answer: No. There is no impact to the Farragut Gym or programming at the Farragut Gym.

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

14. Why was moving 5th grade to Hillside not investigated further?

Answer: Moving 5th grade to Hillside was investigated, the exploration was stopped for the following reasons:

- A minimum of 6 classrooms would be needed plus special education and support space.
- Building another level at Hillside requires structural reinforcement of existing building- a major expense and compromising constructability.
- There is limited area to build out at Hillside without majorly encroaching on the fields or play space. This option has limited feasibility without purchase of adjacent wooded areas for development.
- Adding population to Hillside further impacts limited parking and bus drop off/pick up congestion that already exists.
- Limited support spaces, science space, gym etc., to accommodate another grade level.
- Cafeteria scheduling issues and classroom space needs were addressed in the last bond, bringing the school up to a standard the School felt important not be compromised.

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

15. Has the option of adding classrooms in the courtyard at the Farragut complex vs. a new Cafeteria been considered?

Answer: We did not study classrooms in the courtyard for the following reasons:

- Classrooms are needed for the Middle School and infilling the courtyard for FMS classrooms would push MS areas into the HS footprint, further complicating already convoluted circulation.
- The courtyard infill is better suited for a wide-span room leading to the outdoors. Due to the required windows for classrooms, a classroom addition would need to be a single loaded corridor, with classrooms along the exterior, only making use of a portion of the space available for a courtyard infill.
- We feel that locating new classrooms in the heart of the building while leaving the Cafeteria on the third floor of the Middle School wing of the building is a shortsighted solution.
- Along with the full Master Plan, the recommended Cafeteria relocation project is intended to set the stage for future and continued success at FMS/HHS, unlocking further opportunities in the building rather than adding bandaids.

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

16. Why was a Cafeteria Addition recommended in lieu of an addition to the Washington Wing?

Answer: Reasons for Cafeteria Addition as First Recommendation in lieu of Washington Addition/other:

- A Washington Addition doesn't gain large classroom space needed for the Middle School.
- A Washington addition is shaped and sized to enhance the play yard and not to impede on it so is more appropriate for break out rooms and needed MS faculty offices.
- A Washington Addition Doesn't gain any flex space for High School.
- A Washington Addition could exacerbate circulation issues without solving that first.
- The cost estimation for the Washington Wing Addition came in at \$10.5M – higher than the direct cost of Cafeteria Addition.

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

17. Has it been investigated to build “over” the sort saddle of area where the High School end and before the Cochran Gym begins?

Answer: This option was not studied for the following reasons:

- This is an extension off the High School, where the space need is at the Middle School.
- An addition off the HS wing before the Cochran Gym wouldn't provide the amount of space needed for FMS.

18. Has it been investigated to add a fourth story to the Washington Wing?

Answer: This option was not studied for the following reasons:

- Building an addition on or over the existing Washington Wing would be substantially more expensive than building a ground-supported addition. The Design Team would need a geotechnical report and structural analysis to evaluate feasibility and cost.
- Accessing classroom space above a shared Cafeteria space is not ideal for circulation.

Question and Answer:

Updates based on BoE and Community Feedback

19. Has it been investigated to move the Library up to a repurposed Auditorium and then reclaim the Library Space for classrooms?

Answer: This option was not studied for the following reasons:

- This is an interesting proposition, but would require renovation of two spaces without gaining significant floor area for the building. Our space analysis includes the Middle School Auditorium as part of the FMS program area calculations, and even with that area being included, the MS is significantly short on space.
- Though the auditorium is an underutilized space, it is a complex conversion for a new Library – it currently has a sloped floor and no windows and is slightly less floor area than the current library space, so would be a downgrade for the library unless the envelope building was significantly upgraded to provide light.
- There would need to be a structural analysis of the floor loading capacity to determine if it can accommodate the dead load of the book stacks.
- The library is currently in an appropriate location, accessible off hallways between the schools.
- As the library space already has a classroom and break out/resource rooms/offices on that floor, the conversion would only gain a net of ~3-4 classrooms, while the program area gained in the Cafeteria conversion is much larger and achieves much more for the building as a whole.

Question and Answer:

Questions from District Website Q & A

20. Can we do a deeper dive into how we might schedule the use of one turf field and if it creates other issues (address concerns raised by a few speakers on 12/4)

Answer: We understand the importance of ensuring that all teams have equitable access to field time and are not concerned about the ability to schedule teams fairly once the new turf field is in place.

Currently, without a dedicated turf option, we face significant challenges in rotating field usage, particularly with the combination of grass fields and the high volume of teams competing for limited space. Many schools in the region, like ours, have a mix of artificial turf and natural grass fields, and with the addition of lights, it becomes much easier to manage field time and ensure all teams can practice and compete during available hours.

The proposed turf field will actually help resolve this issue by providing a consistent, high-quality playing surface that can be used year-round, regardless of weather conditions. This will significantly reduce scheduling conflicts and allow us to more equitably distribute field time between teams. Additionally, having lights on the turf field will extend usable hours into the evening, further increasing availability and flexibility for all teams.

We are confident that the addition of this new turf field will not only improve the quality of play but also enhance our ability to provide fair and equal access to athletic facilities for every team.

Question and Answer:

Questions from District Website Q &A

21. Field Cost Benefit Analysis / Life Cycle analysis (add to chart presented by architects on 12/4)
- can we add a column to compare the turf options with natural grass and include costs to maintain / frequency ie sodding is required every x years, upkeep requires x man hours to maintain per year and any associated costs that we need to cover in a rain event. Articulate the risk / costs the district has that insurance no longer covers. Provide approximate impact to the taxpayer for the revised \$43m option (or as a footnote to cost slide).

Answer: Currently, we spend approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year per grass field on maintenance, not including labor. This covers things like mowing, fertilizing, aerating, and seeding to keep the fields in the best possible condition. However, these maintenance costs are only a portion of the overall picture.

In terms of long-term sustainability, it's important to note that natural grass fields require significant ongoing care, and even then, there are limits to how much they can handle in terms of high usage. Realistically, after several years, we would need to returf our fields, which would cost close to \$300,000 per field. This represents a major long-term expense, and it's something that must be accounted for in our planning.

Question and Answer:



Questions from District Website Q &A

Answer Continued: Additionally, to properly maintain all our athletic fields—including both grass and artificial surfaces—we would likely need at least one additional part-time staff member. Alternatively, we could enter into a field maintenance contract, which would run about \$15,000 to \$20,000 per field annually. This would ensure that the fields are consistently kept in playable condition, but it adds another layer of operational cost.

On top of these direct maintenance costs, when our teams need to travel to other facilities because our fields are unavailable, it costs us an additional \$500 to \$700 per trip. With multiple teams needing to travel regularly, these transportation costs can add up quickly, further straining our budget.

However, beyond the financial aspects, the real cost is the time lost for our student-athletes. The need to transport teams to other facilities means less practice time, fewer opportunities for team-building, and potential scheduling conflicts that could affect performance and development. This is something we cannot easily put a price on, as it impacts the overall experience for our students and their athletic growth.

In summary, while both grass and artificial turf fields have associated costs, the long-term investment in turf provides stability, reliability, and increased access, reducing the need for extensive maintenance and logistical challenges. This would not only benefit our budget but, more importantly, enhance the athletic experience for all of our student-athletes.

Question and Answer:

Questions from District Website Q &A

22. Need to better articulate the risks involved in not being able to recoup money from the federal govt or NYS if we postpone beyond this year (42% reimbursement now will likely be far less - any guess as to the new %)

Answer: Currently, our District's aid ratio stands at 47.5%, which is an increase from the previous 42%. This ratio is used to determine the level of state reimbursement we can receive for capital projects, including facility work. The Governor has recently been discussing potential changes not only to the foundation aid formula but also to the data used to calculate aide ratios for districts across the state.

If these updates to the data take place, there is a possibility that our aid ratio could decrease, which would directly affect the amount of reimbursement we receive from the state for future facility projects. This shift could result in less financial support from New York State for our capital projects, increasing the burden on our local budget.

For example, we can look at Irvington, which recently received less than 25% in state aid on their projects. This serves as a potential indication of how changes to the formula could impact our district as well, especially if the updated data reflects changes in factors like property values, student enrollment, or income levels.

While we remain hopeful that any updates to the formula will consider the needs of districts like ours, it is important to plan for the possibility that the state's contribution may decrease. This would likely require us to assess how we fund facility work and balance this with other district priorities.

Question and Answer:

Questions from District Website Q & A

23. ML- Regarding lighting, at the Nov meeting, the thinking was that lighting should definitely be included in order to lengthen usage time of the fields. At the last meeting, we started to discuss the idea of whether lighting is needed to extend play time. Can we discuss this further? Can we have the architect advise on whether there could be a compromise that, as part of this project, we install the infrastructure to allow future/ temporary lighting hookup?

Answer: It is wise to pair the new artificial turf with lighting; a step taken by nearly every district or educational institution installing artificial turf fields. This will expand daily usage by as much as 2-3 hours, markedly bolstering the ROI. The added availability time is critical to meet district needs for athletes and to provide a recreational opportunity for Village residents. We will need the added hours for effective scheduling to fully optimize the opportunity created by an artificial turf field. We will develop light options that limit hours to probably 9:00 p.m., except for special occasions. We also look for light options that limit the impact on immediately surrounding neighborhoods.

Question and Answer:



Questions from District Website Q &A

24. Can we discuss in more detail how we might want to package this for a vote - all together versus a 'menu' and is there a way to include options for some work to see where the bids come in (I can elaborate on this or maybe discuss further with Maureen C). Related to the option discussion, given the likely possibility of reduced interest rates in the future, could we include language that allows us to lock in the interest rate later/ at the time of sign off (and get the benefit - if any- if rates are reduced since time of bids which may give us some extra wiggle room)

Answer: The packaging of the bond vote is ultimately a decision made by the Board of Education. They are responsible for determining how the bond is presented to the community, whether you would like to have each project as a separate line item including the total amount authorized for borrowing and the scope of the projects to be included. Once the bond vote is approved by voters, it represents the total amount the District is authorized to borrow, and the scope of work that is approved by voters generally needs to be completed as outlined.

Question and Answer:

Questions from District Website Q &A

Answer Continued: For example, if the bond vote includes specific elements like the installation of lights on fields, that scope cannot be eliminated or significantly altered without potential legal challenges. Voters could argue that they wouldn't have approved the bond if they knew certain work, such as the lights, was going to be removed. While the scope can be adjusted or modified (within reasonable limits), it's important to ensure that the core projects voted on are completed as promised.

As for borrowing, the District works closely with financial advisors to determine the most advantageous timing for issuing bonds. Typically, we first issue a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) to cover short-term borrowing needs while the final funding structures are being put in place. We keep a close eye on interest rates, as our goal is to lock in favorable terms for long-term borrowing.

If we are unable to lock in at the desired rates for the initial borrowing, we also have the option to issue callable bonds, which we have done in the past. This means that we can refinance the bonds at a later date if interest rates become more favorable. Callable bonds provide the flexibility to manage long-term debt more efficiently, adjusting to market conditions as needed.

Overall, we aim to structure the borrowing in a way that provides the District with the necessary funds while minimizing the long-term financial impact, always keeping the best interests of the community and taxpayers in mind.

Question and Answer:



Questions from District Website Q &A

25. Can you share (maybe again) the 5-year enrollment trends in the district? Also, do we have data on ELL or Special Ed students being underserved in the Farragut complex due to space constraints? I remember we had this compliance data with the Hillside bond, which was very informative.

Answer: The leading point to understand is that FMS is too small in several documented ways for the current and anticipated population. This has been a problem for at least a decade. Nearly every classroom in FMS is below state code for appropriate teaching space. We currently are sub-600 sq ft compared to the state code of 770 sq ft. This has resulted in exceedingly crowded classrooms, hallways, support spaces, as well as the cafeteria.

Over the past several years, Hastings has seen a steady enrollment, which is encouraging. More importantly, the District has not experienced a decrease in student enrollment, which is a positive indicator for the long-term stability and growth of our community.

However, the key factor contributing to our current space challenges is the changing needs of our students. Similar to other districts like Hillside, the nature of the educational services we provide has evolved significantly over the last decade or more. Ten to fifteen years ago, a significant number of students were placed out of the district for specialized services.

Question and Answer:



Questions from District Website Q &A

Answer Continued: Today, we have built more in-district programs to meet the specific needs of our students, including life skills programs that are offered to our FMS students. This shift has increased the demand for classroom and support space as we work to accommodate the growing diversity of services.

Additionally, we have seen a rise in specialized service providers over the past 10-15 years. Many of our classes, particularly in the FMS, are now ICT (Integrated Co-Teaching) classes. These classes require additional adults in the room—such as special education teachers, teaching assistants, and related service providers—which increases the number of people in each classroom. This increased staffing, while essential for supporting our students, has further contributed to the tightness of classroom space.

Furthermore, there has been an increase in the use of resource rooms across the entire complex. In the past, fewer rooms were dedicated to this purpose, but now we need more spaces to meet the growing demand for specialized instruction and support services. These changes have placed additional pressure on our existing facilities, which were designed with a different set of expectations in mind.

In summary, the space challenges we face today are the result of several interconnected factors: a steady enrollment increase, a shift toward more in-district specialized programming, a higher number of adults in the classrooms, and a growing demand for resource rooms across the district. These factors have all played a role in driving the need for additional space to adequately support the evolving needs of our students.

Question and Answer:

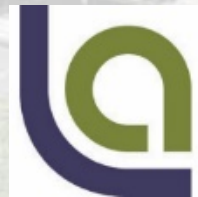


Questions from District Website Q &A

26. A few parents reached out to express the following sentiment for which we need an answer: The District and Board spend too much time discussing the bond, when we should be focused on the serious teaching and learning issues at the middle and high school. Given that our leaders are new at both schools, there is a desire to have them focus their attention on improvements to instruction rather than managing construction issues. Some see this project as a distraction from the core curricular improvements that need to occur.

Answer: The proposed Bond elements are essential to the provision of a high quality teaching and learning environment, both within the Farragut Complex as well as on playing fields. The time on the Bond directly impacts students, instruction, coaching and their full growth. This is time well spent to advance the educational value of Hastings public schools. Nevertheless, the lead administrators for the Bond and capital work are the Superintendent and Business Official, with supplemental input from the instructional leaders: Assistant Superintendent for C&I and three principals. These instructional leaders will keep teaching and learning as their primary focus; not the capital bond work.

Questions?



LAN
ASSOCIATES

