# Field Study for Athletic Facilities

Facilities Committee

May 11, 2021

# Field Study Goals

- Maximize the number of athletic teams that can use onsite fields
- Reduce the need for busing student athletes to practices and competitions
- Minimize the number of practices later in the day
- Control over maintaining and preparing the playing fields
- Ensure adequate fields to meet needs of increased enrollment
- Reduce competitive disadvantage in turf sports
- Provide a comparable experience to athletes in similar schools
- Increase access to community groups

# Field Study Assumptions

- Demand for our playing fields will continue to increase due to rising enrollment, participation and all year usage
- Lights will not be added to existing or new fields reducing the amount of available playing time
- Elimination of busing saves student/coach time and reduces transportation costs
- The use of T/E Middle School athletic fields will be for Middle School use
- Where busing is required, team buses will be the preferred method of transport
- Teams will continue to utilize Township fields as allocated by the Township
- The District will continue to use two athletic trainers

# Increased Sports Field Demand

- Our enrollment is likely to gradually increase the participation in athletics
- To meet demand, we have added JVB programs which use community fields
- Other solutions to increased enrollment include developmental sports programs and intramurals
- Our current grass fields are multi-purpose and are used in the fall and spring
- One full-sized multi-purpose field has been lost due to CHS expansion project
- As demand and field usage increases, field conditions will deteriorate over time
- Turf wear and deterioration will be accelerated due to increased usage (common among “high use” facilities)
- One extra field will extend the life of all fields including turf
- ESC field could come offline if used as future school site

# Current Programs using Off-site Facilities

- Entire Softball program (D'Ambrosia, Wilson Farm Park or ESC)
- Varsity and JV Boys and Girls Tennis (UMLY)
- JV and 9th Grade Baseball (D’Ambrosia and Wilson Farm Park)
- 9th Grade Boys and Girls Soccer (Wilson Farm Park)
- 9th Grade Boys and Girls Lacrosse (Wilson Farm Park)

# TEMS/Conestoga Challenges

- Traffic around TEMS at the end of the day (in addition to wait time for buses) results in TEMS teams practicing approximately **40 minutes less PER DAY than VFMS teams**
    - VFMS practice - 3:22 PM to 5:00 PM,
    - TEMS practice - 3:47 PM to 4:45 PM
    - Impact is a total of 20 hours less practice time per season for TEMS student athletes
- Conestoga also has delays reducing practice time due to changing and boarding buses
- Traffic congestion at Conestoga during dismissal creates gridlock at the same time athletic team buses are departing

# Transportation Costs to Other Fields

| NUMBER OF TRIPS/YEAR | COST |
|---|---|
| 321 | $26,881 |
| | |
| FIELD RENTAL COST/YEAR | $9,600 |
| | TOTAL |
| | $36,481 |

# Field Study Survey

42 PA High Schools were surveyed on the following:

- High School Enrollment
- Practice/competing off-site
- Number of Turf Fields
- Use by Community Groups
- Facility Rental Charges for Field Use

# Results of Field Study Survey

- High School enrollment range:  28 to 3900 students
- Practice or compete off-site:  36 Yes, 6 No
- # of Turf Fields
  - 13 SD's –1 Field
  - 11 SD's – More than 1 Field
- Access to Community Groups: 39 Yes, 3 No
- Charge outside groups for field rentals:  38 Yes, 2 No,
  2 DNR

Athletic Program Growth

How do we compare to similar districts:

| School Name | Enrollment | Turf Fields |
|---|---|---|
| Great Valley | 1300 | 2 |
| Radnor | 1200 | 2 |
| Phoenixville | 1120 | 3 |
| Garnet Valley | 1600 | 3 |
| Unionville | 1400 | 3 |
| Kennett High School | 741 | 4 |
| Springfield | 1209 | 3 |
| Marple Newtown | 1065 | Plan to expand |

# Advantages of adding one turf field

- One program at TE Middle school will be able to practice on site
- Less wear and tear on Teamer Field
- Fewer night games and practices
- Fewer need to cancel games
- Less wear and tear on TEMS Field
- One TEMS grass field being freed up, means at least one additional TEMS team could practice on site
- Football pre-game practices on turf
- More flexibility for non varsity football games

# Advantages of adding two rectangular fields

- Two fields would mean that TEMS boys and girls lacrosse teams could practice and play games on site.
- TEMS softball teams and 7th grade baseball practice over at First Ave, which is more convenient than having to go to VFMS.
- Would allow us to host TEMS/VFMS events
- Possibly add in softball on campus
- Additional baseball field would optimize the field space at TEMS
  - potential for three rectangular fields at TE Middle School (soccer, field hockey, lacrosse)

# Overlap and Sharing of Fields

**Fall**

- Teamer Field -
  - Varsity Boys/Girls Soccer
  - Varsity/JV Field Hockey
  - 9th grade Football Games - 7 teams
- CHS Grass Football Field -
  - All Football programs
- CHS Track Field -
  - JV Boys and Girls Soccer

**Spring**

- Teamer Field -
  - Varsity Boys and Girls Lacrosse
  - Rugby-when available
  - Off season Field Hockey
- TEMS -
  - JV boys and Girls Lacrosse

# Central League Schools that Have One Turf Field

- Penncrest
- Harriton
- Haverford
- Lower Merion
- Ridley
- Strath Haven (it is a district long term goal to convert to turf)
- Upper Darby (will be adding middle and high school turf fields)

# Summary

- The acquisition of the nursery property is a rare opportunity to:
- Add to our field inventory
- Maximize the teams that can play and practice onsite
- Reduce the need (and cost) for busing
- Minimize the number of evening events
- Increase access to community groups

This could be achieved all within the contiguous property footprint of CHS