



# **Olcott Stadium Focus Group II: Investigating the Feasibility of Upgraded Lighting**

March 27, 2024

# Welcome, Introductions, & Structuring our Work

## Who are your Facilitators?

Brian Brotschul, *Superintendent of Schools*  
Coleen Butler, *Assistant Superintendent*  
Jinnee DeMarco, *Business Administrator*  
Scott Neigel, *BHS Principal*  
Mike Hoppe, *BHS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director*

## Who is our Focus Group?

Olcott Neighbors  
Parents  
Students  
Staff Members  
Residents



# Examining the Challenge of Enhanced Lighting

- Who:** Community focus group of stakeholders
- What:** Sharing perceptions of enhancing lighting
- When:** June 2023, December 2023, March 2024, and September 2024
- Where:** Olcott Field; Bernards High School
- Why:** Enhancing lighting quality/Assessing neighborhood needs



# Providing December Focus Group Deliverables

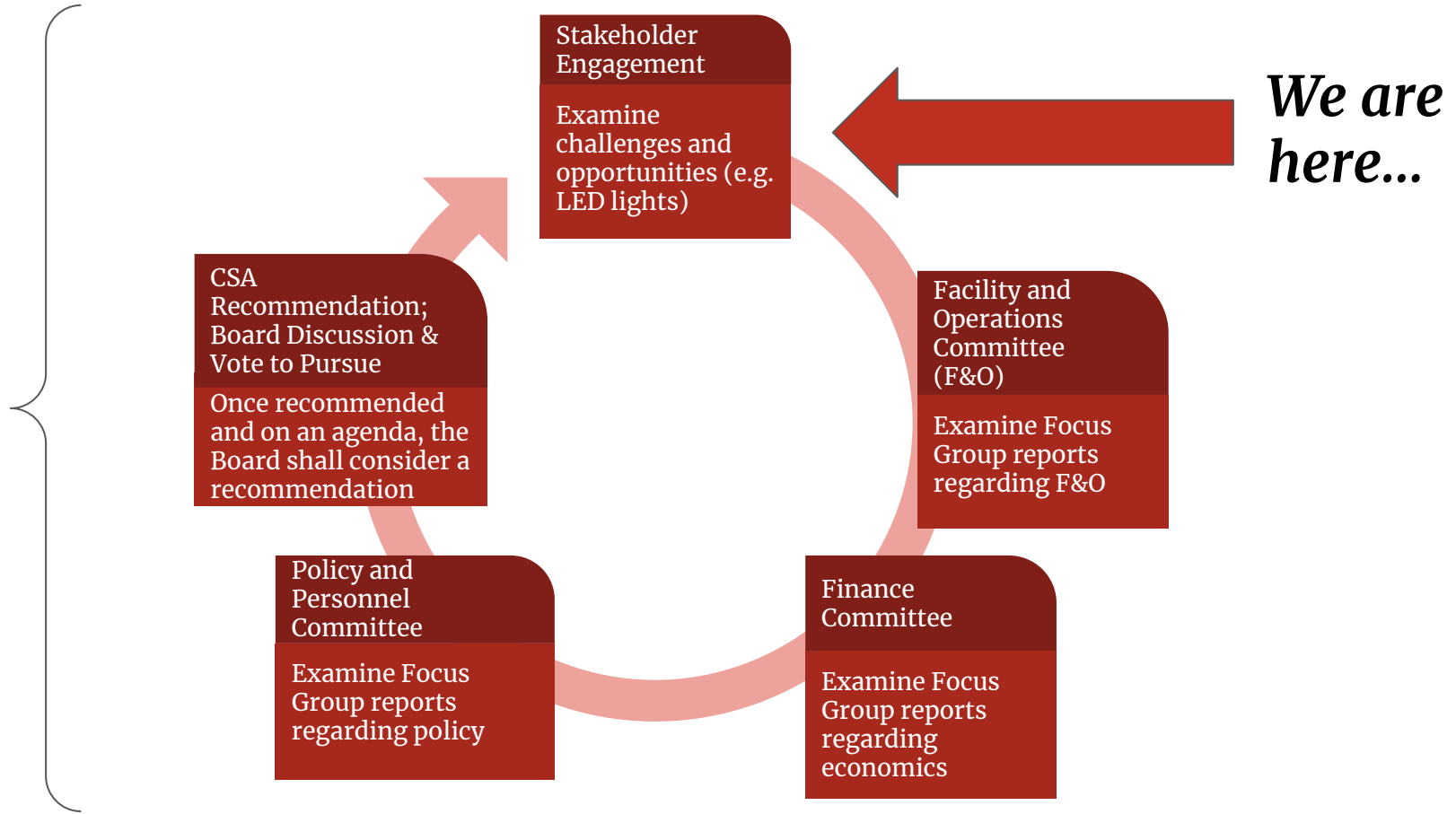
At the December 7, 2023 Focus Group, the following items were requested:

- ✓ More defined information about lumens and spillage
- ✓ Economic preparedness and projections
- ✓ Pole height
- ✓ Site visits

*Spring 2024 Delivery*



*Assessment of additional implications*



*How Board of Education Decisions are Made: A Primer for the Focus Group*

# Examining the Challenge

## *Structuring Our Work*

Overview from the Superintendent (30 minutes)

- Context
- Reviewing our work
- December deliverables

Conversation Spaces (45 minutes)

Gallery Walk (10 minutes)

Debrief and Future Engagement (5 minutes)

Adjournment



# Reviewing our Work: Direction, Examination and Balance

1

## The Charge

Develop and implement a process to study the installation of LED lights by engaging the public we serve

2

## Areas Examined

Positive outcomes; concerns and drawbacks; what we learned; developing our future work

3

## Balancing Responsibilities

Serve as great neighbors and provide enhanced facilities for our students



# Reviewing our Work: Stakeholder Engagement

1

June 19, 2023

Open forum with 30 members of the public in attendance

2

December 7, 2023

Open invitations sent to all Somerset Hills communities to participate in focus groups designed to examine the feasibility of adding LED lights to Olcott Field (45 stakeholders participated and formal report presented on 1/24/24)

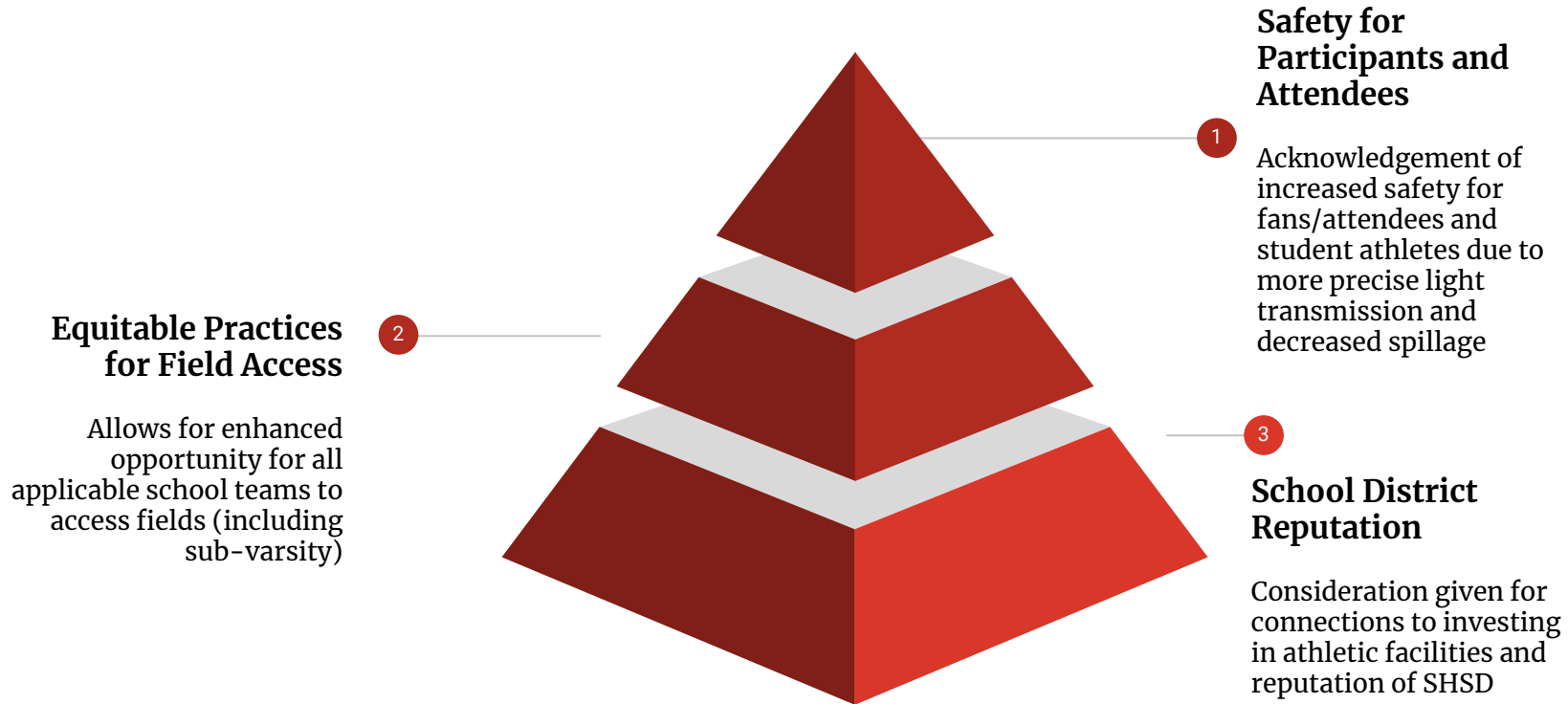
3

March 27, 2024

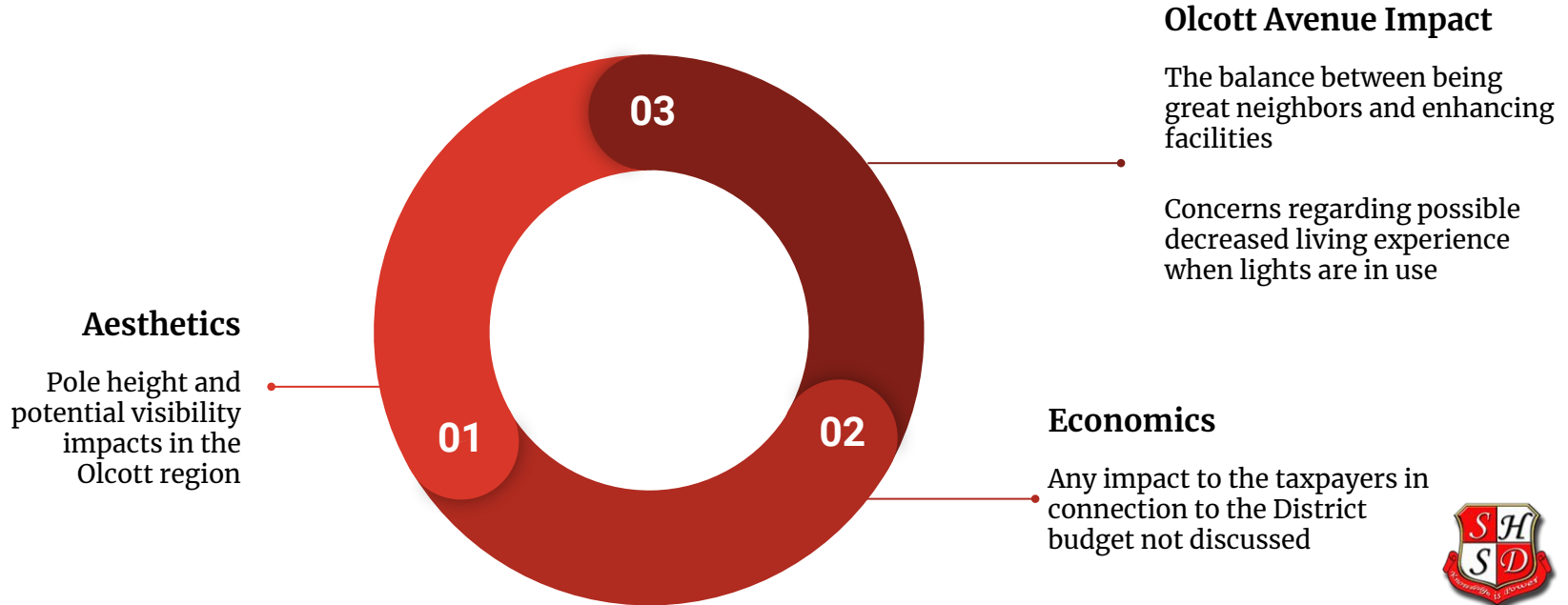
Open invitations sent to entire Somerset Hills communities to participate in follow-up focus group designed to examine the feasibility of adding LED lights to Olcott Field (with formal report anticipated on 4/24/24)



# Reviewing our Work: Positive Outcomes



# Reviewing our Work: Concerns & Drawbacks



# Reviewing our Work: Agreements

Technology of 2023-era lights: no comparison to current lighting solution

+

Operational norms require definition. The District needs to further articulate how they intend to use the facility.

+

Economic variables regarding any additional taxpayer impact should be presented.

*What Participants Agreed Upon*  
Technology - Operations - Economics



# Next Level of Work

**Depth and  
Breadth of Olcott  
Avenue Impact**

Surveying our  
neighbors and  
stakeholders

+

**Long-Range  
Facility Plan  
Development**

Solidify long-term  
facility plan vision

+

**Economics**

Assess long-term  
economic impact to  
any installation  
project

*Future Questions to Guide Our Work*

Good Neighbors - Planning - Economics



# Reviewing our Work: Focus Group I Recommendations

## Approve Submission of Interim Report I

Completed at  
January 24, 2024  
SHSD BOE Meeting



## Commission Lighting System Plan

Completed at  
January 24, 2024  
SHSD BOE Meeting

## Assess Economic Variables

To be delivered at  
March 27, 2024  
Focus Group  
Meeting

## Tour Comparable Facilities

To be completed  
April 9, 2024.

## Examine Applicable Facility Usage Policy

Should the examination progress, future deliberations and due diligence by the SHSD BOE would likely include a policy audit by the *Policy and Personnel Committee* pursuant to Focus Group recommendations.



# Reviewing 2023 Era Lighting Installations



# Reviewing 2023 Era Lighting Installations



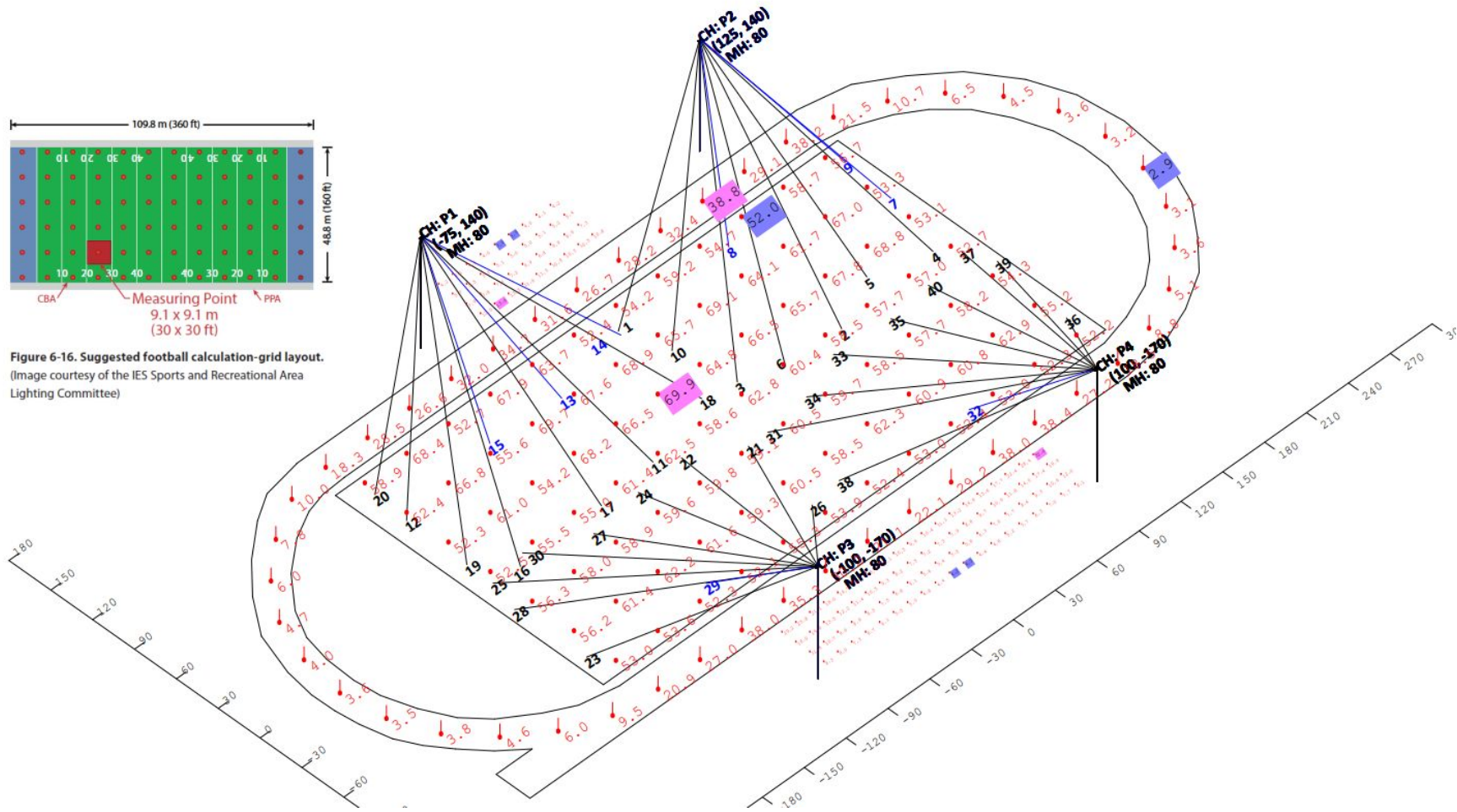
# Projected Lighting Information: Lumens & Spillage

Recommended Calculation Grid Layout

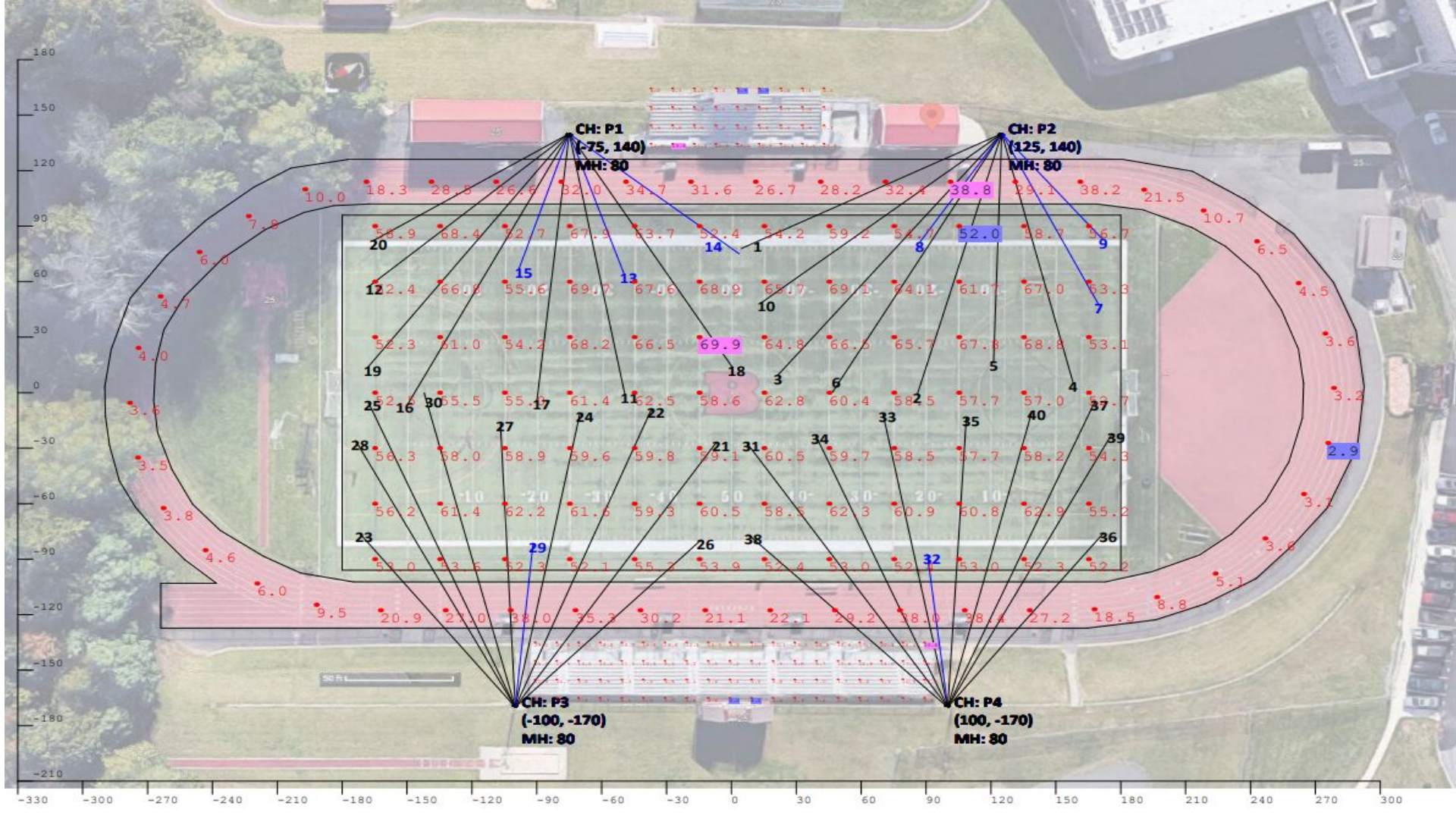
Lumen Impact – Playing Surface, Bleachers, and Beyond

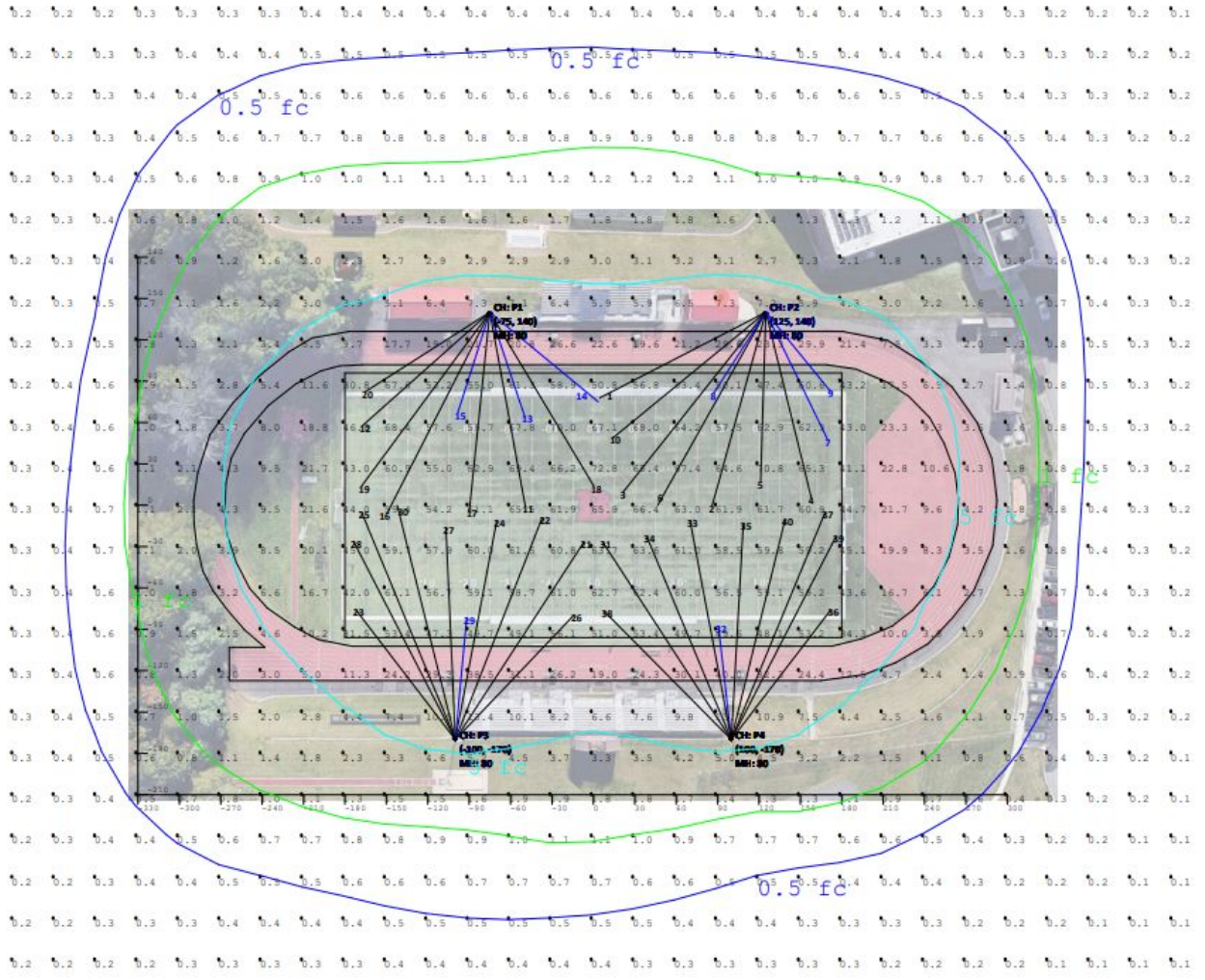
Illuminance Mapping

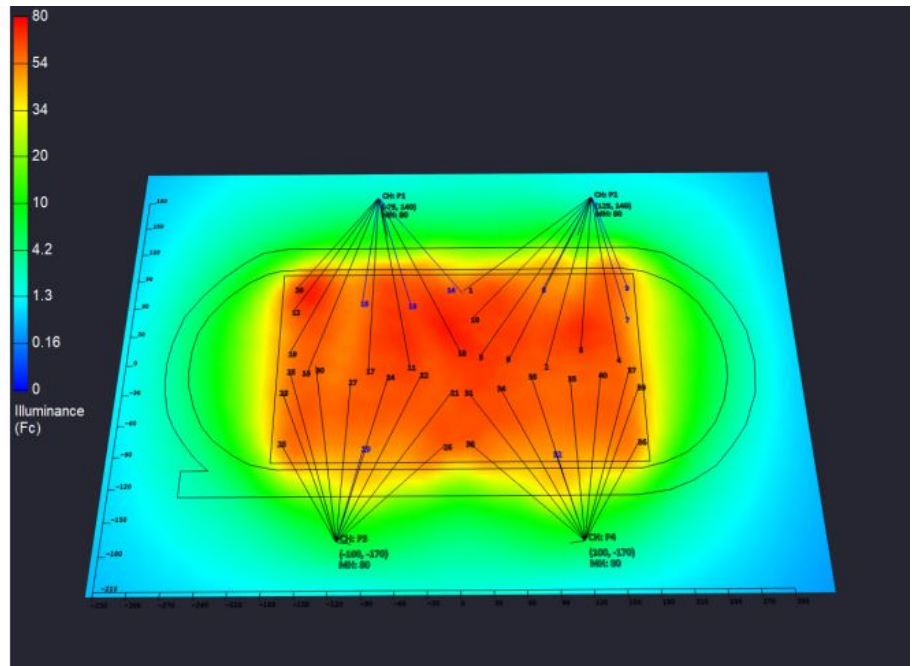
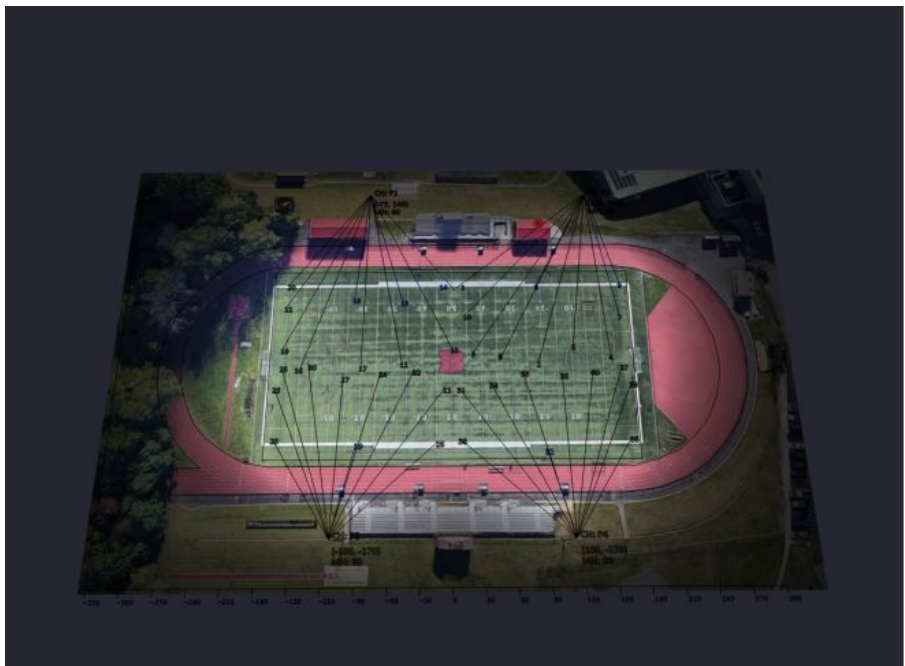


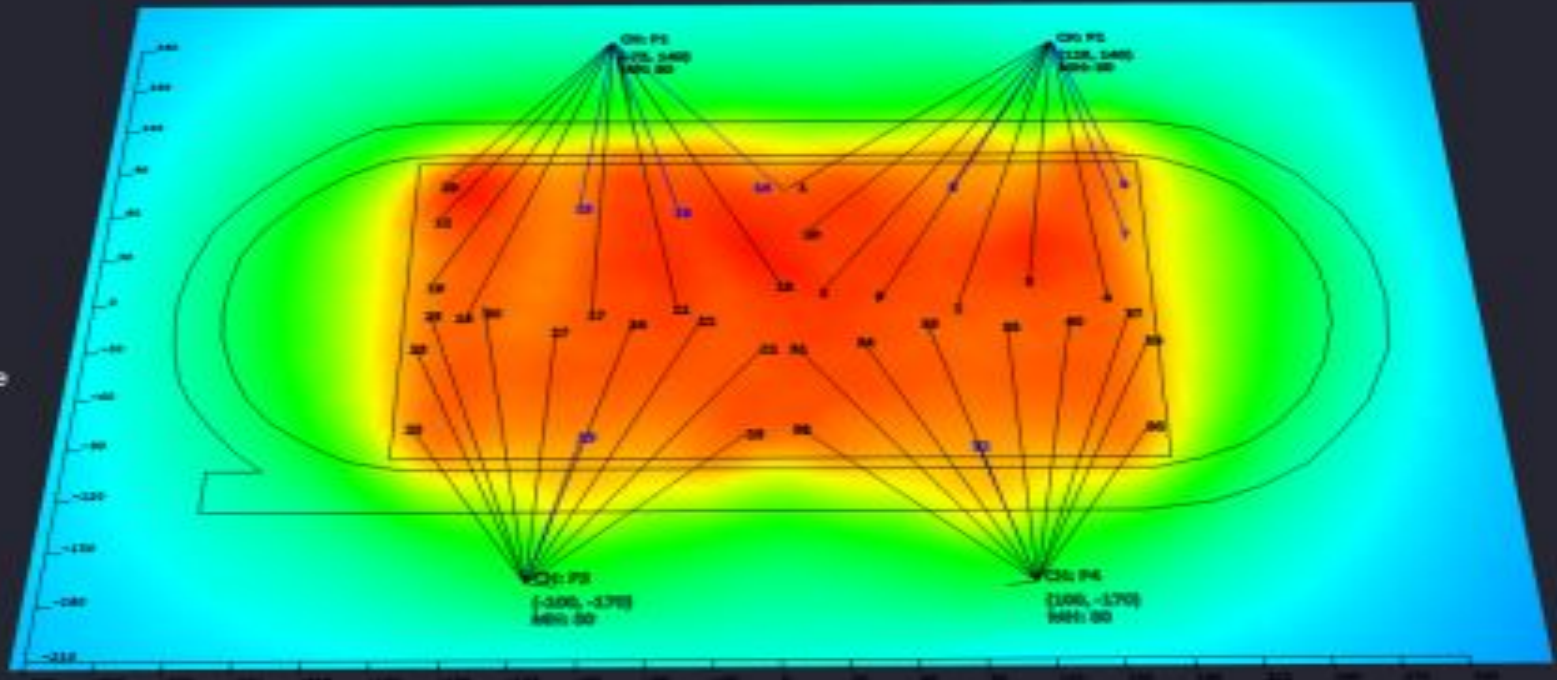
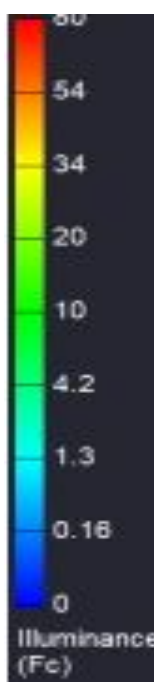


**Figure 6-16. Suggested football calculation-grid layout.**  
 (Image courtesy of the IES Sports and Recreational Area Lighting Committee)











# Projected Lighting Information: Pole Height

Olcott Avenue, in the area of the stairs adjacent to the shot put, is 20 feet above the field level.

The elevation continues to rise as you travel farther north on Olcott Avenue.

It is reasonable to conclude that pole height on Olcott Avenue is approximately 60 feet above street level, which is the same height as 25 Olcott Avenue (SHSD Administrative Offices).



# Funding of Equipment and Installation

Should project progress forward, multiple options would be presented to the Board to allow for their consideration.

Option A: Pay for the equipment and installation as we did with the turf field in 2023, the BMS media center in 2023, and the BHS track in 2024 through a withdrawal from our capital reserve account, which has no impact on the taxpayer by contributing to an additional tax increase.

Option B: Replace expiring debt (Energy Savings Improvement Program) with new debt, resulting in a “net zero” or “neutral” budget impact.



# Procurement of Equipment and Installation

Should project progress forward, multiple options would be presented to the Board to allow for their consideration.

Option A: Publicly bid entire project (poles, light fixtures and installation).

Option B: Purchase light fixtures and installation through Cooperative Purchasing Agreement. Publicly bid the installation of the poles.



# Economic Impacts and Projections

Cost per hour to operate: \$8 – \$10

Life of Lights: 150,000 hours

Sample Project Cost: \$1.2M – \$1.5M



# Economic Impacts and Projections

Should project progress forward following Board deliberation, the administration will be prepared fiscally to conduct this work in the Summer of 2025 without additionally impacting the annual school budget.



# Focus Group Norms

- ★ Voluntary participation
- ★ It is acceptable to abstain from discussing specific topics if you are not comfortable
- ★ All responses are valid – speak as openly as you feel comfortable
- ★ Respect the opinions of others
- ★ Remain on topic so we can cover our intended agenda



# Focus Group II Cohort Assignments

## Conversation Spaces

*BHS Mountaineer Group:* (Scott Neigel) – Main Floor A

*BMS Bulldog Group:* (Coleen Butler) – 2nd floor of Media Center

*Bedwell Eagles Group:* (Jinnee DeMarco) – Main Floor B

*Somerset Hills Group:* (Mike Hoppe) – Cafe



# Gallery Walks

## What speaks to you?

Walk independently or in a small group, from poster to poster, and review the feedback from each group. While reflecting at each poster, **place a sticker** next to **any** point that you find particularly important for the District to consider further.

These posters will become an important artifact and will guide the District's examination of athletic lights moving forward.



# Debrief and Future Engagements

Tour of Morristown High School Facility on April 9, 2024 (to be confirmed)

Report on behalf of the Focus Group at the April 24, 2024 SHSD BOE meeting

Fall Engagement (September 2024) of Focus Group

Board Committee Review - Tentative (October 2024)

Full Board Discussion - Tentative (October 2024 Regular Public Meeting)

Board Action - If applicable (November 2024 Regular Public Meeting or later)

If Board acts on project - Superintendent and Business Administrator make fiscal arrangements to include the work as directed in the FY26 budget



# Site Visit Information

**Who:** Community focus group of stakeholders

**What:** Site visit for athletic lights

**When:** (Tues) April 9, 2024 - Time TBA

**Where:** 50 Early Street Morristown, NJ 07960

**Why:** Assessing impact of enhancing lighting quality



# Community Survey Access

Consider completing the following survey by April 30, 2024.



# Adjournment

## Contact Us

[SHSDFocusGroups@shsd.org](mailto:SHSDFocusGroups@shsd.org)

Join our email list for future communications.

*Thank you for participating!*

