
Reynolds Field

- 400-meter track; 6-lanes with two shortened inside lanes
 - New concrete bleachers
 - Tennis courts resurfaced in current location
 - Replace existing security lights with 4 fixtures
 - New sidewalk on Chauncey
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Building Projects

Hillside Elementary

- Roof replacement
- Exterior masonry repairs
- Upgrade electrical service
- Replace univents; Add new classroom units for air quality
- Classroom and fire doors
- Wall, floor, and ceiling repairs for All-Purpose Room & lower wing

Middle & High School

- Auditorium: new seating, flooring, sound and light systems, stage resurfacing, sound booth, curtains and rigging
 - Roofs on gym & auditorium
 - Exterior masonry repairs
 - Classroom and fire door replacements
 - Interior plaster repairs
 - Two replacement boiler burners
 - Electric service upgrade
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Burke Estate

- Existing Upper Burke enlarged to create two full game fields
 - New practice field
 - Baseball right field line extended to regulation length
 - New bathroom facility
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Dear Community Members,

At our February 5th meeting, the Board of Education approved a resolution that establishes a new proposal for the renovation of the school facilities. We have scheduled the community vote for Wednesday, March 26th, 2014.

In a nutshell, this proposal includes two parts; the first covers the majority of the recommendations and provides for all of the building work included in the October bond vote as well as a regulation track and natural grass field at Reynolds and additional grass fields at the Burke Estate. (See the table at left and the discussion below for specific details.) The second proposition will allow an additional expenditure to tier the Burke fields in a way that fits more naturally with the terrain and improves their function by facing them on a north/south axis. (This means that the fields will be on slightly different levels with small slopes between them.) Residents will vote on each of the propositions separately, i.e., you will flip one lever – either yes or no – for each part.

The maximum cost of the building and track/field work in Proposition One is \$8,081,147, coming in more than half a million dollars below the cost of the first bond referendum. The building work represents just over 50% of the total, at \$4,053,208, with the work at Reynolds and the Burke Estate making up the balance, or \$4,027,939. The maximum cost of Proposition Two, the option to tier the fields at the Burke Estate, is \$569,554. If both propositions are passed, the maximum cost will be similar to the October proposal at \$8.6 million. Whichever propositions are approved by the voters, the district will finance using the same combination planned for the first referendum, with \$500,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund and a bond for the balance.

The board decided on this approach to the facility projects based on all of the events of the past year, including the first vote's results, the exit survey, conversations with various interested residents, and comments made at our meetings and during the workshops we held in the past two months. It represents a consensus on what we think will balance the most pressing concerns expressed by residents with the district's needs to maintain the integrity and function of our buildings and support the school and community athletic programs in a cost effective way.

At Reynolds Field we selected a track design that minimizes the change to the combined upper and lower field areas, which was identified as a priority by many people. The track will have the perimeter of a 4-lane 400-meter track, but by adding two lanes on the interior we are able to capture the functionality

of a standard six-lane track. Lower Reynolds Field will continue to be configured as it is today. The tennis courts will be resurfaced, but left in their current location. The playground will also stay

put, with an update of the equipment provided by the Village. Two retaining walls are necessary for this layout: one by the edge of the tennis court – replacing and increasing the height of the current wall – and another at the eastern end of the field between the berm and the existing wall. Fewer trees are impacted by this layout in comparison to the October proposal. We have eliminated the 10 walking lights around the perimeter of the track and will limit the lighting to a replacement of the existing security lights with four 12'-15' high pedestrian-style lights designed to minimize light impact off the field. We decided to include the sidewalk along Chauncey Lane in the project (rather than leave it as a separate option) based on the very strong support it received in both the exit polls and the workshops.

One of the fundamental issues we are trying to address in this facility proposal is the worn condition of our fields that results from the excessive use they receive from the school, community, and Village programs in which our children participate. Synthetic turf was one way to address this, but as the community clearly wants to use natural grass, the solution becomes one of adding field space. There is open space available on the Burke Estate, next to the existing fields, and in Proposition One, we would locate two full-sized fields and one three-quarter sized field (useable for middle school sports and all practices) by filling in a portion of the northwestern corner of the currently cleared area. All the fields would be on the same plane as the current Upper Burke field and they would be oriented east to west, i.e., the length of the fields would run from the Farragut Ave. side of the Estate toward Broadway. An alternative solution is to orient the fields north/south, running the length of the fields parallel to Broadway. This option is a better fit for the space, and so is aesthetically and athletically beneficial. To minimize the need for retaining walls, the fields can be tiered into the western slope of the Estate, with the field closer to Broadway placed lower than the current field level. Short slopes would separate the fields, providing the advantages of a nice spot for spectators and fewer chances for confusion between activities on adjacent fields. The tiering does require more earth-moving than having all the fields on one level and therefore comes with a higher price. Recognizing the viewpoint that we should be holding down costs, we decided to make this a separate option. If the basic plan is approved and a majority vote yes on Proposition Two, then we will be able to proceed with the tiered option.

This proposal for the renovation of our facilities has many different parts and certainly people will have many questions that are not answered in this announcement. The board wants to be able to address whatever concerns you have and will be holding community meetings in March to give you a chance to talk and ask questions and get into more of the project details, including the financial implications. Times and locations will be posted on the district website, www.hohschools.org. If you prefer, you can contact us by phone, via email at boe@hohschools.org, or at www.facebook.com/hohschoolsbondreferendum. The site plans and a breakdown of costs for the field portion of the project are available on the district website.

We have been working to find a balanced solution and hope that you will take the time to consider all the elements. We also want to thank everyone who has participated in our recent events and look forward to moving ahead with one or both of these new propositions.

Sincerely,

Members of the Board of Education