

# Potential GHS Stadium Upgrades Questions & Answers

(February 2, 2012)

*This document is a summary of questions received from district staff, Board of Education members and community patrons. All questions are presented in their original format, with the exception of minor grammatical corrections. This document will be updated as needed. Questions and comments can be sent to Lane Lucas, Public Relations, at [lane.lucas@csd4.k12.mo.us](mailto:lane.lucas@csd4.k12.mo.us).*

**Q-1: Why are you considering this initiative?**

A: In April 2011, voters approved a \$7 million Grandview C-4 bond issue. One of the projects proposed was the replacement of the Grandview Middle School heating/cooling piping, at an estimated cost of \$2.4 million. Based on information gained during the first phase of the project which occurred last summer, the scope of work for the remaining phases was reduced to a total estimated cost of \$1.4 million – resulting in \$1 million available for reallocation to other projects and initiatives.

**Q-2: Can this bond money be used for other needs, such as hiring teachers and curriculum needs?**

A: No. District bond money is designated for facility improvements. Operating and grant funds are utilized to support staffing and curriculum needs.

**Q-3: Will the upgrades be just for football use?**

A: No. The GHS Stadium upgrades will create a multi-purpose facility that can be enjoyed and utilized by students, parents, staff and community members; allowing such things as increased outdoor classroom space, outdoor practice field for marching band and a state of the art field for football and soccer competitions.

**Q-4: Is the \$1 million dedicated to Grandview Middle School improvement needs?**

A: No. The district prioritizes projects for the utilization of bond funds, not by site. This portion of the bond money was anticipated for the GMS heating/cooling project; it was not dedicated to Grandview Middle School.

**Q-5: Why couldn't this money be used for other needed building improvements?**

A: The \$1 million could be utilized to continue numerous upgrades for district buildings; however, a unique and timely opportunity exists to use the \$1 million to provide stadium upgrades at GHS.

**Q-6: When will the Board vote on the proposed stadium improvements?**

A: It is anticipated that the Board of Education will consider this item at the March 2012 meeting.

**Q-7: If approved, when would the stadium project be complete?**

A: The intent is to have the stadium upgrades completed by early to mid-August 2012.

**Q-8: How does this project educate the kids?**

A: By providing a state of the art multi-purpose facility that will enhance physical fitness activities (one of the key components to a good education) and offers outdoor classroom space for multiple grade levels and a practice area for band and other extracurricular activities.

**Q-9: Do you want to do this project just to “keep up with the Jones”?**

A: No. The intention is to provide a multi-purpose facility that could be enjoyed and utilized by students, parents, staff and community members, which affords the same standards and amenities available in the majority of area districts.

**Q-10: What is the total initial cost for installation?**

A: The targeted budget being used is \$1 million. Bids will be solicited for: synthetic turf (excavation, drainage system, etc.), field maintenance equipment and supplies, goals and goal posts, LED score board, bleacher upgrades and a new entrance.

**Q-11: What about getting sponsors to pay for the stadium upgrades?**

A: Sponsorship opportunities to pay for the full improvements are not apparent at this time. It may be feasible to obtain ongoing sponsorship income from scoreboard signage/advertisement, print, naming rights and other possible means.

**Q-12: What is the yearly upkeep cost and how does that compare to the yearly upkeep cost of natural grass?**

A: Projected cost: the primary upkeep on turf is “raking”. Industry experts say the field would need to be raked once or twice per month. With an expanded use of the field, it may need to be raked every week, which has an estimated annual cost of \$3,800. Current cost: approximately \$24,200 annually is spent for maintenance on the main field (\$11,700 materials, \$4,000 watering and \$8,500 staffing).

**Q-13: What is the possibility of splitting the \$1M with stadium and school improvements?**

A: This could certainly be considered, however it would not provide adequate funding to complete the proposed stadium upgrades. Currently, numerous improvement projects are slated for the entire district which would not be affected by the stadium project.

**Q-14: Which schools in the area do have turf and which schools do not have turf?**

A: Schools in the suburban conference that currently play on turf include: Blue Springs, Blue Springs South, Liberty, Liberty North, Ray-Pec, Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit North, Lee's Summit West, Ruskin, North Kansas City, Winnetonka, Staley, Oak Park, Park Hill, Park Hill South, Truman, William Chrisman, Raytown, Raytown South, Belton, and Platte County. Schools in the Suburban Conference that currently do not play on turf include: St. Joe Central, Fort Osage, Kearney, and Grandview.

**Q-15: How long do turf fields last? Where will the replacement cost come from?**

A: The industry standard life expectancy for turf fields is 8 years, depending on use and care they can be expected to last up to ten plus years. The replacement cost would be for the field turf only, with an estimated cost of \$500,000 (in today's dollars). There are several options for funding the replacement – utilize additional bond funds at that time, plan/budget for the full expenditure in year ten (as an operating transfer) or direct \$50,000 of revenue per year over the next ten years to fund 4 (the capital projects fund) to create a financial reserve (savings account) for replacement.

**Q-16: Have you checked the chance of injuries that happen due to playing on turf?**

A: Yes. Recent high school football safety studies for turf vs. natural grass, performed by sports experts, report fewer and less severe injuries.

**Q-17: Will there be any damage to the new track when we do field improvements?**

A: No. Steps will be taken to preserve the track during the project.

**Q-18: What about the baseball and softball fields. Is there a plan in place to improve those?**

A: The infield for the baseball field was recently renovated. A needs assessment is being conducted to determine the best solutions for softball.

**Q-19: If the GHS upgrades are approved, what will happen to the current soccer field?**

A: The current soccer field will remain in use. There are plans to upgrade the field in the near future.

**Q-20: How about exterior paint and other needed improvements; won't doing this project affect that?**

A: No. Numerous building improvement projects have been targeted, starting this summer and extending into next year that will be paid for with approved bond money.

**Q-21: Why have some pro teams have gone back to natural grass?**

A: Climate and facilities may have a lot to do with it. Covered or partial roof NFL stadiums may have turf, open ones, depending on the area of country, have or are moving to grass. Studies have indicated that NFL football is in some ways incomparable with the high school game, since it is faster and harder hitting. Professional teams typically have access to several indoor and outdoor playing facilities, and if they have a grass field, they can stay off of it and protect it. Also, many NFL grass fields contain a specific type of grass, usually a Bermuda or a special bluegrass blend that requires 24/7 maintenance. Their grass fields also have much less wear and tear on them as they usually only have no more than one game a week. Weather conditions wreak havoc on even the best of fields. Professional teams are constantly replacing the sod during the season.

The technology and methods of adding sports turf has changed tremendously in the past 10-15 years and the mindset of the players has become more positive towards it. Many of the turf fields found in NFL stadiums are ranked very high by the players as far as surfaces they prefer to play on.

**Q-22: We have lost more students than we know once they reach 8<sup>th</sup> grade because of the condition of our athletic facilities. What is the impact on the community and the school district?**

A: Families may choose to relocate due to the condition of the district's athletic facilities; however, there is no definitive proof at this time. The goal is to attract new students and to retain existing students. Providing comparable amenities, in all areas, will assist these efforts.

**Q-23: How many seats could we add in the bleacher upgrade?**

A: That is unknown until a full study of capacity has been conducted.

**Q-24: Will we be looking at constructing bleachers on both sides of the field (home and visitor) or just one?**

A: At this time, only bids for home side bleacher upgrades will be sought.

**Q-25: If the bond money used for this project is borrowed through the QZAB program can it be used to change from grass to turf?**

A: The district's bond counsel is verifying whether the use of QZAB funding would be appropriate for this project. If QZAB is not available, General Obligation bonds can be issued.

**Q-26: Will our maintenance staff need special training to care for the field?**

A: Yes. Training on the care of turf and use of maintenance equipment will be provided.

**Q-27: Have we included costs for needed equipment, supplies and chemicals to maintain, repair, clean and disinfect the field?**

A: Yes.

**Q-28: Will this project impact the completion of other slated building improvement projects?**

A: No.

**Q-29: Will the field be made with polyethylene yarn to prevent abrasions?**

A: Yes.

**Q-30: Are we prepared to address possible latex allergies resulting from the type of infill materials used?**

A: To our knowledge, industry experts have not reported evidence of latex allergies resulting from infill materials.

**Q-31: Will we have a plan to monitor possible lead/heavy metal levels from pigment/infill material?**

A: To our knowledge, industry experts have not reported evidence of lead/heavy metal levels from the pigment/infill material.

**Q-32: Would there be any special insurance issues/needs if we let community members use the field?**

A: Anyone using district facilities must complete a facility usage form, which includes insurance requirements.

**Q-33: Why do custodians and maintenance take care of the field? Why don't we have a professional service take care of the field?**

A: The assigned district employee is a successful farmer; which gives him the understanding on how to maintain fields, he has license to apply chemicals, and he is following the recommended treatment from John Deer Landscapes, which is the same program that the KC Chiefs and Royals are using to maintain their fields.

**Q-34: By not replacing the remaining GMS pipes now, when do engineers say we will have to address it? How much are the pipes clogged? Would the new tower be stressed by not replacing the remaining pipes?**

A: The pipes are not clogged. Clogged pipes are not the concern. Testing was conducted for pipe wall thickness, utilizing industry standards. The results for areas tested indicated an average loss of pipe wall thickness of 4% over the past 45 years. Experts do not have a concern until the loss is above 25%. The results indicate there is ample remaining pipe wall thickness for the operating pressures of this system, including the tower. The recommendation was to reinsulate and clean corrosion on existing pipes where needed, not for replacement.

**Q-35: Do area districts that have done this type of project have a higher tax rate than us?**

A: Some do and some don't.

**Q-36: Will this field help athletic improvement?**

A: It is anticipated that these improvements will provide an opportunity for improved athletic activity.

**Q-37: What is the potential income per year from outside activities?**

A: This is unknown at this time.

**Q-38: What is the highest amount of people attending a football game?**

A: 3,500 – 4,000

**Q-39: What is the smallest amount of people attending a football game?**

A: 400 – 500

**Q-40: What is the average amount of people attending a football game?**

A: 1,500 – 2,000

**Q-41: How many boys' soccer games are played at home each season?**

A: 9 Varsity, 9 JV

**Q-42: How many girls' soccer games are played at home each season?**

A: 9 Varsity, 9 JV

**Q-43: How many soccer tournaments are played in each season?**

A: 3 – boys; 3 – girls

**Q-44: Are the tournament games played at the same locations and where are they played at?**

A: Yes – Center HS, Belton HS, Belton Freshman Center, Raytown HS, Raytown South HS, and Winnetonka HS.

**Q-45: What sports are played by students in PE throughout the year?**

A: The High School Physical Education Curriculum allows students to play a variety of outdoor sports. In the fall, both Boys and Girls Physical Education classes play football, soccer, softball and tennis. The COED classes participate in golf and tennis. The Physical Fitness classes are outside on the track performing various workouts. In the spring, Boys and COED classes play Ultimate Frisbee. COED again plays tennis and golf. Girls and Boys both participate in Track and Field events, and ALL classes finish the semester with a PE Softball tournament.

All of the sports listed above (except tennis) could be played on the new turf football field. It would be so welcomed to have even and non-muddy surfaces to play on. In the last couple of years, the girls have played football inside the gym because it is difficult to coordinate playing time between the boys and girls classes. Play has not been allowed on the real football field, and the practice football field has football equipment on the field that is not appropriate for physical education students. Soccer is a very popular sport for students, and often times they do not get to play very much due to the playing condition of the present soccer field—due to morning watering, muddy areas on the field, morning dew. The morning classes often do not play outside because surfaces (grass/infields) are not conducive to play. Introducing Frisbee Golf to students would be welcome. This is a lifetime activity that many adults play once they have left the high school scene. This activity would be perfectly played on a turf field.

The proposal to bring turf to the football field has complete support from the department chair for physical education. The physical education classes would use it every day they go outside. The Physical Fitness classes could do more outdoor fitness stations. The COED, Girls and Boys classes would have outdoor playing surfaces that were not too wet or muddy to play on. It would really enhance the program.

**Q-46: How many 9<sup>th</sup> graders participate in PE?**

A: For 2011-2012 – 316

**Q-47: How many 10<sup>th</sup> graders participate in PE?**

A: For 2011-2012 – 267

**Q-48: How many 11<sup>th</sup> graders participate in PE?**

A: For 2011-2012 – 183

**Q-49: How many 12<sup>th</sup> graders participate in PE?**

A: For 2011-2012 – 180

**Q-50: When do band members start practicing their routines?**

A: The marching band begins learning the drill (routines) in late July during the summer band camp.

**Q-51: How many band tournaments do our students attend?**

A: The Blue & Gold Brigade has traditionally participated in up to four (4) marching band festivals per season.

**Q-52: What is the location of the tournaments?**

A: In the last six seasons, the marching band has participated in the following festivals: Carrollton High School Marching Band Festival, Lee's Summit North High School Marching Band Festival, Raytown High School Marching Band Festival, Missouri Day Festival (Trenton, MO), Webbstock Marching Band Festival (Webb City, MO), Tournament of Champions Festival (MoWSU, St. Joseph).

**Q-53: Are the tournaments always in the same locations?**

A: Yes. Typically those schools (or organizations) that host a marching band festival make it an annual event at their school/university.

**Q-54: What is the amount of revenue produced from a tournament?**

A: Several Festival Managers were contacted regarding this question. The generated revenue from a marching band festival has many variables: Festival of Champions-UCM (\$13,000-\$25,000-30 years existence), Lee's Summit North High School (\$10,000-\$20,000 minus all expenses-15 years existence), Blue Springs High School (\$10,000-25 years existence), Tournament of Champions-MOWSU (\$4,000-17 years existence), Webbstock-Webb City (1st year-\$4,500/ This past year-\$16,000-7 years existence), Raytown High School (\$3000 in 2008-10 years existence-no reply from current band director), Odessa High School (No reply), Missouri Day Festival-Trenton, MO (No reply), Carrollton High School (No reply).

**Q-55: When were the pictures of the football field taken?**

A:

- GHS football field photos were all taken by Public Relations during the last week of November 2011
- All Ray-Pec photos except the aerial shot were taken by Public Relations during the last week of November 2011  
The aerial shot was provided by Ray-Pec and was taken August of 2010
- All Belton photos were taken by Public Relations during the last week of November 2011
- All Ruskin photos were taken by Public Relations during the last week of November 2011
- Truman High School photos was provided by Independence and was taken in July 2010
- Excelsior photo was provided by them and was taken in June 2010
- Staley photo was provided by them and was taken in August 2010
- All Blue Springs photos were taken by Public Relations in January 2012

**Q-56: Has a soil analysis ever been done on the field dirt?**

A: A full soil analysis has not been completed; a limited analysis to check the pH levels (used to determine appropriate treatment needs, i.e. fertilizer mix, etc.) has been done.

**Q-57: What are the other duties of the person responsible for the field?**

A: Plumbing, grounds work, other general maintenance work.

**Q-58: What qualifications or training does the person responsible for the field have in regards to keeping our field in good condition?**

A: The assigned district employee is a successful farmer; which gives him the understanding on how to maintain fields, he has license to apply chemicals, and he is following the recommended treatment from John Deer Landscapes, which is the same program that the KC Chiefs and Royals are using to maintain their fields.

**Q-59: Do we have a sprinkler system for the field?**

A: Field irrigation occurs utilizing an above ground watering wheel.

**Q-60: What time of day is the field watered?**

A: From 7 am to 3 pm.

**Q-61: If turf is installed, will there be someone on hand throughout the day to vacuum the field after a rainstorm to remove excess water?**

A: No. There would be no need to remove excess water on field due to drainage system.

**Q-62: How many people other than administrators, teachers, school board members, employees, and newspaper people have shown up at the informational meetings so far?**

A: GHS – 31; MC – 18; GMS – 14

**Q-63: Are the football players responsible for washing and maintaining their own uniforms?**

A: No. The coaches/managers do it.

**Q-64: What is the cost for a new and improved scoreboard?**

A: Unknown at this time, will be determined through bid process.

**Q-65: What is the cost for a new and improved entryway to the field?**

A: Unknown at this time, it will be determined through a bid process.

**Q-66: Before school starts for the year, what time of day does the football team practice?**

A: 7 am.

**Q-67: Before school starts for the year, what time of day does the band practice outside?**

A: The Color Guard Summer Camp runs for one week in July. The time varies from year to year; however, typically the camp hours are from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. The Drum Line Camp also runs for one week in July. The times are traditionally from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. The Full Band Camp runs for one week in late July. Due to outside temperatures, it runs from 6:30 am - 1:00 pm. As well, two Saturday mornings in the late summer are used for Full Band practice - normally running from 6:30 am - 1:00 pm.

**Q-68: How many students are on the football teams that would be playing on the field?**

A: 100 – 120

**Q-69: How many students are on the soccer teams that would be playing on the field?**

A: 25 – 30 boys; 30 – 35 girls

**Q-70: How many students are there at the high school?**

A: 1,000

**Q-71: How many students are there in the district?**

A: 3,801

**Q-72: Has any one contacted Josh Freeman for sponsorship of a new field?**

A: District administration is unaware of any contact.