

## Superintendent's Corner

During the May 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Meeting, the Board approved the first of two resolutions needed to place a school funding issue on the November ballot. The primary focus of the funding request is to provide for safe and appropriate facilities for our students and staff. One of the pieces of our funding request is the construction of a new stadium, track, and multipurpose facility on our school's campus.

I'd like to take a moment and start the conversation as to why the District feels this is needed. Anyone who has attended an event at our current facility can speak to its limitations. First the home bleachers not compliant with current ADA requirements. This is a barrier for many of our elderly and disabled fans from enjoying a football game, band performance, track meet, etc.

Additionally, the light poles are aging and costly to maintain and operate. Every year the Athletic Dept. spends thousands of dollars replacing bulbs, only to have additional bulbs go out early in the season, providing inadequate lighting and, frankly, an eyesore for our spectators. New lights would be more energy efficient and reliable, allowing the Athletic Dept. to spend additional resources on our student athletes.

The scoreboard needs attention. Due to its age, we cannot find replacement parts, often relying on used parts with a shorter lifespan and a bit of ingenuity to keep things working on game day.

The field itself, has peaks and valleys with divots that can cause injury to our students. It doesn't drain properly, often causing ponding of water on track, which prematurely ages it. The track needs resurfacing more often than normal due to this inadequate drainage.

The facility lacks adequate rest rooms, causing the district to rent port-a-johns for the season. Additionally, it lacks adequate locker room space. This results in our football players having to change at the high school on game days and then be bussed to the field. After the game, a bus then takes them back to the high school. This is a costly practice...ones that divert resources away from other programs.

Additionally, there is lack of adequate parking. This often leads to serious ruts in the field that is used for parking, as well as cars being stuck on a regular basis.

As I shared earlier, this is only the start of the conversation as there are other limitations to our current facility; limitations that pose both a safety risk and an issue of adequacy for our students, families, and fans.

In the coming months, future articles will address why now is the perfect time to expand our campus to include an athletic facility, how the request for funding is structured, as well as, other projects and benefits to our school community with the passage of the funding request.

The district is currently forming a committee to promote the benefits of this project. If you are interested in learning more or joining this committee, please email me at [bromano@nlschools.org](mailto:bromano@nlschools.org).

If you have questions on this or any other school related matter, please call, email, or stop in.

Until Next Time....GO WILDCATS

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