



WESTLAKE FIELD BOND REFERENDUM Q&A

HOW FREQUENTLY DO WE HAVE TO CANCEL/CHANGE EVENTS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON OUR HOME FIELDS DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS?

Unpredictable weather can be challenging for teams who do not have artificial turf, especially late in the fall or early in the spring season. It is difficult to find a field location when a game is postponed for weather or drainage issues. Often, there is a cost of \$300-\$500 incurred for renting neighboring facilities.

- In the 2017/18 school year, there were 81 games and practices cancelled or rescheduled due to weather. For spring sports, the fields are often not ready to start in early March, making it difficult to compete with schools that have turf. Cancelling games often means teams need to play four games in five days during April and May, which is not ideal for rest, practice and risk of injury.
- The 2018/19 school year brought better weather with only 44 changes to the schedule, but the post-season brought new challenges. Coaches and athletes who worked hard to gain a home field advantage in playoffs often had to give up this advantage due to wet weather and saturated fields.

Physical Education experiences these challenges regularly because they have outdoor classes every day in the fall and spring. Continuity of instruction is gravely affected when the weather eliminates the possibility of being outdoors. The curriculum units must be transitioned indoors, often requiring a completely different lesson plan.

WHAT OTHER SCHOOLS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY DON'T HAVE TURF?

Mount Pleasant is one of four districts in lower Westchester County that doesn't have any turf fields. The other districts are Ardsley, Croton-Harmon, and Rye Neck.

WHAT IS THE FULL SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE PROPOSED BOND?

If approved, all the athletic fields at Westlake High School/Middle School will be upgraded. The main competition field (Field A on site plan proposal) will be replaced with artificial turf and the surrounding track and endzones will be resurfaced. The field will be outfitted with lighting, a scoreboard, a press box, new Track & Field jumping pits, shot put and discus areas, goals for football, soccer and lacrosse, and protective netting so track can practice safely.

"The Patch" (Field B), as well as the Upper Field (Field C) will be excavated to create two more regulation size fields allowing us to rotate use of fields for competition and providing time for recovery. They will be configured with irrigation and proper drainage. Both fields will have electronic scoreboards and safety netting. Field B will be fitted with football uprights/goals.

The lower baseball field (Field F) will be configured with irrigation and drainage while the upper softball field (Field D) will have irrigation installed. Both fields will receive new dugouts, bullpens and backstops.

There are other significant costs in relation to meeting the mandates of the Department of Environmental Protection, including creation of drainage systems and retention systems that will control the velocity and flow of water off of our fields.

WHEN WILL THE TENNIS COURTS BE READY? ARE THEY INCLUDED IN THIS BOND PROPOSAL?

The reconfiguration of the tennis courts was included in the 2016 capital improvement work. The new courts are already paved and are ready to be sealed, lined and fenced over the summer. They will be fully operational for the Fall 2020 season.

WHAT WORK HAS THE DISTRICT DONE WITH THE ANNUAL CAPITAL BUDGET?

Since 2016, the Board of Education has committed to appropriating \$1.6 million to an annual Transfer to Capital for improvement and maintenance of our facilities. Projects that have been completed include exterior facade and cupola renovations at HES, roofing and HVAC replacement at CES, and elevator replacement at WMS/WHS.

Some of the projects that are in design stages include improvements to the theater rigging in the High School auditorium, hallway ceiling and light replacements at the High School, creation and improvement of STEAM lab space in the Middle and High Schools and funding for High School PE locker room renovation in the High School PE and athletics space.

DON'T WE HAVE A "RAINY DAY" FUND TO COVER THE COST OF THESE EXPENSES?

The district does not have money set aside for expenses related to this project. The district does have money set aside in reserve accounts for specific expenses such as tax refunds, retirement system and unemployment payments as permitted by NYS law. In addition, the district is permitted to retain up to 4% of the subsequent year's budget, known as unassigned fund balance, to help cover unexpected revenue shortfalls and emergency expenditures. With voter approval the district may also establish a reserve account for future capital improvements, though this account has not been created at this time. The source of funds for all of the above categories would be unanticipated revenues and/or cost savings achieved in the annual budgets.

HOW CAN I VOTE IF I WON'T BE IN TOWN ON MARCH 31?

Anyone that is registered to vote and will not be in Westchester County on the date of the bond referendum may be eligible to apply for an absentee ballot. To receive an absentee ballot, an application must first be completed. The application can be requested in person at 825 Westlake Drive or in writing from the District Clerk, Mary Beth Mancuso (mmancuso@mtplcsd.org) or downloaded at https://www.mtplcsd.org/voting__registration_information.

If the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the completed application must be received by the District Clerk no later than seven days before the vote (March 24, 2020) and the ballot will be mailed to the voter no later than six days before the vote. If the voter, or his/her designated agent, is picking up the ballot in person, the application must be submitted no later than the day before the vote (March 30, 2020). The District Clerk must receive the completed absentee ballot by 5:00 pm on March 31, 2020.