



# VOTE MARCH 31, 2020

## WESTLAKE FIELD

### BOND REFERENDUM

# Q & A

#### WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO MAINTAIN GRASS FIELDS?

In 2014, an outside company called Tri Turf was used to replace sod in between the hash marks on the main competition field at a cost of approximately \$25,000. The very high usage on our fields by physical education classes, high school and middle school sports and community sports groups precludes us from extra maintenance beyond regular mowing, aeration, and overseeding. One grounds person in the district is assigned the task of mowing, aeration, and seeding. This person would be trained to use the new groomer for the turf field.

#### WHAT MATERIAL WILL BE USED IN TURF?

We are currently basing estimates on a coated sand infill product. The benefits of sand infill are that it absorbs shock, stays cooler and avoids the typical black particles often seen on turf fields. The final product used will be determined once all construction bids are received.

The grass blades on top of the infill are produced using a combination of Slit Film and Monofilament Artificial Turf. The difference between the two is the way the blades are cut and assembled. Over time, Slit Film blades lean over like natural grass and trap the infill effectively, while Monofilament appears more like natural grass with the blades standing up straighter. Using a combination of the two gives the benefits of being durable and cost effective while at the same time keeping the turf looking new and more like natural grass. Most high schools with multiple sports choose this option.

#### HOW LONG WILL TURF LAST?

The average lifespan of turf is 10-15 years, depending on the amount of use. Current estimates for replacement of turf are approximately \$1,000,000, but this cost would be subject to market conditions at the time of replacement.

#### WHEN WILL WORK START? HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

If the bond is approved, the first step would be the design phase which would then go to the State Education Department (SED) for review. Construction is anticipated to start Spring 2021 with work continuing through Summer 2022, with a break during the winter months. The work must be done in phases as the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that work is completed in 5 acre increments (approximately one field at a time). Each field must pass inspection before moving on to the next field.

#### IS AN EMERGENCY ENTRANCE BEING CONSIDERED?

No. However, under the 2016 bond work currently underway, a new entrance drive is being installed. This new entryway will allow the existing entryway to be reconfigured into two exit lanes, easing traffic congestion and allowing better access for emergency vehicles. Any other consideration of an emergency egress would be cost prohibitive.

#### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO RUN A SPECIAL ELECTION?

The Facilities Bond election in October 2016 cost the district approximately \$10,000. Expenses include hiring of voting staff and election technicians, legal advertisements and other miscellaneous expenses.

A special election in 2020 is estimated to cost approximately \$15,000 (actual cost varies due to labor and incidental costs). The increase is due to several upgrades mandated by the federal government, including the requirement to translate all documents into Spanish, upgrading from lever to scanner machines, using printed ballots and electronic poll books.

#### WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFO?

Ask questions at the Elementary and Middle School PTA meetings: Tuesday, February 11

Join us for an upcoming board meeting in the Westlake Library: February 12, March 11, and March 18

For more information, please scan the QR code at right or visit our website at:

[www.mtplcsd.org/2020\\_Field\\_Improvement\\_Referendum](http://www.mtplcsd.org/2020_Field_Improvement_Referendum)

