



**RE: STADIUM SURFACE COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

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Township High School District 211 is considering the installation of artificial surfaces at each of its five high schools. As a follow-up to its meeting on February 28, 2008, the Board of Education and administration are requesting feedback from school parent groups regarding the possibility of installing an artificial surface and track replacement at each school stadium site.

A Stadium Surface Committee was formed for the purpose of collecting information for research and discussion in the areas of field usage, safety, maintenance, and financial.

- What is artificial turf? Synthetic turf is a carpet-like surface covering made of man-made materials that are grass-like in appearance and function. When used on playing athletic fields, it provides a consistent playing surface built to withstand extended use without downtime for recovery.
- What is an artificial turf system? Most systems installed today include a drainage layer, a composite or multi-layered backing system, and resilient grass blades that are infilled with a granular filler to resemble natural turf. "Infilled" means that the surface contains grass blades made of man-made materials interspersed with a top soil made of sand or rubber or a combination thereof that provide the stability and uniformity needed. Each blade customarily stands above the infill material
- What are the real benefits of artificial turf? An artificial surface will afford wider use of existing facilities to include, but not limited to, physical education classes, marching band, football, soccer, and lacrosse practices and contests.

**Safety issues looked at:**

- The risk of injury
- The risk of exposure to MRSA and other infectious diseases
- The risk from exposure to heat related illnesses and CO2 exposure
- The risk related to sanitary conditions
- The risk of exposure to crumb rubber, toxicity and silica sand

**Field usage comparison: Current to Projected**

Current – Inefficient/under-utilization of stadium space used 5% of total allowable time

Land locked facilities

Projected use of stadium space at 78% of total allowable time. (106 Days)

How will the stadium surface space be used:

- Physical Education 41%
- After school athletics 26%
- Band/Spirit groups 15%
- Summer use 18%
- (Curricular, Athletics, Activities, Summer Leagues/etc.)
- Increased Contests Use – (Fewer cancellations) Reduces Off-Site Needs
- Reduces over-use of current practice facilities (Allows for more field rotation)

The following chart compares the current hours and projected hours of use in each school's stadium by season and athletic/activity area.

### Stadium Facility Usage 2008-2009

|                          | Canant        |                 | Fremd         |                 | Hoffman       |                 | Palatine      |                 | Schaumburg    |                 |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
|                          | Current Hours | Projected Hours | Current Hours | Projected Hours | Current Hours | Projected Hours | Current Hours | Projected Hours | Current Hours | Projected Hours |
| PE Curriculum            | 0             | 225             | 0             | 225             | 0             | 250             | 0             | 250             | 0             | 225             |
| <b>Football</b>          |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |
| Practices                | 0             | 70              | 0             | 72              | 0             | 60              | 0             | 72              | 0             | 70              |
| Contests                 | 40            | 50              | 34            | 44              | 20            | 50              | 20            | 46              | 20            | 46              |
| <b>Boys Soccer</b>       |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |
| Practices                | 0             | 60              | 0             | 90              | 0             | 70              | 0             | 64              | 0             | 70              |
| Contests                 | 64            | 82              | 44            | 60              | 32            | 50              | 52            | 68              | 32            | 54              |
| <b>Activities</b>        |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |
| Band                     | 18            | 125             | 18            | 135             | 0             | 125             | 5             | 125             | 10            | 135             |
| Spirit Groups            | 0             | 64              | 0             | 70              | 0             | 64              | 10            | 70              | 0             | 72              |
| Powder Puff              | 0             | 0               | 0             | 0               | 2             | 42              | 2             | 42              | 2             | 42              |
| Girls Soccer             | 56            | 140             | 110           | 138             | 32            | 156             | 24            | 100             | 32            | 126             |
| Boys Lacrosse            | 24            | 100             | 16            | 120             | 24            | 100             | 12            | 100             | 24            | 100             |
| Girls Lacrosse           | 0             | 0               | 12            | 100             | 0             | 0               | 12            | 100             | 6             | 100             |
| PE                       | 0             | 330             | 0             | 360             | 0             | 350             | 0             | 320             | 0             | 315             |
| Activities               | 1             | 58              | 0             | 18              | 0             | 50              | 0             | 35              | 1             | 81              |
| PE Curriculum            | 0             | 60              | 0             | 60              | 0             | 60              | 0             | 60              | 0             | 60              |
| <b>Summer Athletics</b>  |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |
| Football                 | 0             | 120             | 0             | 120             | 0             | 120             | 0             | 120             | 0             | 120             |
| Boys Soccer              | 0             | 110             | 0             | 110             | 0             | 110             | 0             | 110             | 0             | 110             |
| Girls Soccer             | 0             | 110             | 0             | 110             | 0             | 110             | 0             | 110             | 0             | 110             |
| Boys Lacrosse            | 0             | 40              | 0             | 40              | 0             | 40              | 0             | 40              | 0             | 40              |
| Girls Lacrosse           | 0             | 0               | 0             | 40              | 0             | 0               | 0             | 40              | 0             | 40              |
| <b>Summer Activities</b> |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |
| Band                     | 0             | 16              | 0             | 16              | 0             | 16              | 0             | 16              | 0             | 16              |
| Spirit Groups            | 0             | 50              | 0             | 50              | 0             | 50              | 0             | 50              | 0             | 25              |
| <b>Summer Rentals</b>    |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |               |                 |
| Feeders                  | 0             | 48              | 0             | 48              | 0             | 48              | 0             | 48              | 0             | 48              |
| Park District            | 0             | 48              | 0             | 48              | 0             | 48              | 0             | 48              | 0             | 48              |
| Misc.                    | 0             | 16              | 0             | 16              | 0             | 16              | 0             | 16              | 0             | 16              |
| <b>Total Hours</b>       | <b>203</b>    | <b>1,922</b>    | <b>234</b>    | <b>2,090</b>    | <b>110</b>    | <b>1,985</b>    | <b>137</b>    | <b>2,050</b>    | <b>127</b>    | <b>2,069</b>    |

#### **Other field surface/track areas looked at:**

Soccer field width of 65 yards is recommended, wider where possible

Six or Eight lane tracks

Boys & Girls Lacrosse fields are different sizes

Assumed a five (5) year replacement cycle for turf & a ten (10) year replacement cycle for track surfaces

Environmental issues considered

Cost comparisons by hours of use

Repair and maintenance considerations

Ten (10) week construction window is required for the turf-only component

Drainage issues are priority. Large pipe, under the new turf, may be the best solution

Survey, engineering services, permitting – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)

#### **Project Funding Consideration:** Outright purchase (Operations/Maintenance Fund):

Installing artificial surfaces at all five schools would be approximately \$1,300,000 per field or \$6,500,000 overall. Existing Operations/Maintenance funds can be used to accommodate this expense. Funding for these projects has been set-aside in the Operations/Maintenance Fund and is not related in any way to the Educational Fund referendum proceeds from 2005.

Other funding sources considered included: Lease/purchase, business partnerships/fundraiser, and available grants.