

# BOND UPDATE

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

## WHY TURF?

Hello Ram Fam,

As this is groundbreaking month for our bond projects at the Primary School and High School, we will be sharing regular updates on the progress of these two projects. Today I want to share with you some of the considerations that went into the turf vs grass decision.

In November 2021, a committee of 15 individuals began working on plans for the athletic field. Committees are always formed when projects begin their design phase, to be sure stakeholders are involved who do the homework and final design of the projects. In addition to G-A staff, coaches, and representatives from the construction management team, representatives from the Board sit on the committee for the multipurpose athletic facility, and report back to the rest of the Board of Education.

**A Multi-Purpose Facility:** When we began working on our facilities plan back in 2019, we were very clear that this facility was much more than football. Our community wanted to see a new track and field stadium after 20 years of not having a track and field available for our athletes in 20 years. The idea of community walks on the track was also discussed. Physical Education classes will be able to use the space. There may be an increased interest in soccer, and softball and baseball teams may be able to use the space while waiting for their fields to dry out and be prepared for use.

In addition, we have an amazing music program at G-A and we want to increase opportunities for those students. An example of this would be hosting marching band competitions. Turf is a better surface for marching band. Turf better allows multiple groups to utilize the space at the same time, as well will not need to worry about tearing up the field. Use of the turf field is also less dependent on weather than grass.

**Safety:** Safety is always a concern, and the committee did evaluate what information is out there, visited other turfs and spoke to multiple coaches and Athletic Directors. They also received information from other districts about their evaluation of safety of turf, grass, and turf plus pad. There is no definitive answer as to which is safest; rather there are other variables that come into play, including the importance of the depth of the composite of sand and small rubber pellets that go into the turf grass. Maintenance of that composite is also key for safety, as well as life of the turf.

Because we had interest earnings that were significantly higher than anticipated due to the market and the additional funds saved due to the sale of the bonds, the District is able to pay for the turf out of undesignated funds. We are looking forward to playing a couple of home games next year.

Go Rams!

Wendy Somers, Superintendent



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