



To the Residents of Bolton, Lancaster and Stow,

On May 7th, each of our three member towns passed an article at their respective Annual Town Meetings to allow the Nashoba Regional School District to establish a Track and Field Stabilization Fund for the Nashoba Regional High School (NRHS). The School Committee and Administration are grateful to the residents of Bolton, Stow and Lancaster for their support in passing the article. During the Bolton Annual Town Meeting, residents questioned the need for a stabilization fund because they were told by the previous administration that the track and field would be self-funding, further, that the \$1.28M required for the project would be, "managed through the District Operating Budget and will not be an additional expense to the towns." [Track and Turf Field FAQ \(2012\)](#)

Superintendent Clenchy and her team reviewed all district-generated documents regarding the project and worked with the School Committee Chair to create the following Q&A to answer the questions we received from Bolton residents. Since the topic is of interest to residents in all three towns, we are posting this Q&A to the district website and distributing to our local news outlets to ensure all residents of the Nashoba community are informed.

Q. In 2012, those attending all three Annual Town Meetings were told that the track and field would be self-funding through gate receipts and fundraising efforts to help offset the costs each year. Has that happened?

A. Through our research, we learned that an initial request was sent to Nashoba alumni and community members, however, ongoing fund-raising campaigns did not occur. The last donation was received in 2014. The total of all donations received is \$14,801. Those funds have remained in an account, untouched, and will now be transferred into the new stabilization account as the first deposit.

Q. What is the annual cost of the track and field?

A. Our typical annual expenses include a maintenance fee of \$40,000 to replenish the field's pellets and regular maintenance costs. Gate receipts help offset that cost. In addition, our annual bond payment, which funded the build of the project, is \$177,700 for FY19. \$125,000 of that is funded through related revolving funds and the balance comes from the regular budget appropriation. The project is expected to be paid off June 30, 2028.

Q. Are gates receipts (admission fees collected from spectators) used to offset the cost of maintenance and debt from the bond?

A. Yes, these receipts are applied to the cost of the turf field. Annually, we receive an average of \$50,000 in total gate receipts for events held and hosted at NRHS which includes regular football games. This does not include approximately five MIAA events annually which are hosted on our fields. In those instances, Nashoba is only reimbursed for the cost of the game officials, police detail and custodial staff required to host the games.

Q. If total gate receipts have not been used to offset the cost of the track and field, what have they been used for?

A. In prior years, some of the proceeds from gate receipts were used to offset the cost for game officials, police detail, athletic supply related expenditures and did not exceed the total gate revenue we received in any given year. Each year, the remaining proceeds remained in the athletic revolving account. In FY17, the district began using the accumulated balance in the fund to offset the cost of the turf field debt. Beginning in FY18, the accumulated money in the gate receipts revolving fund account is being used for field and related expenses including track debt and police details at Nashoba games.

Q. Why do we need a Track and Field Stabilization Fund?

A. The forensic audit initiative, presented in January 2017, recommended the establishment of a stabilization fund to help plan for the eventual replacement of the turf field "carpet." The field is comprised of several layers. The top layer, or carpet, protects the underlayers. If the carpet is not maintained, the cost to repair could be more expensive as deeper layers break down.

The turf field carpet has a life expectancy of approximately 12 years. Our track and field complex is widely utilized. The wear and tear on it is natural and expected. Our youth sports programs also use our track and field as do residents from our district towns. While we continue to manage annual repairs through our budget process and revolving accounts, we need to think strategically about the eventuality of replacing the turf carpet.

The cost to replace the carpet, in today's dollars, is estimated at \$500,000. We believe we have a few years before we will need to replace it assuming ongoing regular use. A request this sizable will be difficult for our towns to manage in a single year and, if we're forced to cover replacement costs through the district's operating budget, it will negatively impact programs and services across the district. The creation and funding of the Track and Field Stabilization Fund allows us to strategically plan for the years ahead and avoid fiscal surprises for our communities.

Q. Where will the money come from for the Track and Field Stabilization Fund?

A. As mentioned above, we will seed the account with the \$14,801 prior donations that had been made through 2014. Then, as we do at the end of each fiscal year, if there is budget surplus (excluding that in any student paid or grant accounts) the administration will provide recommendations to reallocate those monies to necessary projects or replenish our Excess & Deficiencies (E&D) account for the district. E&D is an account for emergencies that may arise throughout the year and is similar to a town's Free Cash.

The following Q&A and PowerPoint presentations were presented by the previous administration regarding the request for support of the track and field project:

[Track and Turf Field FAQ \(2012\)](#)

[Field And Track Plan Presentation \(March 29, 2012\)](#)

[NRHS Field and Track Presentation for Town Meeting \(May 3, 2012\)](#)

Please contact the Superintendent's office if you have questions.

Thank you,

Brooke Clenchy
Superintendent of Schools

Lorraine Romasco
School Committee Chair