



What's Right with Spackenkill!

Spackenkill Union Free School District

A tradition of excellence with a vision for tomorrow

Special Capital Project Edition, March 3, 2017

Dear Spackenkill Community,

The Board appreciates the feedback we've been receiving on The Capital Project. In this issue we've recorded some of your commentary. Over the next several months the Board will be determining what the scope of the project is and what we can afford. Please attend the public hearing at 7:30 pm on May 23 and express your views. We will listen.

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT TIMELINE 2017

- Ongoing discussions:** March & April Board meetings
- Present payment & budget options:** April 25
- Public hearings:** May 23 & September 19
- Scope completed:** June Board meetings
- Budget established:** June Board meetings
- Vote on project:** November 13

*First Public Hearing May 23, 7:30 pm
Orville A. Todd Middle School*

BOE Discusses Track and Field

The Board of Education meeting on February 21 included a discussion of the High School facilities and track and field. There has been quite a buzz within the district and the community about this project. Presentations have been made by School Business Manager Michele Moloney, Facilities Director Dave Downes, and architect Chris Colby from Clark Patterson Lee about the needs of each school. Visuals from the architect's presentation are on this page. [You can view all of the presentations by clicking here and visiting http://www.spackenkillschools.org/capitalproject.](http://www.spackenkillschools.org/capitalproject)

Hybrid Synthetic Turf Section



Current Field Conditions



Proposed Track & Field

Community Weighs In

Following are comments from the Community Advisory Group and other members of the community. We want to hear from all sectors of the community who are for or against the project to understand your concerns. The next Community Advisory Group meeting is April 4 at 6 pm in the HS library. On April 25, we talk about the payment and budget options at the BOE Meeting at Todd Middle School at 7:30 pm.

"This field, if redone, would become a symbol of what Spackenkill is — and that is a community. Right now it operates as a black eye being that it is right out front for the public to see. It would provide safe grounds for our athletic teams to play on ... give the community a central location to hold big functions, increase participation in all our athletic teams and our marching band, and truly become a symbol of the academic and athletic success that Spackenkill already enjoys."

— **Clinton DeSouza, Alumnus, Teacher, Head Football Coach**

"We know that the work has to be completed. We just have to make sure that we're frugal about it."

— **Tom Keith, Board President**

We want to hear from all sectors of the community.

Please email contactus@sufsdny.org with your comments

"All of the cushioning and support of the track is completely gone. It has become a safety concern for my players."

— **Manny Blanco, Teacher and Head Soccer Coach**

"This would be a multiple use turf field for soccer, field hockey, and football. It could be utilized under conditions that we would not be able to with natural grass. As for the track, it has exceeded its natural life."

— **Dave Downes, Director of Facilities**

"I feel the track and field at Spackenkill High School is an eyesore. Our track in falling apart, the score board doesn't work, goal posts are tilted, bleachers are too small and unsafe, and I've heard visitors comment on them. Spackenkill is a great school academically, but we need to bring up the athletic facilities. We need to draw people back to our community for the good of Spackenkill and our residents, and athletic facilities matter when deciding to move into a district."

— **Kristina Mancini, Parent**

"As we are undertaking a capital project review, it makes sense for us to consider this project, given the opportunity to leverage state assistance. It's going to be a win-win for all of us."

— **Herman Lo, Board Member**

"Spackenkill has always drawn families based on its stellar academic reputation. It would be nice to add to the reputation an outstanding stadium where community members will once again gather, where high school students can get much more use with an upgraded track and a turf field. I would love to see a field that could be utilized for more than just football. Let's keep our district on top!"

— **Erin Ruppert, Alumnus and Parent**

"We are taxpayers of the district and we want our high school to be a showcase for the rest of the community and for other communities who come here to play and participate in our athletic programs. We are very much in favor of a total upgrade and enhancement of the sports facilities at Spackenkill with reasonable costs in mind."

— **Ellen and Victor Stern, Community Members**

Athletes Offer Feedback



In February 22 after school, nine student athletes joined a roundtable discussion moderated by Dr. Mark Villanti, Superintendent of Schools, and Marco Lanzoni, Director of Athletics.



The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current condition of our high school track, which was resurfaced some 12 years ago, and surrounding athletic fields to get students' perspectives and recommendations for future repairs.

These facilities have traditionally been used by our athletic teams and physical education classes. The future vision, explained Mr. Lanzoni, is for all teams, physical education classes, and intramural programs to have access to the field were it converted to turf. "We're looking to increase the outside playability for our students." Dr. Villanti also talked about the importance of the track and field as a community hub that brings people together.

"Playing home games is embarrassing because it becomes a big dustbowl. Falling is like falling on concrete."

— Anthony Sassano, Grade 10, Football

"The track is in poor condition. I've been running varsity track since 8th grade and I've had a shin injury every year. You can see the divots and the rise in the track with the change of seasons."

— Zackary Heraghty, Grade 10, Track and Field

"The grass disappears from the field and turns to dust."

— Kaitlyn Kilpert, Grade 10, Soccer

"The soccer field is in pretty poor condition. There are pebbles and some divots—you could easily roll your ankle playing there. It would be pretty great to have a flat playing surface."

— Jake Donovan, Grade 10, Soccer

"During one of the games, I got tackled and slid and my whole face was covered with dust and I couldn't breathe. We ending up losing the game because I just couldn't do it anymore...."

"I've become covered with cuts and lashes because the field is so dry. The grass is gone. It's a hard surface to play on. It's like playing on concrete the way it scrapes you up."

— Dhyquem Lewinson, Grade 10, Football

"The track is really terrible. The soccer field is baked with dirt."

— Alyssa Welch, Grade 9, Soccer

Mission:

Inspired by a tradition of excellence and a spirit of continuous improvement, the Spackenkill School District will provide all of our students with the academic and social skills necessary to pursue their goals and become responsible citizens in an interdependent global community.

Please email newsletter submissions and ideas to Mary Forsell at mary.forsell@sufsdny.org

Issues of the newsletter are available on the Spackenkill website:

www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive

Vision:

All Spackenkill graduates will be lifelong learners who are inspired to pursue their dreams and contribute to the global society.