BOARD MEMO – INFORMATION ITEM

PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535
Providing Foundations Together, Cultivating Individual Growth

To: Board of Education

From: Cody Martzluf, Superintendent
Chris Newsome, Athletic Director
Tracy Reaska, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2026

RE: High School Track

Background:

- The existing track at Putnam County High School was originally installed in the late 1990s, making it nearly 30 years old. The track was last resurfaced in 2016, approximately 10 years ago. Given the age and deteriorating condition of the facility, the District recently had Scott Engstrom of Greenlight Design Partners and Byrne & Jones Construction evaluate the track.

- Based on the assessments, it is recommended to do a complete reconstruction of the track, rather than simply resurfacing the existing facility. The track has deteriorated to the point where resurfacing is no longer a viable option.

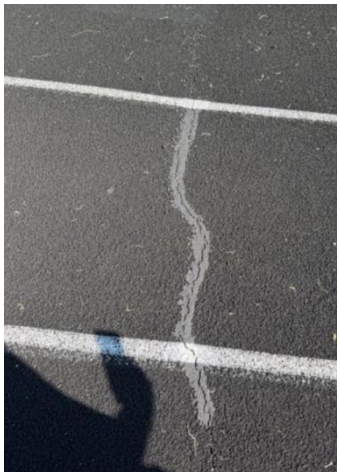
- The current track consists of a latex surface installed over an asphalt base that is showing significant deterioration. Because the underlying asphalt is failing, placing a new surface over the existing track would not address the root cause of the problems and would likely result in continued cracking and deterioration. These conditions also present safety concerns, as movement and cracking in the asphalt can create uneven surfaces and potentially hazardous conditions for student-athletes.



The track surface is starting to complete deteriorate.



The track surface has numerous cracks, and we have been trying to fix them over the years.





The track surface is uneven in numerous locations due to deteriorating asphalt

Proposed Reconstruction

- The District is working with Scott Engstrom of Greenlight Design Partners to design a complete reconstruction of the track, including replacing the existing six-lane track with a new eight-lane facility.

- The proposed project includes:
    - Complete Track Reconstruction: Removal of the existing track and deteriorating asphalt base, followed by construction of a new foundation and installation of a new track surface.
    - The new track would be expanded from 6 lanes to 8 lanes in order for us to be able to host more high school track and field events.
    - Soil Stabilization: Incorporating soil stabilization measures to minimize future settling and shifting of the asphalt base, protecting the District's long-term investment.
    - Spectator Sidewalk: Installing a sidewalk along the track to improve accessibility and provide a designated area for spectators.
    - Perimeter Fencing: Installing fencing around the entire track facility to improve security and protect the District's investment.
    - Inferior Concrete Curb/Wall: Incorporating a concrete barrier along the inside of the track to help protect the asphalt edges from shifting, cracking, and deterioration.

- As part of our planning process, we reviewed the track facility at Stark County High School. We are looking to incorporate several features from that project, including the spectator sidewalk, perimeter fencing, and interior concrete barrier.

Project Timeline and Next Steps

- The District is currently in the design phase with Greenlight Design Partners, which will assist in managing the project from design through construction.

- Our goal is to finalize the design and competitively bid the project as soon as possible, with construction and installation planned for summer 2027.

- While a final project cost has not yet been established, the District is working to develop a comprehensive scope of work that addresses the underlying structural issues and provides a long-term solution.

- My recommendation is to utilize reserve funds in the Operations and Maintenance Fund to pay for this project. We do a one-time transfer of funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund.

Summary:

- After nearly three decades of use, and despite being resurfaced in 2016, the Putnam County High School track has reached the end of its useful life. The deterioration of the underlying asphalt base is too extensive for another resurfacing to be an effective or responsible use of District funds.

- A complete reconstruction is necessary to address the structural deficiencies, improve student-athlete safety, and provide a long-term solution for our athletic programs.

- The administration will continue to update the Board as the design progresses and will present project bids and associated costs for consideration once they become available.