



HINCKLEY-BIG ROCK CUSD #429

Cultivating our future

EXECUTIVE MEMO

TO: The Board of Education
FROM: Brandon Kriesch, Director of Operations
RE: ComEd Lighting Upgrade to HBRHS and Soccer Field

Background:

In order to best serve our students and community, we seek to keep our buildings up-to-date in a fiscally responsible manner. Our building lighting impacts each of our learning environments and has a significant impact on our energy usage. LED lighting is more efficient than fluorescent bulbs and requires less maintenance due to the lifespan of this type of lighting. Transitioning to this lighting provides cost savings in energy usage, maintenance needs, and in expenses related to replacement bulbs.

Recognizing these benefits we have made efforts in the past few years to replace our existing fluorescent lighting with LED fixtures utilizing our own staff. This has been a slow process due to the competing demands on the time of our staff as they complete other needed projects. There is now a need to make these updates a higher priority as Illinois will implement a fluorescent light ban/phase-out beginning in 2026 (Public Act 103-0799).

Through ComEd's Public Standard Efficiency Program we are able to obtain significant discounts on the cost of upgrading our existing lighting to energy-efficient LED lighting throughout the high school and on the soccer field.

An outline of the estimate is as follows:

- **Incentive Offer:** ComEd will cover about 55% of the total high school upgrade cost and 38% of the soccer field upgrade cost.
- **High School:** The cost to replace all lighting in the high school and install upgraded switches and lighting controls is **\$116,350.40** after incentives. (There is a \$93,141.60 cost savings through incentives.)
- **Soccer Field:** The cost to replace the soccer field lighting is **\$59,764** after incentives. (There is a \$30,543 cost savings through incentives.)
- **Program Expiration:** All projects must be completed, and the lights purchased and installed by **December of 2025**.



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Recommendation:

Upgrading to LED lighting has all of the benefits noted above and will provide cost savings to the district over the next several years. In addition, Public Act 103-0799 provides greater impetus to prioritize this work.

The high school lighting upgrade will include mostly new fixtures, new switches in all classrooms, and a centralized lighting control system for the majority of the building. This represents a significant upgrade to the lighting system in this building. The soccer field lights currently create substantial noise while lit and pose a challenge for bulb replacement given the height of the poles. Upgrading to LED fixtures will significantly reduce or eliminate the noise and reduce the need for bulb replacement due to the longevity of the LED fixtures.

ComEd has approved the lighting replacements for both the high school and the soccer field. Both projects have been discussed with the Building & Grounds (BG) Committee. It is recommended that we move forward with the replacements. The incentive funding available through ComEd represents significant cost savings for the district and this funding is currently at a high level that may not be sustained moving forward.