



# NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812  
Phone: 203 312-5770 [www.newfairfieldschools.org](http://www.newfairfieldschools.org)

**Kenneth G. Craw, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

December 4, 2025

Re: Baseball Field Naming Request

Dear New Fairfield Board of Education Members,

## **Introduction**

There is an information item on tonight's agenda regarding the pending request to name the NFHS Baseball Field in honor of former NFHS baseball coach Mike Garbowski. I would like to provide you with additional information and outline several options for your consideration consistent with [Policy 7000](#) that was revised and approved by the Board on June 5, 2025.

In evaluating the request to name the NFHS Baseball Field after former coach Mike Garbowski, the Board may consider the below options. Each option is supported by Board Policy 7000(d)(3) and has clear precedent in the district's past practice. As your advisor, I want to clearly outline the available options, which are listed in no particular order, for evaluating and resolving the naming request.

## **Board Options for Responding to the Naming Request**

### **Option 1: Hall of Honor Nomination**

Policy 7000(d)(3) designates the Hall of Honor as *"the preferred forum to honor individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to the school community."* This route has longstanding precedent: Over the years, many individuals (39) have been recognized through induction into the Hall of Honor for their impact on New Fairfield Athletics. Under this option, the request would be encouraged to proceed as a Hall of Honor nomination rather than a facility naming.

Note 1: Mike Garbowski is not currently in the Hall of Honor; however, his son, Joe Garbowski; former NFHS baseball player and current NFHS baseball coach, was inducted into the Hall of Honor in the early 2000s..

### **Option 2: Name the NFHS Baseball Field After Mike Garbowski**

Policy 7000(d)(3) affirms that naming school facilities is within the Board's prerogative when the Board determines *the need and appropriateness of doing so, establishes guidelines, and seeks community input."*

This option also has precedent. For example, Marty Morgan Field was named to honor the accomplishments of the NFHS lacrosse coach, demonstrating that the Board has previously

chosen to name outdoor athletic facilities for individuals who have made extraordinary contributions.

Note 2: If the Board selects this option, you will need to determine whether the naming recognizes Mike Garbowski alone, or both Mike and Joe Garbowski, the current coach.

**Option 3: Approve a Recognition Plaque (Policy 7000(d)(3))**

Policy 7000(d)(3) states that *“no plaques, signs or memorials...shall be placed in or on any school facility without the recommendation of the Superintendent and the approval of the Board.”* This pathway also has clear precedent. For example, a plaque at the NFHS Stadium Field recognizes longtime educator and football coach John Zinser, demonstrating the Board’s use of plaques to honor individuals without naming facilities.

Note 3: Under this option, the Board may approve a plaque recognizing Mike Garbowski’s service and contributions, to be placed at an appropriate location near the baseball field.

**Additional Background Information Regarding Donations and Facilities Naming**

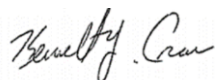
Policy 9000(d)(3) also states that *“if the Board chooses to recognize a major donor in its naming of the facilities, the Board will incur no obligation to the donor beyond the agreed upon recognition.”* While this is not the avenue being sought in the current request, the District has precedent for this approach. John John Pendergast Field (JJP), the turf “box field” located behind the Marty Morgan Field, was built in 2017 entirely through taxpayer donations made in memory of John John Pendergast.

In accordance with the terms established at the time, the field’s ongoing maintenance and upkeep are funded through a separate field-fees account. The Board of Education is not responsible for funding the replacement of the turf. If the reserve account lacks sufficient funds to cover turf replacement, it is understood that the field will not be replaced using Board of Education funding.

**Conclusion**

At tonight’s meeting, the Board’s role is to review these options, ask any clarifying questions and determine whether there is a consensus on a preferred direction. No action is required this evening. Should the Board wish to proceed with one of the options, formal action can be scheduled for an upcoming Board of Education meeting, consistent with Policy 7000 and standard Board procedure.

Sincerely,



Kenneth G. Craw, Ed. D.