



Board of Education

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Executive Director of Business & Operations, Karen Apostoli
 Director of Facilities, Fred Cadena
DATE: January 9, 2025
RE: Middle School Soccer/Football Field

This memo is:

- Information only.
- Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board consent.
- Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: 01/23/25

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- in previous Board packet(s) dated. _____
- or attached to this memo

Basic information:

The administration is requesting Board approval to move forward with planning and bidding on the work required to install a competition-level soccer/football field and make improvements to the existing practice soccer field.

Background or historical information:

The success of the middle school soccer and track teams has led to exploring options available in the Lemay Middle School field for potential competition-level playing fields, as well as, the possibility of adding a track. The addition of flag football as a sport in middle school has also increased the need for multiple playing fields.

With Maura Hirschauer’s support, District 33 received a grant in the amount of \$500,000 for after-school activities and programming. This will indirectly free up local funds for use on this project.

- We have an expired Intergovernmental Agreement with the high school for the use of the baseball field at Pioneer Elementary School. The prior IGA provided some rental revenue that could be used to support the soccer/football field or the maintenance of it should the new IGA be similar.
- We will also be reviewing an existing IGA with the West Chicago Park District. The IGA with the Park District mainly consists of an agreement for the purchase of gas for district vehicles and the mowing of the grass field at Lemay Middle School. With the addition of the ARC Center and Zone 250, the Park District’s use of District 33 facilities has been non-existent. Current Park District programming does not seem to require the use of facilities other than their own.

Some considerations are the items still remaining on both the Life Safety report and the Facility Committee Priority List. In addition, the district will be entering negotiations with all three bargaining units over the next three years.

Previous decisions, actions, or parameters that relate to this topic or issue: (Options) 3 options

1. **Grass Soccer/Football Field** - The field would be leveled, sodded, and striped. The field would be fenced in. A storage shed would be installed. Power would be run to the field, and a scoreboard would be installed. The existing soccer practice field would get a refresh. **Approximate cost \$750,000.** This work could likely be completed during the summer of 2025.
2. **Turf Soccer/Football Field** - The field would be leveled, drainage and turf installed, and striped. The field would be fenced in. A storage shed would be installed. Power would be run to the field. **Approximate cost \$1,500,000** *Any refresh of the existing soccer practice field would be additional.* This work would likely occur summer of 2026.
3. **Turf Soccer/Football Field & Track** - The field would be leveled, drainage and turf installed, and striped. The field would be fenced in. A storage shed would be installed. Power would be run to the field. A track would surround the field. **Approximate cost \$3,500,000** *This option eliminates the soccer practice field and could create problems for multiple sports that require the single field at the same time.* This work would likely occur summer of 2026.

Recommendations: (Recommendations) and (Evaluate)

The Administration is recommending moving forward with Option 1:

Grass Soccer/Football Field - The field would be leveled, sodded, and striped. The field would be fenced in. A storage shed would be installed. Power would be run to the field and a scoreboard would be installed. The existing soccer practice field would get a refresh. **Approximate cost \$750,000**

This option provides a full-size competition field, striped for the Chargers, storage, and a powered scoreboard. It also allows for two fields to be shared by sports teams. This option maintains adequate field space for physical education classes during the day and could likely be completed for fall 2025.

Other questions? What else does the Board wish to know?: