

Fleetwood Area School District Foundation

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Kelly J. McNabb, President
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Preparations are being finalized for the construction of a new athletic stadium. This stadium replaces our current facility built in 1968 and will be located on the site of the current football field. The project includes the installation of an all weather eight lane track and an artificial turf field. The new facility will result in significant improvements in facilities for the track and field, cross country, and football teams. The district's soccer and field hockey teams will also play in this new stadium.

The project will include the construction of new bleachers for the home and visitors sides, with a press box on top of the home bleachers, a new score board, and a field house containing restrooms for spectators and locker rooms for home and visiting teams. The field house will contain new facilities for the concession stand and a room for the athletic trainer. Three tennis courts will be added to our existing courts which will be resurfaced. Both the stadium and tennis courts will be lighted to enable night events.

The project also includes additional parking and a new traffic pattern to promote better access to the stadium. The parking area between the middle school and Fleetwood Elementary will be opened when events are held in the stadium. A new drive way will be installed in back of the middle school to allow one-way traffic. Handicapped parking will be available by the stadium entrance.

The entire project is slated for completion in August of this year in time for our fall sports season.

You may wonder whether this project is truly needed. Listed below are the needs that this project will address:

- Our current track is made of cinders and needs to be refurbished and enlarged as the sides and base have worn away over the years. PIAA officials have issued complaints about our facility.
- Our present facility provides only one bathroom for both men and women. We use port-a-potties to provide additional facilities. The new facility will provide adequate restrooms including facilities for the handicapped.
- We have a shortage of locker rooms for teams which has resulted in students not being able to secure their belongings in a locker. The new field house will provide a locker room for both home and visiting teams.
- The artificial turf field will allow more groups to use the facilities. Due to the number of teams (high school, middle school, and youth) using our fields, it is very difficult to maintain the quality of a grass field. We also do not have any regular means of irrigating our field. Concern has been expressed that the condition of the field may contribute to injuries for players. The artificial turf field will provide a consistent playing surface that can be used by all teams.
- Spring sports can use the field as long as temperatures are bearable to be outdoors, rather than having to wait for snow to melt and fields to dry.
- Our present lighting on the Ray Buss Field does not evenly cover the entire field and needs to be upgraded. The inconsistent lighting is a particular concern when we play football games on this field. There is visible warping of the wooden light polls.

- We presently have insufficient tennis courts for a match. Matches frequently can not be completed due to darkness and the must be continued the next day.
- Due to lack of a press box, a lift is presently used by the football team to tape games and provide feedback to the coaches on the field.
- There is presently a lack of parking near the field. This project will expand parking and will provide parking for handicapped individuals at the entrance to the field.
- Our existing bleachers do not meet current construction codes and do not provide seating for the handicapped.
- New fencing will help to secure our fields. In the past we have had some incidents of cars driven on the fields in acts of vandalism.
- The concession stand will be enlarged and upgraded to today's standards. Additional room for product storage in preparation for large crowd events will negate the need to have runners go shopping during a daylong event.
- The field house will provide additional space for storage of equipment that is presently housed in multiple sheds.
- The new facility will enable us to host county and regional events that will increase our revenue.

The Foundation has been raising funds during the past few years to offset the cost of the project to the district. Some leadership gifts have been secured. Fleetwood Bank will be paying for the new scoreboard (at an approximate cost of \$75,000). Dr. and Mrs. Tom Kohl are donating \$10,000 to name the new athletic training room in the field house. We have also secured gifts from the Fleetwood Youth Football for \$5,000, DESCCO Design and Construction for \$5,000, Ray and Betty Buss for \$2,500, a gift from the Class of 2004 for \$2,400, and a gift from A.P. Merkel, Inc. for \$1,000.

The Board of Education has asked the school district's Foundation to raise private funds to provide furnishings and supplies for the interior of the field house. There are a number of opportunities to contribute to this project and receive recognition through a permanent plaque or brick on the field house. Through the end of this month, individuals may purchase a brick that will be part of the front of the field house. Bricks may be purchased for \$75.00 and may be inscribed with your name and short message. For a donation of \$100.00, individuals may donate a new locker. Your name will be inscribed on a plaque to be installed on the front of the locker. Order forms for both the brick and locker are available on our web site under Community Services/Foundation. There are also opportunities for naming rights to larger parts of the project including a locker room, the entire field house, or one of the tennis courts. If you are interested in making a donation to this new facility, please contact Allison at 610-944-8111 extension #1.

The Foundation is also introducing a new program that will save you money on purchases with online merchants and local restaurants. These merchants, in return for your patronage, return a percentage of your purchases to the Foundation. There are over 600 national merchants who participate in the program and include WalMart, Target, and iTunes. There are also 6,000 participating restaurants through restaurant.com (access restaurant.com at the Edvantage web site). Please note that there may be restrictions, including a minimum purchase, to use the discounts available at Edvantage. Go to www.edvantageprogram.com/psada/fasdfoundation to check out the opportunities to save and contribute to the Foundation at the same time.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Fleetwood Area School District Foundation, Kelly McNabb President