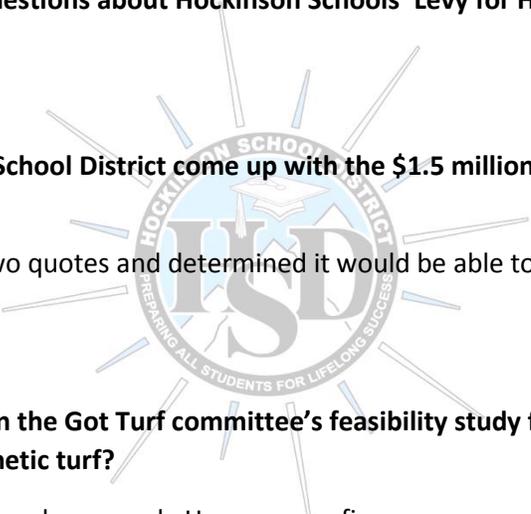


**Levy Q&A: Answers to Questions about Hockinson Schools' Levy for High School Field and Track Improvements
Feb. 3, 2017**



Q: Where did Hockinson School District come up with the \$1.5 million cost for installing synthetic turf and track resurfacing?

A: The district obtained two quotes and determined it would be able to complete the project for \$1.5 million.

Q: Is the district relying on the Got Turf committee's feasibility study for the cost of maintaining natural grass versus synthetic turf?

A: No, the district did its own homework. Here are our figures:

Annual Maintenance Cost & Rentals Estimates	
<u>Natural Grass</u>	
Labor	\$45,000
Grounds Supplies & Equipment	\$14,790
	\$59,790
Rental costs out of District	\$6,000
Total Annual Cost	\$65,790
<u>Synthetic Turf</u>	
Labor	\$2,500
Turf grooming & maint. by manufacturer	\$5,000
Turf Replacement Fund	\$50,000
	\$57,500
Rental Income	\$11,000
Total Annual Cost	\$46,500
Annual Savings of Turf	\$19,290

Q: How much will this levy cost the school district in interest?

A: The interest cost to the capital projects fund is estimated at \$135,000 for the loan at an interest rate of 2.25% (A+ credit rating). The loan starts in 2017, and collections start 2018 and end in 2023.

Interest will be paid for with extra forest funds received into our capital projects fund from the state. (We cannot use a capital levy to pay interest on loans, and we can only spend forest funds on capital items.)

Q: Why is Superintendent Yager on the turf committee?

A: She is on the turf committee as a resource, to answer questions and provide information from the district's perspective. She is not on the committee to advocate for or against synthetic turf.

Q: The turf committee says that if the levy passes it will cost only \$2 more per month for the owners of a \$300,000 home. The district's levy mailer says it could cost \$4.75 more per month. Who's right?

A: Both figures are correct, but they are looking at the cost in two different ways.

The district's view: If the "Turf Levy" is approved by voters, it is projected to cost 19 cents per \$1,000 in 2018 or \$4.75 per month for a \$300,000 home. ($\$0.19 \times \$300,000 / \$1,000 / 12 = \4.75)

The turf committee's view: The Capital Levy for Technology and School Improvements expired after 2016. Without that levy, the district's combined tax rate is projected to be about \$2.75/month less for a \$300,000 home in 2018. So although the turf/track levy would cost \$4.75 a month, it is projected that citizens will pay only about \$2 more than they paid per month in 2016 for a \$300,000 home.

Q: I'm concerned because I've heard that synthetic fields can contribute to increased cancer rates. What is Hockinson doing to make sure our students are safe?

A: Hockinson takes the safety and health of our students very seriously. When it comes to synthetic turf fields, the biggest concern is about fields that use crumb rubber from recycled tires.

If the ballot measure is approved, Hockinson plans to use an alternate material, such as cork, poly-coated rubber or Nike Grind, which is manufactured from the soles of discarded athletic shoes. Our consultant has informed us that the additional cost is not prohibitive, and the alternative materials are comparable in terms of durability.

One benefit of a synthetic turf field is that it would eliminate the need for fertilizers and pesticides, thereby cutting student exposure to those chemicals.

Q: Didn't the district already request funding to resurface the HHS track, provide drainage to the athletic field and mitigate wetlands?

A: Let's look at these topics, one by one:

The HHS track resurfacing

The 2017-2019 Levy for School Programs, Maintenance and Operations, which voters approved in 2016, included a request for funds to make upgrades to the athletic track at HHS. The estimated cost was \$20,000, which would cover application of a seal coat and lane striping, plus some resurfacing of damaged areas. The project is scheduled for summer 2017.

The levy on the Feb. 14 ballot includes track resurfacing, because the heavy equipment used to install the synthetic turf could damage the track. If that occurs, the district would need to demolish and dispose of the existing track surface and install a new one, a project that is estimated to cost \$280,000. If the new Field and Track Improvements Levy is approved, the \$20,000 requested in the 2017-19 levy would be combined with the new levy money to fund the new track.

The HHS athletic field drainage project

The HHS athletic field drainage project cost nearly \$109,000 and was covered by the expired 2013-2016 capital levy. It was our first project on that levy and was completed in the winter of the 2012-2013 school year. Unfortunately, the drainage improvements did not entirely solve the problem of the wet field, because of the field's poor clay-based soil.

With minimal use the field becomes soft and doesn't allow the water to get to the drain lines. Even with continuous maintenance the field does not hold up in wet conditions, and this creates hazardous conditions for our athletes.

Wetland mitigation

The presence of wetlands has caused numerous challenges at HHS, and wetland mitigation is a 10-year project funded in part by the bond that was approved by voters in 2015. Conducting this mitigation is the only way we are able to use the HHS property and build the fields necessary to put us in compliance with Title IX.

Q: Will the track and field be open to public use after school hours?

A: The district has not yet set a policy for field access. If the community votes to fund this project, we will make a decision after carefully considering how best to keep users safe, protect the field and provide opportunities for community use.