

ED COMMITTEE #3
February 19, 2008
Worksession

M E M O R A N D U M

February 15, 2008

TO: Education Committee

FROM: Essie McGuire, Legislative Analyst *EMcGuire*
KL Keith Levchenko, Senior Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: **Worksession – Special Appropriation to the FY08 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY07-12 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS): Current Replacements/Modernizations (No. 926575), \$300,000**

Today the Education Committee will review the Board of Education's request for a special appropriation to the FY08 capital budget and amendment to the FY07-12 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS): Current Replacements/Modernizations (No. 926575), \$300,000. The Council received this request on January 17 and introduced the associated resolution on January 22. The Council held a public hearing on February 12 and is tentatively scheduled to take action on the transfers and amendments on February 26.

The total request for this effort totals \$775,000 and would be approved in two parts. The special appropriation resolution on circles 1-2 is for \$300,000 in contributions from Maryland Soccer Enterprises. In addition, part of the transfer resolution discussed by the Committee in agenda items #1&2 today would allocate \$475,000 to the Richard Montgomery HS modernization for this purpose.

The County Executive has not yet transmitted his recommendation on the transfers as of this printing; however, Executive branch staff report that it should be available at the Committee worksession.

Proposal Description

Superintendent Weast's memorandum to the Board of Education on circles 3-6 provides additional detail on the proposal. MCPS proposes to install an artificial turf field as part of the Richard Montgomery HS modernization. This is viewed as a pilot effort.

MCPS identifies the total cost of the artificial field as \$900,000. As detailed on circle 4, this pilot installation is cost neutral. Maryland Soccer Enterprises will contribute \$300,000 to the project in return for preferred use of the field. Unexpended funds from other capital projects totaling \$475,000 will be allocated to this effort as part of the multi-project transfer. The remaining \$125,000 will be offset as a credit from the contractor for not installing a sprinkler system and sod on the field (this work is already included as part of the modernization).

One significant benefit to the pilot is an increase in the amount of hours that the field can be used, for both MCPS and the community. MCPS is partnering with the Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) to make the Richard Montgomery field available for community use if the artificial field is installed.

Cost-Effectiveness

MCPS provided a detailed analysis of the cost effectiveness of artificial turf compared to natural grass (circles 8-10). According to this analysis, while artificial turf requires a much larger installation investment, the ongoing maintenance costs are lower. The ten-year cost comparison shows a nearly equal cost for the two fields. The costs of the artificial field support a much larger amount of use that can be programmed, resulting in a lower per-hour-of-use cost for artificial turf (see analysis on circle 10).

Programmatic Concerns

Currently, MCPS does not permit community use of its high school fields, and programs 270 hours of use per year for MCPS athletic competitions. MCPS anticipates scheduling 1,882 hours of use per year for MCPS and community use for an artificial field. As noted earlier, MCPS plans to work with CUPF to schedule community use of the field.

One concern that has been raised is whether the agreement with Maryland Soccer Enterprises (MSE) for preferred use would monopolize use of the field and limit the community use benefit. The table on circle 11 shows that MSE would have use of the field for a total of 837 hours per year. This would leave 1,045 hours available, still significantly more than the 270 hours per year total that are available now with natural grass fields.

The time reserved for MSE is largely weekends and evenings, which could impact community use. The agreement is for five years, and it is unclear whether this type of agreement would be part of any future fields. **This is one aspect of the pilot that will be important to assess and monitor.**

Environmental Concerns

The switch from a natural to artificial turf field may require additional stormwater management quantity and/or quality requirements because of increases in assumed imperviousness. MCPS is currently working with the City of Rockville to finalize these additional requirements but expects any changes to be manageable within existing resources. It is important to note that the artificial turf field would not be replacing an

unimproved naturally draining area, but rather an area that would be used for a natural turf field already requiring stormwater management controls.

With regard to potential water quality impacts, MCPS staff will be available to speak to this issue at the February 19 meeting and has provided Council staff with studies showing that rubber infill fields (similar to the one MCPS is seeking to use) do not have deleterious impacts on water quality. These rubber infill fields are the same type of fields that are being installed by other school systems and jurisdictions in both Maryland and Virginia.

Health and Safety Concerns

At the public hearing, the Council heard several concerns from one speaker regarding health and safety issues. The speaker expressed concerns regarding sanitization of the field to reduce transmission of infections, particularly staph infections, and the toxicity of the field due to rubber infill.

MCPS will be prepared to more fully discuss these concerns at the worksession. Regarding infection transmission, MCPS has concerns about using certain sanitization products other than the prescribed maintenance of the field. Regarding the toxicity, MCPS provided information from multiple studies concluding that the particles from such materials are not hazardous. MCPS also notes that other jurisdictions are using the same material as is proposed for the Richard Montgomery field and that if such materials are of sufficiently high quality they do not break down and cause the problems that are being raised.

Future Expansion

Both the Superintendent's memorandum and the additional explanation provided by MCPS discuss plans for future expansion of this initiative to install artificial turf fields at other high schools. Circle 8 states that a preferred plan would roll out six high school fields per year in the quad-cluster areas.

MCPS states that the goal would be to have all sites cost neutral by applying revenues generated by community use toward additional fields. Without significant contributions such as the one before the Council today, however, Council staff wonders whether this goal is feasible given the large up-front costs. Council staff also notes that it could be difficult to scale back expansion plans (if necessary due to costs) once communities begin to expect artificial fields and see the benefits in other communities. **The Committee may want to understand more about this revenue analysis and potential future implementation issues.**

Council staff recommendation

Council staff recommends approval of the supplemental appropriation request as well as the associated transfer. In Council staff's view, the pilot effort would likely result in higher quality fields with lower maintenance costs over time while significantly increasing community use and availability. One concern remains whether future fields can be supported given fiscal constraints.

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Resolution: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: County Council

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the FY08 Capital Budget and
Amendment to the FY07-12 Capital Improvements Program
Montgomery County Public Schools
Current Replacements/Modernizations (No. 926575)
(Richard Montgomery High School), \$300,000

Background

1. Section 308 of the County Charter provides that a special appropriation is an appropriation which states that it is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency, or to act without delay in the public interest. Each special appropriation shall be approved by not less than six Councilmembers. The Council may approve a special appropriation at any time after public notice by news release. Each special appropriation shall specify the source of funds to finance it.
2. Section 302 of the County Charter provides that the Council may amend an approved capital improvements program at any time by an affirmative vote of six Councilmembers.
3. The Board of Education requested a special appropriation for the Montgomery County Public Schools' Current Replacements/Modernizations capital project as follows:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Current Replacements/ Modernizations	926575	\$300,000	Contributions
TOTAL		<u>\$300,000</u>	

4. Maryland Soccer Enterprises has agreed to contribute \$300,000 toward the construction of an artificial turf athletic field at Richard Montgomery High School as part of the school's modernization. In exchange, Maryland Soccer Enterprises will get preferred scheduling and

use of the stadium field during non-school hours for a period of five years.

5. This request, in conjunction with a \$475,000 transfer approved as part of Resolution XXXX, provides the total funding needed for the artificial turf field.
6. Notice of public hearing was given and a public hearing was held on February 12, 2008.
7. The County Council declares this request is in the public interest to be acted upon without delay as provided for under special appropriation requirements described in Article 3-Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following action:

A special appropriation to the FY08 Capital Budget and amendment to the FY07-12 Capital Improvements Program is approved for the Montgomery County Public Schools as follows and as shown on the attached project description form.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Current Replacements/ Modernizations	926575	\$300,000	Contributions
TOTAL		<u>\$300,000</u>	

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

January 8, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Artificial Turf Pilot Project for Richard Montgomery High School

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) standard for high school stadium fields is a natural grass surface with an irrigation system. Stadium fields require a high level of maintenance that includes regular cycles of mowing, watering, fertilization, and aeration to maintain the fields in acceptable condition for various high school athletic events. Unfortunately, the majority of our high schools and their Booster Clubs cannot make the financial commitment that is necessary to maintain a natural grass field in excellent playing condition. Therefore, there is a large disparity in the condition of stadium fields across the county. In addition, in order to preserve the stadium fields for use by varsity athletics, outside groups are not permitted to use high school stadium fields. This is understandable given the time, money, and effort invested to maintain stadium fields.

The Department of Facilities Management and the Interscholastic Athletics Unit staff have been evaluating the use of artificial turf for MCPS high school stadium fields. Artificial turf provides a safe and durable surface for various athletic events and requires very little maintenance. The installation of artificial turf fields will eliminate the disparity in the condition of stadium fields among high schools across the county. In addition, the all-weather durability of artificial turf fields provides the opportunity for the fields to be used for a fee by community groups. The cost to install an artificial turf field is approximately \$900,000 per field with approximately 10 years of life expectancy. The 10-year life-cycle cost to install artificial turf is approximately the same as the 10-year life-cycle cost to install and properly maintain a natural grass field.

The final construction phase of the Richard Montgomery High School modernization includes demolition of the existing building and reconfiguration of the athletic fields. This final phase is to be completed by August 2008, and provides MCPS with an opportunity to pilot the installation of an artificial turf field at the school. To help offset the initial cost of the artificial turf field, Richard Montgomery High School has secured a partnership with Maryland Soccer Enterprises; this organization is willing to contribute a lump sum amount of \$300,000 toward the installation of the artificial turf field at the school. In return for its contribution, Maryland Soccer Enterprises requests preferred scheduling and use of the stadium field during non-school hours from February 15 to November 15 for a period of five years, with an option to renew the

agreement for an additional five years. The contribution amount is comparable to the rental cost of other artificial fields in Montgomery County.

The current construction schedule for the Richard Montgomery High School project, along with the contribution amount, provides a unique opportunity to implement the installation of artificial turf as a pilot project. Part of the cost to install the artificial turf can be borne by the contribution from Maryland Soccer Enterprises, and part can be offset by obtaining a credit from the contractor for not installing the irrigation system and sod for the natural grass field that is part of the project. The balance of the cost for the artificial turf can be obtained through a transfer of surplus funds from other Capital Improvements Program (CIP) projects. The cost breakdown for the artificial turf field at Richard Montgomery High School would be as follows:

Item	Artificial Turf
Initial Cost	
Planning, excavation, and specialized sub base	\$ 380,000
Artificial turf material	480,000
Field paint, inlaid lines, logo	21,000
Maintenance equipment - specialized	19,000
Total Cost	<u>\$ 900,000</u>
 Funding for Initial Cost	
Credit for not installing sprinkler system	\$ 25,000
Credit for not installing sod on field	100,000
Transfer from surplus on other projects*	475,000
Contribution from Maryland Soccer Enterprises*	300,000
Total Funding	<u>\$ 900,000</u>

*Additional special appropriation authority required

Staff will develop for the Board's consideration a funding and implementation plan for installation of artificial turf for stadium fields at the remaining 24 high schools. The funding plan will look to offset installation costs through revenues generated by fees for community use, reducing the annual allocations to schools for field maintenance, reductions in water bills, contributions from Booster Clubs that previously have been made to maintain stadium fields, and any other appropriate sources. The goal of this initiative is to make the installation of turf fields at all of our high schools cost neutral. Funds generated by Richard Montgomery High School beyond the preferred use by Maryland Soccer Enterprises will be used to help offset costs for artificial turf fields at the other county high schools.

The following resolution to install the artificial turf stadium field at Richard Montgomery High School is recommended for approval.

Recommended Resolution

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Public Schools standard for high school stadium turf is a natural grass field with an irrigation system; and

WHEREAS, Current technology for artificial turf provides a safe and durable playing field for a wide range of athletic activities and requires very little maintenance; and

WHEREAS, The final phase of the Richard Montgomery High School modernization project includes creating a new stadium field; and

WHEREAS, Maryland Soccer Enterprises is willing to contribute a lump sum of \$300,000 toward the installation of artificial turf for the stadium field at Richard Montgomery High School; and

WHEREAS, Maryland Soccer Enterprises is requesting preferred scheduling to use the stadium field at Richard Montgomery High School during non-school hours from February 15 to November 15 for a period of five years, with an option to renew its agreement for an additional five years for an additional comparable contribution; and

WHEREAS, The contribution amount from Maryland Soccer Enterprises is comparable to other artificial field rental costs in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, The installation of an artificial turf stadium field at Richard Montgomery High School provides an opportunity to pilot the use of artificial turf for the remaining 24 high school stadium fields; and

WHEREAS, Capital Budget funds were not allocated for the installation of artificial turf; and

WHEREAS, The balance of funding needed to install the artificial turf at Richard Montgomery High School can be comprised of a contract credit to eliminate the irrigation system and sod from the planned natural grass stadium field and surplus funding from other CIP projects included in a Board of Education Request for Transfer of Funds dated January 8, 2008; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the installation of artificial turf at Richard Montgomery High School as a pilot project; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education agree to accept the contribution from Maryland Soccer Enterprises in amount of \$300,000 under Policy CNE, *Facility Improvements That Are Not Funded with Montgomery County Revenue*, for the installation of an artificial turf field at Richard Montgomery High School in exchange for preferred scheduling and use of the stadium facilities subject to Board approval of an agreement negotiated with MCPS facilities staff; and be it further

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Council be requested to accept a contribution of \$300,000 from the Maryland Soccer Enterprises for the installation of an artificial turf field at Richard Montgomery High School; and be it further

Resolved, That a FY 2008 special appropriation be requested in the amount of \$775,000 for the installation of the artificial turf field as part of the Current Modernization/Replacement project contingent on County Council acceptance of the \$300,000 contribution from Maryland Soccer Enterprises and approval of \$475,000 of the Board of Education Requested Transfer of CIP Funds dated January 8, 2008; and be it further

Resolved, That the county executive be requested to recommend approval of this request to the County Council.

JDW:LAB:JLL:jlc

Current Replacements/Modernizations -- No. 926575

Category
Agency
Planning Area
Relocation Impact

MCPS
Public Schools
Countywide

Date Last Modified
Previous PDF Page Number
Required Adequate Public Facility

May 18, 2007
7-60 (02 App)
NO

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000)

Cost Element	Total	Thru FY06	Rem. FY06	Total 6 Years	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design and Supervision	32,456	9,198	2,475	20,783	6,520	7,188	5,214	1,540	321	0	0
Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Site Improvements and Utilities	39,161	6,231	4,621	28,309	3,733	12,508	8,093	3,602	373	0	0
Construction	470,051	106,135	18,773	345,143	60,363	75,076	91,309	76,273	34,463	7,659	0
Other	23,386	5,330	580	17,476	4,853	2,735	2,719	4,569	2,000	600	0
Total	565,054	126,894	26,449	411,711	75,469	97,507	107,335	85,984	37,157	8,259	0

565,054

411,711

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000)

Current Revenue:											
Recordation Tax	45,293	0	0	45,293	16,489	6,253	18,544	4,007	0	0	0
PAYGO	600	600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recordation Tax - PAYGO	13,000	13,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schools Impact Tax	15,700	0	0	15,700	0	0	5,000	8,000	2,700	0	0
G.O. Bonds	400,496	82,950	7,829	309,717	43,809	182,603	81,445	72,144	29,157	5,559	0
Contributions	120	120	0	0	0	360	0	0	0	0	0
Current Revenue: General	19,301	0	2,500	16,801	0	4,622	7,346	4,833	0	0	0
State Aid	70,544	30,224	16,120	24,200	15,171	9,029	0	0	0	0	0

98,582

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (\$000)

Maintenance			2,171	297	330	386	386	386	386	0
Energy			847	103	136	152	152	152	152	0
Program-Staff			360	0	72	72	72	72	72	0
Net Impact			3,378	400	538	610	610	610	610	0
Workyears			5.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION

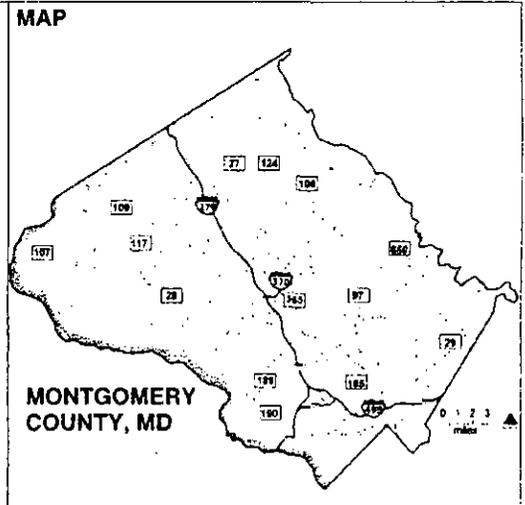
This project combines all current modernization projects as prioritized by the FACT assessments that are in the planning or construction phases. Future modernizations with planning in FY 2007 or later are in PDF No. 886536. The Board of Education has an adopted Replacement/Modernization Policy and decides priority, scope, and timing of projects within the approved funding level. Due to fiscal constraints, the FY 2005-2010 CIP adopted by the County Council, shifted funds for elementary school modernizations beginning with College Gardens ES and shifted funds for the Richard Montgomery and Walter Johnson high school modernization projects. Included in the adopted FY 2005-2010 CIP-- Francis Scott Key MS was moved from the Future Replacements/Modernizations PDF to this project. An FY 2006 appropriation was approved for construction funds for Parkland MS and Richard Montgomery HS, and planning funds for Walter Johnson HS, Francis S. Key MS and College Gardens ES. During the budget process for the amendments to the FY 2005-2010 CIP, the County Council shifted the planning funds for Cashell and Galway elementary schools from FY 2006 to FY 2007, but did not change the completion dates. An FY 2007 appropriation was approved for the balance of construction funds for Richard Montgomery HS, and Parkland MS; construction funds for Walter Johnson HS and College Gardens ES; planning funds for Paint Branch HS, Francis S. Key MS, Cashell, Galway, and Cresthaven elementary schools. The County Council, in the FY 2007-2012 CIP, approved the acceleration of the modernization of Bells Mill Elementary School. Therefore, the FY 2007 appropriation also will provide funding to begin planning for the modernization of Bells Mill Elementary School. An amendment to the FY 2007-2012 CIP was approved to provide an additional \$3.5 million in construction funding for one modernization project. The approved FY 2008 appropriation will provide construction funding for five modernization projects and planning funds for two modernization projects.

FISCAL NOTE

The impact tax reflected in the expenditure schedule shown above is applied to the addition portions of some modernizations within this project.

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA		
Date First Appropriation	FY01	(\$000)
Initial Cost Estimate		29,625
First Cost Estimate		
Current Scope	FY02	447,198
Last FY's Cost Estimate		562,413
Present Cost Estimate		565,054
Appropriation Request	FY08	130,017
Supplemental	FY08	
Appropriation Request	FY07	1075 0
Transfer		0
Cumulative Appropriation		314,813
Expenditures/Encumbrances		137,249
Unencumbered Balance		177,564
Partial Closeout Thru	FY05	151,924
New Partial Closeout	FY06	862
Total Partial Closeout		152,786

COORDINATION
Mandatory Referral - M-NCPPC
Department of Environmental Protection
Building Permits:
Code Review
Fire Marshal
Department of Transportation
Inspections
Sediment Control
Stormwater Management
WSSC Permits
MCPS asserts that this project conforms to the requirements of relevant local plans, as required by the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act.



(7)

2. Artificial Turf Field Request:

- a. Please provide more details regarding the 10 year lifecycle cost of artificial turf fields versus natural turf fields. In the Superintendent's letter he notes that artificial turf fields are assumed to cost \$900k with very little maintenance. Regular turf is assumed to cost about the same over the same 10 year period when taking into account ongoing maintenance costs. Please describe the maintenance costs (per field, per acre, or other metric) required now and how those costs would go away if these fields are put in place at RM and countywide.

Response:

Approximate Cost for Installation

Currently, the highest quality artificial grass infill system can be installed on an MCPS stadium field for approximately \$900,000. This cost includes the design and construction of the substructure, surface layer, drainage system, school logo, grooming brush, new goal posts/installation, and permanent inlaid field markings. Each field would require a site specific plan and design and assumes no additional stormwater management mitigation will be required. It is anticipated that competition in the industry will have companies seeking to lower costs and provide volume discounts. A preferred plan would be to install artificial turf fields at six high school stadiums per year, one per quad-cluster area.

Cost-Effectiveness

The cost-effectiveness of installing artificial grass infill surfaces on MCPS stadium fields can be demonstrated from three perspectives.

- First, in terms of the increased time and opportunities that become available, a single artificial turf field would provide the functional equivalent of six natural grass fields.
- Second, over a ten-year time span, the cost of installing a high-quality artificial grass infill surface is similar to the cost of installing and properly maintaining a natural grass surface. Considering that a single artificial grass infill surface provides the equivalent level of usage and opportunity as six natural grass fields, the savings are immediate and significant over the 10 year life of the field..
- Third, beyond ten years, the field is cost-effective as the replacement cost is about half the cost of new artificial grass installation.

Cost Comparison Over A Decade

Collectively, the school system, individual high schools, and high school booster clubs spend close to \$1 million on the annual upkeep of 25 MCPS stadium fields. The cost efficiency of artificial turf fields increases over time (Tables A-C).

Table A: Cost of Installing Natural Grass Versus Artificial Turf Field

	Natural Grass Field	Artificial Turf Field
Installation Costs	(dollars)	(dollars)
Design and Construction of Foundation	160,000	380,000
Surface Cost and Installation		
Sod for Field	210,000	
Artificial Turf for Field		480,000
Field Paint, Inlaid Lines, Logo	7,500	21,000
Maintenance Equipment		19,000
Sprinkler/Irrigation Installation	55,000	-
Total Installation Costs	432,500	900,000
Annual Operating Costs		
Water Bill	6,000	-
Maintenance *	40,000	6,000
Field Paint, Inlaid Lines, Logo	7,500	2,100
Total Operating Costs	53,500	8,100
* Calculation for maintenance include equipment depreciation (tractor, field liner, tractor attachments), fuel, and labor for professional services		

Table A (continued): Ten-Year Cost Comparison for Natural Grass versus Artificial Turf

Ten-Year Cost Comparison	Natural Grass Field	Artificial Turf Field
	(dollars)	(dollars)
Installation Cost	432,500	900,000
Ten-Year Operating Cost	535,000	81,000
Total Ten Years	967,500	981,000

Table B: Added Benefits per Field over Ten Year Period

	Natural Grass Stadium Field	Artificial Turf Stadium Field
School Team Practice Sessions	0	4,730 hours
Available Hours of Community-Use	0	28,475 hours
Conservation Concerns (Water, Fertilizer)	Significant Concern	None
Cancellations	Regular Occurrence	Seldom
Field Condition Concerns	Significant	None

Table C: A Ten-Year Comparison of Costs-Per-Hour for Available Use of an Artificial Turf Field and a Natural Grass Field

Ten-Year Cost Comparison	Installation/Maintenance Costs	Total Hours of Use *	Cost Per Hour
New Installation and Ten-Year Maintenance of a High-Quality Natural Grass Field	\$967,500	2,700	\$358.00
Appropriate Ten-Year Maintenance of a Current Stadium Field (Excluding Installation Costs)	\$535,000	2,700	\$198.00
Installation and Ten-Year Maintenance of a High-Quality Artificial Turf Field	\$981,000	18,820	\$52.00
* For natural grass fields there are 270 hours of use per year for MCPS athletic competitions			
* For artificial turf fields there would be available a total of 1,882 hours of use per year for MCPS athletic competitions and community use			

b. Are there additional stormwater management requirements associated with artificial turf fields? Are these costs assumed in the cost of the field at RM? Are there any other environmental or health issues associated with the type of artificial turf field being considered?

Response:

While the site improvements at Richard Montgomery High School already include quality and quantity measures for storm-water management, we are in process of reviewing the storm-water management requirements for the artificial turf field with the City of Rockville. The final cost impact for related storm-water management can not be determined until the city’s storm-water management requirement is defined.

c. What type of artificial turf field is MCPS proposing to install? Is there information available regarding the performance of this specific type of field and whether there are fewer or more injuries associated with these fields versus natural grass fields?

Response:

“FieldTurf Tarkett” is the proposed system which is most widely used in the industry and has been procured through bids with other Maryland jurisdictions. Please see product brochure (Attachment #1) for information.

- d. Has MCPS concluded an agreement with Maryland Soccer Enterprises (MSE)?
If so, please forward this agreement to us.**

Response:

MCPS staff is in the process of working through the details of an agreement with MSE.

- i. Please describe how the RM field would be scheduled throughout the year and what blocks of time would likely be reserved for MSE.**

Response:

Please see the table below for field use that would be reserved for MSE:

Dates	Type	Hours	Hours per Day	Days per Week	Weeks per Year	Hours per Year
February 15 - September 1	Weekday evenings	6:30 - 9:00 pm	2.5	3	28	210
April 1 - November 15	Saturdays	2:00 - 9:00 pm	7	1	33	231
April 1 - November 15	Sundays	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	12	1	33	396
Total						837

For all other high school stadium fields with artificial turf the Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) will be coordinating the schedule for the field use.

Table D is a schedule for identifying potential stadium field use for school and community groups. For high schools, the plan provides for teams that share the stadium field to remain on campus to practice. The schedule also includes approximately 2,250 annual high school games and contests that will be played on artificial surfaces.

For community groups, the schedule identifies 28,475 hours of use on lighted artificial turf fields. Comparing the total hours of high school use and community use, Table A demonstrates that 28,475 annual hours will be available for community use (60.5 percent), and 18,575 annual hours for high school use (39.5 percent). It is important to note that the schedule does not identify any field use from November through February.

Table D: Potential Stadium Field Use for High School and Community Groups

School Athletic Use (No Scheduled Use November through February)

Weekends/ Weekdays	Time of Year/Time-Span	Time of Day	Hours Per School	Total Hours 25 Schools
10 weekdays	Late June – Mid August	8:00 am - 2:00 pm	60	1,500
6 weekdays	August 15-21	8:00 am - 6:00 pm	60	1,500
45 weekdays	August 22 - Late October	3:00 pm - 9:30 pm	293	7,325
11 Saturdays	August 15 – Late October	9:00 am - 2:00 pm	55	1,375
50 weekdays	March 1 – Mid May	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	150	3,750
20 weekdays	March 21 – Mid May	6:00 pm - 9:30 pm	70	1,750
11 Saturdays	March 1 – Mid May	9:00 am - 2:00 pm	55	1,375
			743	18,575

Table D (continued): Potential Stadium Field Use for High School and Community Groups

Community Athletic Use (No Scheduled Use November through February)

Weekends/ Weekdays	Time of Year/Time-Span	Time of Day	Hours Per School	Total Hours 25 Schools
10 weekdays	Late June – August 14	2:00 pm - 9:30 pm	75	1,875
30 weekdays	Late June – August 14	8:00 am - 9:30 pm	405	10,125
8 Saturdays	Late June – August 14	8:00 am - 9:30 pm	108	2,700
6 weekdays	August 15 – August 21	6:00 pm - 9:30 pm	21	525
11 Saturdays	August 15 – Late October	2:00 pm - 9:30 pm	83	2,075
11 Saturdays	March 1 – Mid May	2:00 pm - 9:30 pm	83	2,075
3 Saturdays	Mid-May – Late June	8:00 am - 9:30 pm	41	1,025
34 Sundays	March 1 – October 31	Noon - 9:30 pm	323	8,075
TOTAL			1,139	28,475

Summary MCPS Athletic and Community Use

Excluding Use November through February	Percent of Total	Hours Per School	Total Hours 25 Schools
MCPS Athletics Hours	39.5%	743	18,575
Community-user Hours	60.5%	1,139	28,475
Total Hours Available on Artificial Turf	100.0%	1,882	47,050

- ii. It appears that the \$300,000 contribution from MSE provides it with “rent free” use of the field for five years. How was the \$300,000 number arrived at as a fair cost for this field use?**

Response:

The \$300,000 contribution was originally proposed by MSE. MCPS staff met with MSE and negotiated preferred scheduling of the field with an hourly rate that is discounted for long term commitment being made by MSE. Staff is estimating that the rental cost of future artificial turf fields would be approximately \$75 per hour. The field rental rate for MSE equates to approximately \$64 per hour for five years paid in advance. In addition, part of the \$300,000 will be used to pay for stadium lights when needed.

- e. How much revenue does MCPS expect to raise annually from outside uses of the RM artificial turf field (not counting the MSE contribution)? How does this compare to revenue from natural grass fields now?**

Response:

Use of the MCPS high school stadium fields is limited to high school athletic contests only; therefore, there currently is no community use of the fields and consequently no revenue from MCPS stadium fields. The plan is to charge \$75 per hour for use of the field to help cover the future replacement costs of the artificial turf field. Additional fees would be needed to cover ICB fees and stadium lights if needed. The amount of revenue collected would depend on the number of hours of community use on the field. Using the hours available from March through October, there would be approximately 1139 hours available less the hours used by MSE (837) or 302 hours. If 80 percent of the available hours were rented at \$75 per hour the revenue would be approximately \$18,120 of income from field use.

- f. Please provide any additional details regarding how MCPS foresees expanding the use of artificial turf fields countywide in a cost-neutral manner.**

Response:

The installation of the artificial turf at Richard Montgomery HS is a pilot project. MCPS will be considering the installations at remaining 24 high school stadium fields. As staff evaluates the performance of the pilot project, MCPS will develop an implementation plan that would minimize impact on the Capital and Operating budgets, and provide an investment plan to manage maintenance and future replacement costs.