

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

December 5, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Review of Artificial Turf Stadium Field at Richard Montgomery High School

During its November 2018 public hearings on the Capital Improvements Program, the Board heard testimony raising concerns about the newly resurfaced artificial turf stadium field at Richard Montgomery High School. Based on this testimony and on the experiences of some of our student athletes during the fall athletic season, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff initiated a review of the installation and materials of the Richard Montgomery High School stadium field. This memorandum provides an update on the status of this review and outlines some of the next steps in this process.

Artificial turf playing fields are systems of components that include the field base and structure, shock pad, carpet, and infill material. The interplay of all of the elements together impact the playing experience of the field. MCPS staff reached out to the contractor on this project, Sprinturf, to communicate the concerns raised and to request a plan for reviewing and analyzing the field condition. Sprinturf representatives visited and inspected the field with MCPS staff on November 19, 2018, and had follow-up discussions with facilities and athletics staff on November 27, 2018.

These discussions generated an initial approach to reduce the level of the infill and base mixture to allow greater movement of the carpet fibers. This approach is intended to improve playing conditions for student athletes. Sprinturf contractors will begin to reduce the infill depth in an agreed-upon area of the field this week. Facilities and athletics staff will work with the contractor to evaluate the impact on the modified area and determine next steps that may be appropriate.

We will keep you informed as we continue to troubleshoot this issue and work to identify ways to improve the playing experience of the field while maintaining its durability and longevity. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Andrew M. Zuckerman, chief operating officer, at 240-740-3050 or Mr. Seth P. Adams, director, Division of Construction, at 240-314-1000.

JRS:AMZ:emc

Copy to:

Dr. Navarro	Ms. Diamond
Dr. Statham	Mr. Turner
Dr. Zuckerman	Mr. Adams
Mr. Civin	Mr. Sullivan
Dr. Johnson	Ms. Webb