

Frequently asked questions on the plans for Dunlavy Field and Track

Q1. How was the Dunlavy Stadium selected as part of the Measure J bond projects?

- A. Since it was dedicated in 1937, historic Dunlavy Field has been the center of athletic and student activities in the city of Sonora. The stadium was cited by the U.S. News and World Report in 2005 as one of the top ten high school stadiums in the United States and again in 2012 by MaxPrep Publications. The stadium, with its classic stone work and view of the hills, is host to football, soccer, track and field events as well as supporting physical education activities. In community stakeholder meetings beginning in 2010, the stadium was repeatedly named as one of the top priorities for bond supported construction work.

Q2. Why is bond funding being directed at the track? Wasn't there money being raised for this purpose in the community?

- A. The community has been working to build an all weather track through the "Trek for the Track" program since 2007 and raised more than \$ 250,000. These funds were used to purchase lights for the stadium and to pay for design work. It has become evident however after six years of fund raising that the community dollars will not be adequate to complete all of the stadium project objectives.

Q3. Why is a new synthetic field being proposed? Wasn't a new field installed just a few years ago? How was it maintained?

- A. A synthetic turf field was been donated to the community through the television program *Three Wishes* in 2005. It has been in constant use for the last eight years for youth, high school and community soccer, football, track and field, and physical education classes. During this time it was professionally groomed each year by an outside vendor. In addition the district has conducted a regular maintenance program with district staff. It has become apparent that the field has become degraded due to a manufacturing defect. In addition, the inadequate drainage system and the dirt track next to the synthetic field material causes major maintenance challenges. It is being recommended that the field surface be replaced at the same time the all weather track is installed.

Q4. Why does the design call for a six lane track? Why can't it be expanded to eight? Will this limit our ability to compete or host inter-scholastic meets?

- A. The community supports maintaining the historical stadium with the original configuration and seating from 1937. The 19 acre Sonora High School campus has a very small tract of land for playing fields compared to most high schools. Other complicating factors include a creek and adjacent classroom buildings. High school tracks range in size from six lanes to nine limited by the minimum lane width defined by CIF regulations. After a good deal of study and discussion, the architects and construction consultants have recommended a six lane track. This will support dual and tri meets for inter-scholastic competition.

Q5. Why are we spending bond money on sports facilities?

- A. More than 300 students a day use our fields, gymnasiums and swimming pool for physical education courses. Another 150 to 200 students a day use the stadium and track for interscholastic sports practices and contests. These facilities are also used by community groups such as Special Olympics, youth soccer, youth football and school marching bands.

The Sonora Union High School District feels strongly that young people need to develop intellectually, emotionally, and physically. Our sports facilities are educational facilities. Our gymnasiums, pool, track and field are considered important classrooms.