

January 19, 2010

Kiski Area School Board Members

Dear Kiski Area School Board Members:

As parents of the Kiski Area Band members we support the proposal to build an athletic stadium, with artificial turf surface, at the Kiski Area School complex. By doing so we think it will benefit a large number of students in our High School and Intermediate band programs. The marching band itself usually has between 120 to 130 students participating and when the Intermediate students are included in such events like Band Night that number climbs to around 300 students. Adding to that number the cheerleader groups, football players, soccer teams, physical education classes and student fans this facility would encompass several hundred students on any given week at Kiski. Below are some of the benefits we see by having a stadium facility on the Kiski School grounds.

- Size and scope of our Kiski Competition would grow as many bands in the area choose not to participate due to poor field conditions, lack of adequate parking, poor lit streets, and difficult street and sidewalk condition and tight traffic flows around the entrance to Davis Field.
- For our 2009 Kiski Competition the band incurred expenses of \$600 by having to repaint the lines twice on the natural grass surface at Davis Field as well as having to hire shuttle buses from Myers Bus Lines to transport spectators because of the lack of adequate, convenient and safe parking. These costs would not be necessary on an artificial turf surface at a stadium on the Kiski School complex.
- The band would be able to benefit greatly by holding some of their rehearsals on artificial turf instead of only in a parking lot. The band members regularly comment that an artificial turf surface "feels" very differently than the parking lot they have practiced on and to have the opportunity to rehearse on an artificial turf field prior to competitions would greatly benefit the band. This would ultimately give them the tools to better their already nationally recognized standing.
- The band would no longer need to rent a 26' box truck to transport their equipment from the school complex to Davis Field for home football games. This would also greatly reduce the amount of time and effort the boosters have to expend on every home game to pick up and load the truck prior to each game.
- A stadium on the school complex would be built with adequate amounts of room for spectators within and around the stadium. Currently, there are many places at Davis Field where pedestrian traffic is "squeezed" and safety is compromised. Adequate lighting at a new stadium would improve safety for the students and fans at the stadium. Safety would also be greatly enhanced for pedestrians by not having any traffic close to the stadium that isn't related to the event.
- The field use could be expanded to include larger events for football, track invitational's, and band competitions such as the PIMBA (Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association) state Championships. Currently Kiski is excluded from hosting these types of events because of the lack of artificial turf and convenient, well-lit parking.
- There would be no more need to bus the football team from the school complex to Davis Field thus resulting in significant savings over the years.

- There would be a considerable improvement by having our track facilities located with the football field. Here there would be adequate seating and parking for all events.

Davis Field has served the school district and community well throughout the years. We consider this just another evolution of the expansion of the school district and is in no way meant to reflect poorly on the people of Vandergrift. We have many parents in the Booster organization that are citizens of Vandergrift that favor the expansion of a stadium at the school complex because so many of the additional problems noted would be alleviated. We encourage thoughtful dialog and long term planning to place our resources at Kiski towards a stadium at the Kiski School Complex. By doing so we can instill the Kiski pride into our students with a new home of the Kiski Cavaliers!

Respectfully yours,

Richard H. McWilliams,
President, Kiski Area Instrumental Music Boosters Inc.

Judy Herstek
1st Vice President, KAIB

Sandy Bauer
Financial Secretary, KAIB

Jenny Summerhill
2nd Vice President, KAIB

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Sally Painter
Secretary, KAIB

Debbie Beer
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Colleen Blackham
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