

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

RSU5 Track & Field Project Referendum

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

- An 8-lane track and artificial turf field for playing soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and football.
- The facility will replace the main athletic field located behind Freeport High School.
- The existing field hockey field located adjacent to the high school parking lot will be converted to a softball field that will also be used as a multi-purpose practice field in the fall.
- The RSU5 Board is committed to using a non-crumb rubber infill for the field. Construction costs are based on the use of NIKE Grind for both the artificial turf field infill and the track surface.
- Lights, bleachers, concessions, and other ancillary structures are not included in the base project.

WHY DO WE NEED IT?

- Freeport High School does not have a track. The track team is currently bused to Bowdoin College for practice and we do not have the ability to host meets on a home facility.
- Of the 28 schools in Class B, only 3 do not have a track; Freeport High School is one of them.
- A track will enhance program needs in the high school and wellness needs/activities for the RSU5 community.
- The artificial turf field will allow for extended seasonal play time. Grass fields must be rested to avoid damage and are often unavailable due to weather.
- The community benefits as the track is available to walkers, runners and community wellness programs.

WHY NOW?

- The existing field is scheduled to be repaired in spring 2017 as part of the FHS Renovation Project.
- In order to capture money in the FHS Renovation bond, this project must move forward now, prior to the fall 2017 completion of that project.

WHAT WILL THE PROJECT COST?

- The estimated cost of the project is just over \$4M
- A group of your neighbors from Durham, Freeport and Pownal formed a non-profit organization, Tri-Town Track & Field Project, to privately raise funds to build the facility.
 - NIKE has pledged \$1.35M towards the track, to be named in honor of Olympic marathon winner and local resident, Joan Benoit-Samuelson.
- Local businesses, foundations and families have pledged \$930,000, bringing the fundraising total to nearly \$2.3M.
- The Maximum Amount of Potential Bond Issuance for the base project (Article 1) is \$1,184,110.

HOW WILL THE PROJECT BE FUNDED?

- To complete project funding, voters will be asked:
 - to *repurpose and issue* a \$1M bond that was previously authorized (*but not issued*) for the FHS Renovation Project,
 - to *repurpose already bonded* money from the FHS Renovation Project, which consists of \$600,000 that was allocated to improve the fields and up to \$161,182 which is projected in unexpended contingency, and
 - to borrow (*bond*) up to \$184,110 in new money to cover possible shortfalls in pledges or contingency.

WHAT WILL THIS FUNDING COST MY FAMILY?

- Based on the above and a 10-year bond, the estimated *first year, annual contribution for a median-value home* in each of the three towns is as follows:

Article 1 (Base Project)

Durham: \$11.29 Freeport: \$12.36 Pownal: \$14.04

Article 2 (Base plus Lights)

Durham: \$14.67 Freeport: \$16.05 Pownal: \$18.23

WHAT ABOUT LIGHTS, BLEACHERS & ANCILLARY STRUCTURES?

- The base project budget (Article 1) does not include funding for lights, bleachers, and other ancillary structures.
- The referendum questions provide an opportunity (Article 2) for the RSU community to consider funding lights.
- Bleachers and other structures will be prioritized and added as funding allows.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

- January 11th, 2017: Assuming voter approval, engineers would begin to prepare construction and bid documents and work with state and local permitting agencies to seek construction approval
- Spring 2017: Construction begins
- Fall 2017: Project completed to coincide with the completion of the High School Renovation Project.

WHEN AND WHERE CAN I VOTE?

- **January 10th, 2017**
- Absentee ballots will be available on/about December 12th, 2016
- **Durham:** Durham Community School, 654 Hallowell Road, 8am to 8pm
- **Freeport:** Freeport Town Council Chambers, 30 Main Street, 7am to 8pm
- **Pownal:** Mallett Hall, 429 Hallowell Road, 8am to 8pm

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

- Visit RSU5.org