

Meeting Notes from 10/2/09
Sheppard Myers Stadium Facility Meeting

1. Those in attendance:

Art Smith – Board President
Lamar Bortner – Board Member
Dr. Alan Moyer – Superintendent
Troy Wentz - Business Manager
Andrew Samuelsen – High School Principal
Eric Leheman – High School Assistant Principal
Greg Wagner - AD/Activities Director
Tony Grimes - Maintenance Supervisor
Bill Gingrich - PIAA Track and Field Rules Interpreter and official, football official, board president – Northeastern SD, and former Athletic Director.
Jim Baumgardner - Architect
Greg Yingst - Hanover Track Coach

2. Bill Gingrich addressed the group regarding safety concerns regarding the use of the track at Sheppard Myers.

- There should be at **least** 4 – 42” lanes for competition; our lanes are 30”, and the inside lane is unusable due to drainage issues creating a 3 lane track.
- Cinder tracks can become uneven, even when properly maintained, with divots and ruts causing potential falls for athletes.
- Falls on a cinder track can cause serious cuts that are very difficult to clean, and can easily lead to infection.
- Athletes that practice on a different surface than what they are competing on suffer a disadvantage, and are more likely to be injured. This affects both our team at away meets, and teams that come to compete at our home meets.
- Bill strongly suggests that Hanover not host any home meets until a new facility is completed. “I would have a very difficult time, as a PIAA Rules Interpreter, permitting you to continue to host track and field at this site.”
- Administrator’s that were present agreed that hosting track and field events should be halted until a new facility is built. Mr. Smith and Mr. Bortner supported that plan, and said they would inform the other board members of this decision.
- Mr. Wentz suggested, that as long as the money is available, we get started on the building of a new track as soon as possible.

3. Discussion regarding immediate improvements for Sheppard Myers Stadium:

- The visitor’s side bleachers are out of compliance with ADA, and are liability issues.

- Recommendation was made to remove bleachers and visitor's side press box, and designate sections of home bleachers for HOME and AWAY fans.
- Mr. Samuelsen and Mr. Leheman believe that visitor's bleachers are needed to help separate fans and limit potential conflicts.
- Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Wagner shared experiences they have had at schools that only had one set of bleachers at their football stadiums, and the limited problems that were caused.
- Mr. Grimes was instructed to contact potential companies to remove visitor's stands and press box.
- Agreement was reached to try only having stands on one side of stadium with the possibility of adding stands on the visitor's side in the future.
- Scoreboard
 - There are two wire feeds that run from the bleachers to the scoreboard. One of these feeds has been broken leaving one wire operating the scoreboard. If something happens to this wire we will be left without a functioning scoreboard.
 - Mr. Grimes said this is something his staff can handle. He was given the go ahead to handle this project.
- Side stairs into bleachers
 - The stairways on either side of the stands are not compliant, and need replaced. Mr. Grimes has been given the go ahead to start work on this issue after football season.
- Meshing around railings
 - There needs to be fence meshing around the bottom of the front railing on the home bleachers to ensure that no one can fall through.
- Handicapped Restroom Facilities
 - Discussion regarding adding a portable handicapped restroom at the stadium for any patron that may need it. This was agreed upon, and has been ordered. Will arrive on 10/12/09 and be placed in the parking lot next to the home bleachers.
- Removal of rubbish along fence line behind end zone
 - Mr. Grimes has been in contact with some one who can do this for us, and was given the go ahead to get it done.
- Maintenance Shed
 - Penn Township has given us verbal approval to add a pole building for maintenance storage inside the stadium.
 - Snowplows, lining equipment, and mowing equipment will be stored here.

4. Discussion about future improvements for Sheppard Myers, many of these will need to be discussed with the district architect before moving forward.

- Home bleachers need repainted, and rusted areas sanded, primed, and painted.

- ADA seating needs to be added
- The field lights need to be relocated from on the field to behind the bleachers.
 - Our current eight light standards will be cut to four
- Leveling crown of field slightly, re-sodding, and improving watering system.
- A larger press box is need to accommodate both home and away coaching staffs, as well as media, and game workers.
 - Prefabricated structures can be purchased with electrical already installed
 - Need a structure that can support 15-20 people
- Plans to expand restrooms and locker rooms, to make them ADA compliant, while remaining inside the original footprint of the stadium were discussed.
 - This will also add space for a Training Room, Officials Locker Room, and extra storage
- Concession area will be enclosed and given permanent storage.
- Fencing around the stadium needs to be replaced, and poles painted.