Potomac Falls High School
Striving for Equality in High School Facilities & Athletics
Potomac Falls Athletic Boosters

• Mission Statement:
  The Potomac Falls High School Athletic Boosters exist as a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting all Potomac Falls High School athletic programs through the provision of funds deemed essential to quality interscholastic athletics. Our aim is to enrich the high school educational experience while also enhancing the lives of our student athletes.

• Core Initiatives:
  • Scholarship program
  • Stadium press box improvements
  • NCAA recruitment resource center

• Sample of Internal Investments (Over $300K Invested):
  • Financed and constructed stadium concession facility
  • Financed and constructed baseball/softball concession facility and restrooms
  • Financed and constructed baseball/softball dugouts
  • Financed conversion from Fescue to Bermuda grass to improve safety and durability
  • New fencing at baseball field
  • Strength and conditioning resources
  • Financed scoreboards at stadium, baseball, and softball fields
  • Financed sound system at stadium field
The Issue:

• Potomac Falls High School was built in 1997 (18 years ago). No significant renovation has occurred (or is planned). The athletic facilities are in desperate need of renovation for the following reasons:

  • **Health & Safety:** serious health & safety issues exist with the PFHS Athletic Facilities – placing student athletes and community at risk.

  • **Competitiveness:** state of Athletic Facilities impacting competitiveness of PFHS athletics.
Resulting Impacts:

• Game cancellations – Loss of gate and concession revenue, team and student impacts
• Games moved to alternative sites with field turf - Loss of gate and concession
• Significant increase in risk of injury to students and community
• Competitive imbalance
  • Loss of practice time due to poor field conditions and closures
  • Loss of practice time due to an inadequate number of usable surfaces
  • Loss of proper pre-season, in-season, and post-season preparation due to inadequate strength and conditioning facilities
Actions Taken to Date:

• Contacted our School Board Representative Debbie Rose

• Contacted Commissioner Suzanne Volpe

• Contacted Parks & Recreation Representative Jim Potter

• Invited all three to multiple Athletic Booster meetings to understand how we ended up here -- and to determine an approach to address these serious issues.
LCPS Renovation and Improvement Analysis

Dr. David Brager
## LCPS Renovation & Improvement Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Opened</th>
<th>1st Renovation/Improvement</th>
<th>2nd Renovation/Improvement</th>
<th>3rd Renovation/Improvement</th>
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## LCPS Renovation & Improvement Analysis

<table>
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<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Last Renovation/Improvement</th>
<th>Years Since Last Renovation/Improvement</th>
<th>Game Field</th>
<th>Practice Field</th>
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<td>1997</td>
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**Average Years per Renovation/Improvement**: 9.3  
**Median Years per Renovation/Improvement**: 9.0

*Source: LCPS Data from 1940-2015
LCPS Renovation & Improvement Analysis

![Bar chart showing years since last renovation for various schools in Loudoun County. The chart includes schools such as Stone Bridge, Riverside, Park View, Freedom, Broad Run, Rock Ridge, Loudoun Valley, Loudoun County, John Champe, Woodgrove, Tuscarora, Briar Woods, Dominion, Heritage, and Potomac Falls. The 75-year average is 9.3 years.](image)

3/24/2015
Key Data Points:

• On only two (2) occasions over the past 75 years has it taken longer than 18 years to renovate/significantly improve a Loudoun County high school:

  - Loudoun Valley – 21 years (1976 – 1997)
  - Park View – 20 years (1976 – 1996)
  - Potomac Falls – 18 years and counting (1997 - ?)

• Four schools are past the average time of 9.3 years for renovation (all have grass stadium fields – 10 other high schools in the county have turf):

  - Potomac Falls (18 years)
  - Heritage (14 years)
  - Dominion (13 years)
  - Briar Woods (10 years)
The Next Five (5) Years...

• The most recent 5-year LCPS Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) identifies ONLY the following athletic improvements for Potomac Falls High School:

  - Tennis Court
  - Track Repainting

* No other significant athletic improvement is planned, budgeted, or scheduled for the next 5 years!

** This will result in Potomac Falls setting the Loudoun County 75-year record as going the longest without a major renovation (23 years), despite serious safety, security and health risks.
Loudoun Valley High School Stadium
High School Stadiums across Loudoun County

John Champe

Park View

Loudoun County

Tuscarora

Woodgrove
Loudoun Valley High School Practice Field
Potomac Falls High School Practice Field
Loudoun Valley High School Baseball Facilities
Stonebridge & Tuscarora Weight Rooms
Potomac Falls Weight Room
PFHS Locker Room – Complete with Rats

Diseases Carried by Rats

- Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome
- Hantavirus Fever with Renal Syndrome
- Lassa Fever
- Lepromatous
- Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis (LCM)
- Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever
- Plague
- Rat Bite Fever
- Sarcovalentulosis
- South American Acute Nephropathy (Uruguayan Hantavirus fever, Bolivian hantavirus fever, Sabia-associated hantavirus fever, Venezualan hantavirus fever)
- Tularemia
PFHS Entrance & Laundry Room

Door stuck in this position:
- Major security & fire code issue

Cannot operate both washers at same time
- Room floods due to inadequate plumbing
Potomac Falls High School Stadium Restrooms

Photos available at PFHSAthleticBoosters.org
Why does the School Board place our Children in Danger?
Student, Parent and Community Impacts

Kim Curl
Safety

- Baseball fences too low – many near-misses in stands from foul balls
- Baseball restroom routinely flooded
- Baseball poles rusted and exposed, and stands bent and unsafe
- Tennis courts, available to the public, contain bulging seams (tripping hazard), holes, and rust
- Doors to high school do not fully open/close (crucial security & emergency egress issue)
- Supporters in home stadium stands required to walk through ankle-deep water to enter/exit due to poor drainage issues
- Football goal posts rusted and exposed
- Mold in and above stadium restrooms
- Weight room equipment unsafe, inoperable, and/or in severe disrepair
- Practice field either mud or hard dirt depending on rainfall

*A matter of time before injuries occur and lawsuits are filed against the County for willful and gross negligence*
Competitiveness

• Severe drainage issues – practice fields routinely flooded affecting opportunities for training and practice

• Game fields routinely flooded – eliminating home games for the past 4 years & practice opportunities during offseason

• Stadium game field too narrow per standards to host soccer tournaments

• Tennis courts uneven, holding water, and contain holes – affecting game play and resulting in lack of student participation

• Many weight room machines broken – resulting in less conditioning and higher risk of serious injury
Economic

• Due to poor field conditions:
  - 2011 – Cancelled JV & 9th grade football games
  - 2012 – Forced to play ‘home’ varsity football game at Woodgrove -- $3,000 concession loss
  - 2013 – Forced to play ‘home’ varsity football game at John Champe -- $3,000 concession loss
  - 2014 – Majority of ‘home’ baseball games moved to other locations – $2,000 concession loss

• Parents required to pay for costly gym memberships, offseason training and travel to extra ‘away’ games.
Summary

• As taxpayers, residents, and parents in one of the most affluent counties in America, why is Potomac Falls High School being bypassed for renovation and not at the same standard as most other schools in the county?

• Why are our children considered ‘expendable’ by being placed in environments containing known serious health, safety and security risks?

• As elected officials, what is the plan to immediately address these serious issues?
Contact Information

• Potomac Falls Athletic Boosters
  www.PFHSAthleticBoosters.org

• Kevin Cowden – President@PFHSAthleticBoosters.org