

Board of Education Members

Kate Sandmann - Chair  
Lol Fearon - Vice Chair  
Rick Daniels - Secretary  
John Stack - Treasurer  
Jane Cavanaugh  
Lon Seidman  
Jennifer Clark  
Richard Strauss  
Alex Silva

Administration

Brian J. White, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Sarah Brzozowy, Assistant Superintendent  
Robert Grissom, Finance Director  
Mike Barile, Principal, Valley Regional  
Melissa Morgan-Hostetler, Principal, John Winthrop  
Lewis Pappariella, Athletic Director

Questions & Answers

Q: What are the issues and problems with the current outdoor athletic facilities?

A: The fields suffer from overuse, years of inadequate and deferred maintenance, poor irrigation and drainage, as well as numerous safety and accessibility concerns.

Q: Why are these projects being proposed now?

A: Now is the time to address this long overdue need on both school campuses. Due to the level of deterioration, these projects can no longer be delayed. Additionally, the Region 4 Board of Education has an opportunity to finance these projects through a bond, as the previous capital bonds from the last major renovation of JWMS and VRHS are maturing.

Q: The report mentions the upper and lower fields possibly being converted to a synthetic turf field. What are the benefits of a synthetic turf athletic field?

- A: The benefits of a synthetic turf field include:
- More consistent play compared to natural grass
  - Early and late season play (wet and frozen conditions)
  - Lower maintenance costs (e.g. water, mowing, fertilizers, pesticides, and line painting)

Anticipated Timeline	
May 2023	Referendum VOTE
June 2023	Form Sub-Committee
July 2023	RFP for Consultant Services
September 2023	Kick-Off Design
Spring 2024	First project(s) ready for bidding
Summer 2024	Construction
Fall 2024	Final Completion
Spring 2025-2027	Additional Projects as determined by Sub-Committee

Q: What is the project cost?

A: The estimated cost for all 10 major projects including the required bonding expenses will total \$9.96 million

Q: What will be the impact on the Region 4 education budget?

A: If approved, the district will pursue a 20 year bond obligation. Based on current levels of debt service in the Region 4 budget, if the member towns support these projects at the proposed amount and repayment schedule, there will be minimal Region 4 budget impact. This will ensure budget stability and predictability for the member towns.

The Region 4 Athletic Facilities Master Plan and additional project resources can be viewed at the following website:

[sites.google.com/reg4.k12.ct.us/region4bondingprojects](https://sites.google.com/reg4.k12.ct.us/region4bondingprojects)



Regional School District 4  
P.O. Box 187  
Deep River, CT 06417

Regional School District 4  
Committed to Excellence

Athletic Facility Improvements  
VRHS & JWMS

Overall Project Objectives

In early 2020, Regional School District No. 4 engaged the BSC Group, Inc. to complete a general assessment of the existing exterior athletic facilities and develop a strategic master plan for John Winthrop Middle School and Valley Regional High School. BSC Group engaged with the R4 Fields & Grounds Study Ad Hoc Committee. The outcome of this study informed the prioritizing of capital improvements based on needs, including current field conditions, field usage, safety, accessibility, equity, and maintenance.

After the initial study was completed, a master planning process for athletic facilities within the District was created for:

gathering community input; planning for future athletic development; identifying a list of recommended projects for the District to implement; and prioritization of projects. Multiple stakeholder groups were engaged in this process through the work of the R4 Long Range Athletic Facilities Planning Task Force and the Valley Regional High School Athletics Committee.

The outcomes of this work determined that the majority of our athletic fields and grounds require significant rehabilitation or complete replacement. The projects proposed here will ensure that our communities and their schools have safe, equitable access for all stakeholders who depend on these facilities.



[www.reg4.k12.ct.us](http://www.reg4.k12.ct.us)

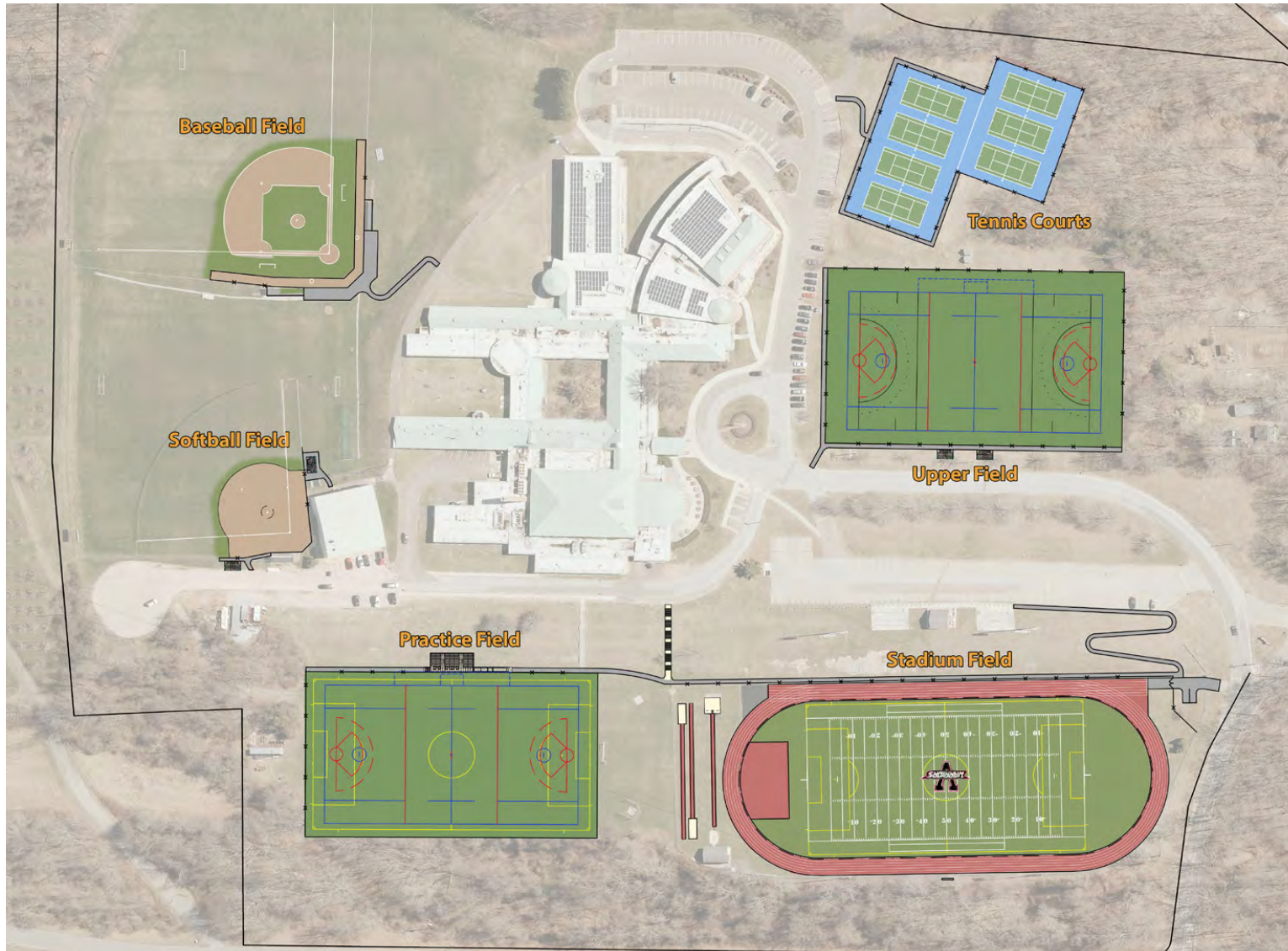
Please join the  
Region 4 Board of  
Education for an  
informational  
session on the  
following date  
and time:

March 29 - 7:00PM  
  
District Meeting / Public  
Hearing  
  
Location: JWMS Auditorium



## Project Information

### Valley Regional High School



The assessment conducted in conjunction with the master plan report showed that all existing facilities need general improvements to address safety and accessibility for players and spectators. The following is a brief summary of the projects under consideration.

**Stadium Field:** This project will develop a new 6 lane running track to support regional meets, renovate the playing field surface and provide an accessible route from the parking lot down to the track and field.

**Upper Field:** This project entails renovating the field playing surface, a new scoreboard, ball safety netting and improved pedestrian accessibility.

**Tennis Courts:** This project will reconstruct the courts with post-tensioned concrete surface, new fencing and improved accessibility.

**Baseball Field:** The improvements here include reconstructing the infield, providing improved pedestrian access, and infield irrigation.

**Softball Field:** This project entails reconstructing the infield, improved pedestrian access and spectator seating.

**Practice Field:** This project will renovate the field playing surface to accommodate a 65 yard soccer field, spectator seating and pedestrian accessibility.

## Project Information

### Valley Regional High School

The only parcel of land suitable for new field development is located on the Valley Regional High School property. Based on the BSC Group assessment, these fields are necessary to alleviate the demand on the existing fields at the middle and high schools.

This project will include the construction of up to two (2) new 65 yard soccer fields with irrigation, a new irrigation well, the installation of a cross-country course around the property, driveway, accessible parking, and utilities.



### John Winthrop Middle School



The athletic fields at JWMS are one contiguous open space with four diamond fields and a series of rectangular field overlays. The following is a brief summary of the projects under consideration.

**Soccer 1:** This project entails reconstruction of the field, improved drainage, new irrigation system, and providing pedestrian access from the parking lot to the field.

**Soccer 3:** This project entails reconstruction of the field, improved drainage, new irrigation system, and providing pedestrian access from the parking lot to the field.

Both of these projects will include a study to determine if a new well is needed to support the irrigation needs of the new fields.