



# Olympia School District

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Nicole Floyd  
Senior Planner  
City of Olympia  
601 4<sup>th</sup> Ave E  
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Olympia High School Classroom Addition, Modernization, and Illuminated  
Playfield Project – City of Olympia File No. 18-4309

Dear Ms. Floyd:

Below please find the Olympia School District's response to the public comments received by the City of Olympia regarding the above-referenced project (the "Project"). For ease of reference, the District has summarized below the comments from the three individuals who provided comments to the City regarding the Project. Please include the District's responses in the materials provided to the Hearing Examiner.

- *Comment - Concern regarding safety of intersections surrounding project, particularly as related to pedestrian use, recent expansion of Pioneer Elementary School, and general traffic volumes.*

District Response: The Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) analyzes extensively the impacts of the Project, assuming full buildout and capacity, on the surrounding road system. An analysis of intersection conditions was performed using current conditions and buildout conditions. To address intersection needs identified during the AM peak hour, the TIA includes mitigation recommendations for two way left turn lanes at the north leg of Henderson Blvd SE at Caryl Avenue SE. In addition, the project includes opening of a previously closed gate on the west side of the campus during the AM peak and PM peak periods for high school pick-up and drop-off to allow for more internal circulation and to connect the north and south parking areas. The opened gate may also relieve left turn traffic at the West Parking 2 entrance by redistributing and balancing routes with other accesses. The District will also pay traffic impact fees as required by the City of Olympia.

*"Creating opportunities and shaping success for all students"*

**Board of Directors:** Frank Wilson, Joellen Wilhelm, Leslie Huff, Hilary Seidel, Scott Clifhorne, Anna McClatchey & Grant Erickson (Student Reps.)

**Patrick C. Murphy, Ed.D., Superintendent**

The existing infrastructure facilitates pedestrian access to the school site. Sidewalks exist on the four streets bordering the school site and all streets but one (Hawthorne Pl SE) include bicycle facilities. School zone signage is installed on the adjacent arterials with reduced speed limits when flashing to reduce potential conflicts between motorist and non-motorist traffic. Crosswalks are located at the intersections of Henderson Blvd SE and Carylton Ave SE, Hawthorne Place SE and North Street SE, North Street SE and Henderson Blvd SE, and at other access points to the school. In recent years, the City of Olympia and the School District installed a new rapid flashing crosswalk beacon across Henderson Blvd SE near Carylton Ave SE. In addition, in the summer of 2018, the City installed a school zone beacon on Carylton Ave SE and North Street SE. Other recent improvements include additional crosswalk signage at Henderson Blvd SE and North Street SE. As noted above, the TIA studied each intersection for traffic impacts, as well as non-motorist traffic and safety.

The recent Pioneer Elementary School project, which added six classrooms, replaced existing portables at the site and addressed class size reduction requirements. As such, the net increase in students as a result of the classroom addition was negligible.

- *Comment: Extend 2004 Hearing Examiner Land Use Permit Conditions regarding operation of Ingersoll Stadium to the planned playfield and tennis courts to limit hours of operation, control noise and lighting, and address parking needs.*

District Response: The proposed field and tennis courts proposed as a part of the Project are not designed for stadium use or capacity for which the Ingersoll Stadium Hearing Examiner conditions would be relevant. In addition, the location and functional use of the practice field and tennis courts provide for controlled use and minimal offsite impacts.

The proposed synthetic turf practice field would replace the existing JV grass practice field on the Olympia High School campus. The field is proposed for location between the 700 (Allied Arts) Building and Ingersoll Stadium. The central campus location of the practice field helps mitigate light spilling onto neighboring properties. The proposed light fixtures are designed to direct light onto the field area, and minimize glare to adjacent properties to the greatest extent possible. Fully shielded LED luminaires focus light only on the field to provide an average of 30 footcandles of coverage, which is the minimum level of lighting needed for recreational use. There are no bleachers or public address systems proposed for the practice field. Noise makers (air horns, cowbells, sirens and similar noisemakers) are prohibited.

The field will be used primarily by OHS students as a practice field and for physical education purposes. Any community use of the practice field would be limited to times when the field is not used for OHS activities. Hours of operation for the use of the practice field are shown below (and are consistent with the hours of use of Ingersoll Stadium per Policy No. 4260P(C)). The practice field will not be scheduled for non-district use when Ingersoll is scheduled for event use. The practice field can be used for warm ups for the Ingersoll event, or where there is a short overlap (less than one half hour) as a district use or non-district use is ending its use and the Ingersoll event is beginning.



Hours of Operation:

**District Use:**

Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 10:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 10:00 pm

Sunday N/A

**Non-District Use:**

Monday – Friday 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm

Sunday 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

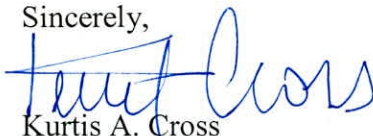
The tennis courts are an existing use on the OHS campus. The Project would simply relocate three of the existing six tennis courts to the area south of the existing southern tennis courts and into the existing parking and JV practice field area. The tennis courts are not currently lit and the project does not include any lighting of the courts as relocated.

- *Comment: Refuse the Olympia School District's Determination of Nonsignificance since OSD is the project proponent:*

District Response: The State Environmental Policy Act, Chapter 42.31C RCW and its implementing regulations, provides that “[w]hen an agency initiates a proposal, it is the lead agency” for purposes of SEPA review. WAC 197-11-926(1). The District, as a political subdivision of the State of Washington, is an agency as defined in the SEPA rules. WAC 197-11-714(1). The District properly reviewed the project and issued the Determination of Nonsignificance pursuant to its adopted SEPA Regulations (Board Policy 6890). Comment and appeal periods were provided consistent with WAC 197-11-340. No party appealed the DNS as issued.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this information regarding the Project. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kurtis A. Cross

Director of Capital Planning & Construction