1	BEFORE THE CITY OF OLYMPIA HEARINGS EXAMINER			
2	IN RE:)	HEARING NO. 18-3543	
3	CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL - PERFORMING ARTS CENTER,)	FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DECISION	
5	APPLICANT:	Olympia School District No. 111 1113 Legion Way S.E. Olympia, Washington 98503		
7	REPRESENTATIVES:			
8 9 10	Matt Lane, Principal Project Manage McGranahan Architects 2111 Pacific Avenue, Suite 100 Tacoma, Washington 98402	r	Kurt Cross Olympia School District 1113 Legion Way S.E. Olympia, Washington 98503	
11	SUMMARY OF REQUEST:			
12 13 14 15 16	Capital High School. Other site implandscaping; and formal recognition	rovements incl of a pedestrian g height restrict	are foot performing arts center to the existing ude associated adjustments to parking and pathway. The Applicant also seeks a tions in order to construct the necessary "fly	
18	The requested variance is approved conditions.	and the permit	application is approved subject to	
20		BACKGRO	DUND	
21	This is one of two concurrent applications by Olympia School District No. 111 (the other			
22	being In re Olympia High School Hearing No. 18-4309) to construct additions to Olympia's			
24	existing high schools. In this application the Olympia School District seeks a Conditional Use			
25	Permit to construct a new 27,000 square foot addition to the existing Capital High School for us			
	Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law		CITY OF OLYMPIA HEARING EXAMINER 299 N.W. CENTER ST. / P.O. BOX 939	

CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON 98532 Phone: 360-748-3386/Fax: 748-3387 as a performing arts center. Its construction will result in the relocation of some vehicle and bike parking as well as landscaping. The project also seeks formal recognition of an existing pedestrian pathway near the east boundary of the school property.

The Capital High School campus consists of approximately 45 acres at the corner of Cooper Point Road N.W. and Conger Avenue. The school was originally constructed in 1975. Since then approved expansions include additional classrooms, sporting facilities and other site improvements. North of the campus is mostly single-family residential neighborhoods with Jefferson Middle School located to the northeast. East of the campus is a mix of single and multi-family residential neighborhoods and a mix of zoning between multi-family residential and low density residential. South of the campus is multi-family housing giving way to commercial activity and a zoning designation of Professional Office/Residential Multi-Family along with High Density Corridor. West of the campus, across Cooper Point Road, is a natural area owned by the City of Olympia known as Grass Lake Nature Park. Southwest of the campus, and south and east of the natural area, are additional commercial uses.

The application seeks approval to construct a new 27,000 square foot performing arts center to be connected to the northwest corner of the existing high school. Its construction will also result in various other interior and exterior improvements to the school building and the relocation of parking to new areas. The project also includes a new driveway exit from an expanded parking area in the northeast corner of the campus, and recognition and improvement of an existing pedestrian trail along the east boundary of the campus running from the east side of the school southerly to Bush Avenue N.W.

A critical component of the performing arts center is a "fly house" to raise and lower sets for performances. The required height of the fly house exceeds the maximum building height for the zoning district. The school district therefore requests a variance from height restrictions in order to construct the fly house.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision - 2

CITY OF OLYMPIA HEARING EXAMINER 299 N.W. CENTER ST. / P.O. BOX 939 CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON 98532 Phone: 360-748-3386/Fax: 748-3387 With the exception of a single comment regarding access to an adjoining property to the east, the public has not commented on the project or had any objections. There were no members of the public present at the public hearing.

Prior to the public hearing I undertook an independent site examination.

The public hearing commenced at approximately 8:00 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2019, in the Council Chambers in the City Hall. The hearing commenced at the conclusion of the public hearing on the Olympia High School Project. The City appeared through Paula Smith of Planning Staff. The School District appeared through Matt Lane of MSGS Architecture and Kurt Cross from the District. Several other school representatives were also in attendance. Testimony was received from Ms. Smith, Mr. Lane and Mr. Cross. A verbatim recording was made of the public hearing and all testimony was taken under oath. Documents considered at the time of the hearing were the City Staff Report and its attachments submitted prior to the hearing (Exhibits 1-14) together with three additional documents submitted during the hearing:

- Exhibit 15 Revised parking analysis for motor vehicles and bicycles.
- Exhibit 16 Proposed modification of Condition No. 2.
- Exhibit 17 Various documents associated with the prior agreement for access given to the adjoining landowner to the east.

There were no members of the public present and, again, there has been no public opposition to the application.

Ms. Smith began her testimony by explaining that there needed to be an important correction to the Staff Report. The report, at page 3, states that the project does not create increased capacity for students at the school. This statement is incorrect as the project will increase student capacity by 84 students. This led to a discussion with Ms. Smith and another

staff member, Tiffany King, as to whether the project's increase in student population would cause the project to be returned for further analysis regarding all student population-based requirements. Ms. Smith and Ms. King responded that, although the Staff Report does not recognize an increase in student population, this increase has been reflected in the School District's Capital Facilities Plan and has been fully incorporated into its planning. In other words, while the increase in students is not mentioned in the City Staff Report, it is recognized in the School District's planning. The proposed conditions of approval reflect the larger student population recognized in the District's Capital Facilities Plan.

Ms. Smith recognized, however, that the added student population may not have been fully considered when determining the required number of long term and short term bicycle stalls. With an increased student population the school is required to have sixty-two short term bicycle stalls (+/- 10%). OMC 18.38.220(C). The project calls for fifty-eight short term stalls, satisfying the short term stall requirement. Four of these short term stalls will be placed in the area of the new performing arts center. The project will also require four new long term parking stalls, two of which will also be located near the performing arts center. These revised bicycle parking requirements are reflected in a proposed new Condition No. 2 set forth as Exhibit 17.

Staff noted that there has been some question as to whether the project will satisfy the City Code requirements for the maximum allowed impervious surface. Staff proposes a Condition No. 17 which requires the project to comply with the maximum impervious surface requirements. City Staff and the project architect agree that, when the total acreage of the campus is taken into consideration, the project is expected to be in compliance with this requirement and will not need to seek a variance.

The Hearing Examiner inquired of Staff as to why the project calls for approval of the pedestrian path east of the high school, as this path already exists. Staff explained that the

purpose of granting formal approval is to allow for the path to be improved and maintained in order to provide greater student safety.

The project will provide important additions to the existing high school without any adverse impacts on the surrounding neighborhood. It is not surprising that there has been no public opposition to the project. Although there has been some confusion as to whether the project will result in an increased student population, this confusion has been resolved. It is now clear that the project may increase student numbers by 84 students but that this student increase is well reflected in the District's Capital Facilities Planning, and that the increase in students has been taken into consideration.

The new performing arts center will only be effective if it includes a fly house. The fly house will require a variance from the zoning district's maximum height allowance. The justification for this variance is well established in the Staff Report and, again, there has been no opposition to it.

I conclude that the application satisfies all requirements for Conditional Use Permit including those specific requirements imposed upon schools pursuant to OMC 18.04.060(cc) and Table 4.01, and that it also satisfies the requirements for a variance in order to construct the fly house.

I therefore make the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Applicant, Olympia School District No. 111, requests a Conditional Use Permit in order to construct a 27,000 square foot addition to the existing Capital High School at 2707 Conger Avenue N.W. The purpose of the addition is to provide a new performing arts center.

- 2. The application includes various other site improvements including relocation of vehicle parking areas, new long term and short term bicycle stalls, additional landscaping, a new parking exit onto Conger Avenue and a pedestrian pathway along the east portion of the campus, heading south to Bush Avenue N.W. A map identifying all areas of site improvements/modifications is found at Sheet C1.0 to Attachment 14.
- 3. The Applicant also requests a variance from the zoning district's height limitations in order to construct the fly house for the performing arts center.
- 4. Any Findings of Fact contained in the foregoing Background section are incorporated herein by reference and adopted by the Hearing Examiner as his Findings of Fact.
- 5. Although the Staff Report, Exhibit 1, indicates that the project will not result in any increase in student population, City Staff advise that the project is expected to allow for an increase of 84 students.
- 6. The Staff Report does not address any impacts of an increase in student population. The School District's Capital Facilities Plan has, however, recognized this additional student population and factored it into its analysis. The District's Capital Facilities Plan recognizes up to 1,680 students. This number recognizes the added students allowed by the project.
- 7. City Staff finds that, as the added student population has been considered in the District's Capital Facilities Plan, it has been sufficiently recognized in the planning for the requested addition.
- 8. The increased student population will require some adjustment in the project's required biking stalls. It will require sixty-two short term biking stalls (+/- 10%), including four stalls near the new performing arts center. It will also require an additional four long term stalls including two near the performing arts center.

- 9. The project site is zoned R4-8.
- 10. The project site is designed as Low Density Neighborhood and Urban Corridor in the City Comprehensive Plan.
- and issued a Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS) on issued January 29, 2019.

 Several agency comments were received but no objections were made and the SEPA

 Determination was not appealed. The MDNS is conditioned upon the District constructing a trail on a portion of the school property as well as property owned by the City of Olympia along Bush Avenue N.W., to be constructed pursuant to the City's EDDS.
 - 12. Notification of the public hearing was mailed to the parties of record, property owners within 300 feet and recognized neighborhood associations, posted on the site and published in The Olympian on February 12, 2019, in conformance with the OMC 18.78.020.
 - 13. The project underwent neighborhood review through a neighborhood meeting on September 12, 2018. There was no opposition to the project.
 - 14. The project has undergone staff review. Staff has determined that the Applicant will need to submit a deviation from the EDDS for the pedestrian trail. Staff recommends approval subject to the conditions found in the Staff Report.
 - 15. Staff recommends that proposed Condition No. 2 be revised as proposed in Exhibit 16. This proposed change will increase the required amount of long and short term bicycle stalls consistent with the increased student population allowed by the project.
 - 16. The Report at page 4, contains Findings relating to the project's compliance with the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed those Findings and adopts them as his own Findings of Fact.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision - 8

17. The Report at page 5, notes that the proposed pedestrian trail will require an updated soils and vegetation plan to be submitted and reviewed prior to engineering permit approval. With this condition Staff finds that the project complies with Chapter 16.60 OMC.

- 18. The Report at pages 5 and 6, contains Findings relating to the project's compliance with OMC 18.04.040 and Table 4.01 relating to residential permitted uses. The Staff Report raises a question as to whether the project will comply with the maximum allowed impervious surface, but during testimony both the City Staff and Applicant testified that the project should comply with this requirement without need for a variance. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed the proposed Findings and accepts them as his own Findings of Fact with the additional testimony relating to impervious surface.
- 19. The Report at pages 6 and 7, contains Findings relating to the project's compliance with OMC 18.04.060(cc) and the various code requirements imposed upon schools for site size, outdoor play areas, building size, screening and requirements for explanation. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed those proposed Findings and adopts them as his own Findings of Fact.
- 20. The Report at page 7, contains Findings that the project has a moderate risk for archaeological resources and, as a condition, will comply with Chapter 18.12 OMC relating to historic preservation. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed those Findings and adopts them as his own Findings of Fact.
- 21. The Report at page 7, contains Findings relating to compliance with the landscaping requirements of Chapter 18.36 OMC. Staff notes that the Applicant has submitted a Landscaping Plan but that it will need to be revised to show all new parking areas and that a final Landscaping Plan will be submitted at engineering plan review. Subject to these requirements

22. The Report at pages 7 and 8, contains Findings relating to the project's compliance with Chapter 18.38 OMC relating to parking and loading. All parking analysis has relied upon potential student capacity of 1,680 students. This number includes the potential increase in student population provided by this project. City Staff finds that the project's proposed 458 parking stalls will meet the City's Parking Code requirements.

City Staff acknowledges that the Findings contained at page 8 relating to bicycle parking must be amended as discussed earlier in the Background section. Based upon a potential increase of 84 students Staff finds that the project will require 62 short term biking stalls (+/-105) and four additional long term stalls, with four of the short term stalls and two of the long term stalls to be located near the new performing arts center. Staff finds that with these increases in biking stalls the project will satisfy the City's requirements for long and short term bicycle stalls. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed these Findings and adopts them as his own Findings of Fact.

- 23. The Report at page 8, contains Findings relating to the project's compliance with the requirements for Chapter 18.48 OMC relating to conditional uses. Staff finds that the project has been conditioned to comply with all requirements of the Conditional Use Ordinance. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed those Findings and adopts them as his own Findings of Fact.
- 24. The project is located in a residential zone and exceeds 5,000 square feet in floor space. It must therefore be reviewed by the Design Review Board. On October 11, 2018, the Design Review Board undertook conceptual design and review. The Design Review Board recommends approval of the conceptual design with no conditions. The Design Review Board also finds hat the proposed increased building height to accommodate the fly house is acceptable and recommends approval of the requested variance.

25.	The Report at page 9, contains Findings relating to the project's compliance with
the EDDS.	The Hearing Examiner has reviewed those Findings and adopts them as his own
Findings of	Fact.

- 26. There has been limited public comment relating to the project and no public opposition. The adjoining landowner to the east has expressed some concerns about his right of access onto school property. School staff have provided documentation evidencing that there is no continuing right of access by the adjoining landowner (Exhibit 17).
- 27. The Applicant requests a variance from the maximum height standard of 35 feet in order to construct a 54 foot tall "fly loft" needed for the performing arts center.
- 28. Staff finds that the project complies will all requirements for the requested variance as set forth in Findings contained on pages 10 and 11 of the Staff Report. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed those Findings and adopts them as his own Findings of Fact.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Hearing Examiner makes the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Hearing Examiner has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter.
- 2. Any Conclusions of Law contained in the foregoing Background section or contained in the foregoing Findings of Fact are hereby incorporated by reference and adopted by the Hearing Examiner as his Conclusions of Law.
 - 3. The requirements of SEPA have been met.
- 4. A Conditional Use Permit is required for the proposed use at this site. The locational standards for such a use in a residential zone have been satisfied. OMC 18.04.040.
- 5. As conditioned, the landscaping and screening standards for the subject use are satisfied. Chapter 18.36 OMC.

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curt sheets of the racks to be used will be required at time of Detail Design Review application and provided on plans submittal for building permit review.

- 3. <u>Landscaping Plan</u>. Provide the final landscaping plan prepared in compliance with OMC 18.36 with engineering permit application.
- 4. <u>Perimeter and Parking Lot Landscaping</u>. New parking area proposed on the east boundary of the site may need additional perimeter landscaping to meet the Visual Screen (Type II) requirements. All new parking area proposed on the site shall meet OMC 18.36.180 for parking lot landscaping. Show details on the final landscaping plan.
- 5. <u>Level 2 Soil and Vegetation Plan (SVP)</u>. An updated plan based on the Approved Land Use Site Plan, shall be completed and submitted to the City Forester prior to Engineering Permit issuance and address the following items:
 - a. The SVP shall identify all trees to be removed and protected.
 - b. All tree protection measures and timeline for installing tree protection shall be included in the SVP.
 - c. The Applicant shall also provide the Forester with a staked trail alignment, proposed finish elevations, proposed trail cross section detail (trail materials, depth of disturbance and compaction, trail width), cut and fill area cross sections, and all necessary trenching for utilities.
 - d. Additional tree planting locations and species selection, if the parcel is below the minimum tree density, shall be included in the updated SVP, at a rate of 3 tree units per 1 tree unit removed and 1 tree unit for every 500 sf of land disturbing activity.

6. <u>Pedestrian Trail</u>. Construction of pedestrian trail shall be designed, as conditioned by the deviation approval letter dated February 19, 2019 (Attachment 12).

- 7. <u>Water Main</u>. The relocated water main shall connect to the existing water main further south than is shown on the current plan. The point of connection shall be at a point where the existing main is compliant with easement separation requirements per EDDS 3.100.
- 8. <u>Driveway</u>. The new egress only driveway shall be designed in a manner to avoid conflicts with existing improvements such as the crosswalk, accessible ramp to the west and the existing residential driveway to the east. Provide details on the civil plans to be submitted as part of the engineering permit application.
- 9. **Fire Hydrant**. The fire hydrant shall be relocated. Location to be determined during engineering plan review. Hydrant and water main installations shall be completed and accepted by the City prior to any vertical combustible construction.
- 10. <u>Building and Construction Codes</u>. The project shall comply with the City of Olympia Building and Construction Codes as adopted through the Olympia Municipal Code, Title 16.
- 11. **Hours of Construction**. Construction activity shall comply with OMC 18.40.080.
- 12. <u>Engineering Permit Application</u>. An engineering permit application shall be submitted for review and approval prior to construction. The permit submittal shall comply with the 2017 Engineering Design and Development Standards (EDDS) and the 2016 Drainage Design and Erosion Control Manual (DDECM).
- 13. <u>Detail Design Review</u>. A Detail Design Review application shall be submitted prior to or at building permit approval.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision - 14

CITY OF OLYMPIA HEARING EXAMINER 299 N.W. CENTER ST. / P.O. BOX 939 CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON 98532 Phone: 360-748-3386/Fax: 748-3387

- 14. <u>Signs</u>. Any new signs proposed requires a separate permit application to be submitted for review and approval.
- 15. <u>Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP)</u>. Prior to engineering permit issuance, provide a signed Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) that outlines how the project proponent and site crew will respond in the event that archaeological resources are uncovered during the course of project work. The IDP shall be maintained and available for inspection on the project site for the duration of excavation and construction, pursuant to OMC 18.12.140.
- 16. <u>Lighting</u>. All display and flood lighting shall be constructed and used so as not to unduly illuminate the surrounding properties and not to create a traffic hazard.
- 17. <u>Impervious Surface</u>. The proposal will need to comply with this maximum impervious surface requirements. Provide total site area and total of existing and proposed impervious calculations at time of engineering permit submittal for review and approval.

DATED this ______ day of March, 2019.

Mark C. Scheibmeir City of Olympia Hearing Examiner

RECONSIDERATION/APPEAL

This is a final decision of the City. Any party may file a Motion for Reconsideration within 10 days of service of this decision in accordance with OMC 18.75.060. Appeals shall be made to Superior Court pursuant to provisions of Chapter 36.70C RCW. The filing of a Motion for Reconsideration is not a prerequisite for seeking judicial review. If a Motion for Reconsideration is filed, the time for filing an appeal shall not commence until disposition of the Motion.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision - 15

CITY OF OLYMPIA HEARING EXAMINER 299 N.W. CENTER ST. / P.O. BOX 939 CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON 98532 Phone: 360-748-3386/Fax: 748-3387

1	BEFORE THE CITY OF OLYMPIA HEARINGS EXAMINER				
2	IN RE:) HEARING NO. 18-4309			
3	OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM ADDITION,) FINDINGS OF FACT,) CONCLUSIONS OF LAW) AND DECISION			
	APPLICANT:	Olympia School District No. 111			
5	ATTECANT.	1113 Legion Way S.E. Olympia, Washington 98503			
7	REPRESENTATIVES:				
8	BRB Architects	Kurt Cross			
9	1256 Pacific Avenue	Olympia School District			
10	Tacoma, Washington 98402	1113 Legion Way S.E. Olympia, Washington 98503			
11	Denise Stiffarm				
	Pacific Law Group				
12	1191 Second Avenue, Suite 2000 Seattle, Washington 98101-3404				
13					
14	SUMMARY OF REQUEST:				
15	A Conditional Use Permit to construct three separate classroom additions to the existing Olympia High School collectively containing 36,000 square feet of additional space, including a				
16	two-story, 26,000 square foot classr	oom addition north of the commons and west of the			
17	existing music rooms; and 9,000 sq	re foot music instruction space in the courtyard west of the uare feet of new science labs between the current science			
	rooms and the Applied Arts buildin	g. Other interior improvements include a new secured			
18	project will allow the removal of ter	and improvements to the office and waiting areas. The existing portable classrooms. Also included in the proposal			
19		tice field and its upgrade to synthetic turf and lighting;			
20	relocated and additional vehicular and bicycle parking; and relocation of tennis courts. The additional classrooms will allow for an increase in student population by approximately 255				
21	students.				
22	As part of the application the School surfaces and hard surfaces.	l District requests a variance from limits on impervious			
23	LOCATION OF PROPOSAL:				
24	1302 North Street S.E.				
25	1502 HOLLI SHOOL SIDI				
	Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision - 1	CITY OF OLYMPIA HEARING EXAMINER 299 N.W. CENTER ST. / P.O. BOX 939 CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON 98532			

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SUMMARY OF DECISION:

The permit application is **approved** subject to conditions. The requested variances from the limitations on impervious surface and hard surface are **approved**.

BACKGROUND

This is one of two concurrent applications by Olympia School District No. 111 (the other being In re Capital High School Hearing No. 18-3543) to construct additions to Olympia's high schools. In this application the Olympia School District seeks a Conditional Use Permit to undertake a long list of improvements to Olympia High School. These improvements include:

- 1. Approximately 36,000 square feet of new classrooms including:
 - (a) A two-story, 26,000 square-foot classroom addition north of the existing commons and west of the performing arts center.
 - (b) A 1,600 square-foot music instruction space in the courtyard west of the existing music rooms;
 - (c) A 9,000 square-foot addition to house four science labs with prep rooms in a single story structure between the current science rooms and the Applied Arts building.
- 2. Other interior improvements include:
 - (a) A secure walkway link between the Applied Arts building and the main school.
 - (b) An 1,800 square-foot addition to establish a secure vestibule at the south main entrance as well as a new main office/waiting area.
 - (c) Interior painting, flooring enhancements and relocation of administration spaces.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision - 2

CITY OF OLYMPIA HEARING EXAMINER 299 N.W. CENTER ST. / P.O. BOX 939 CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON 98532 Phone: 360-748-3386/Fax: 748-3387

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- 3. The removal of 10 existing portable classrooms.
- 4. Additional parking in the south turnaround and drop off area as well as the potential for new parking west of the proposed new synthetic turf field.
- 5. The relocation of the existing practice field to a location immediately west of Ingersoll Stadium. The practice field will have a synthetic turf and a lighting system to allow evening use.
- 6. Relocation of the existing tennis courts to a location slightly south of their present location, allowing the new synthetic turf field to extend into the area of the current tennis courts.
- 7. In addition to these onsite improvements, the project calls for the construction of offsite traffic improvements consisting of a new traffic roundabout and associated street improvements at the intersection of Henderson Boulevard and Carlyon.

In February 2016, the Olympia voters approved a construction bond to provide enhancements to the City's schools. The current project is one of many being undertaken by the District to improve schools districtwide. This project is intended to enhance student opportunities at Olympia High School by:

- Providing sufficient science labs to allow students to achieve the necessary science lab credits.
- Increasing the school's special needs areas.
- Expanding music programs.
- Creating security vestibules to deter armed intruders.
- Replacing existing portable classrooms with permanent classrooms.
- Creating secure walkways between buildings.
- Providing the necessary classrooms to allow for an increase in student population by approximately 255 students.

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 Replacing an existing natural grass practice field with a lighted synthetic turf field.

Olympia High School shares a common site with Pioneer Elementary. Pioneer Elementary received a Conditional Use Permit in 2016 to construct a two-story, 17,000 square foot building adjacent to the existing school to help facilitate class size reduction. That project did not result in any increase in student population and was approved without any public opposition.

In addition to Olympia High School and Pioneer Elementary, the school property extends eastward across Henderson Boulevard to include an undeveloped area. All areas surrounding this school property are zoned R4-8 and consist of fully developed residential neighborhoods. The fact that the campus is fully contained by existing residential development has led to longstanding disputes between residential neighbors and the District over non-student use of the school's athletic facilities - concerns which continue to this hearing.

In about 2003 the District sought to remodel Ingersoll Stadium in the high school campus. The hearing before the Hearing Examiner was contentious with concerns voiced about light, noise, traffic and use by non-students. It resulted in a number of restrictions on the use of the stadium, particularly by non-students. The Hearing Examiner, Mr. Bjorgen, ordered that use of the stadium would be restricted in accordance with "Modified Procedure No. 4260P(C)" - a District policy setting forth various use restrictions. In addition, Mr. Bjorgen limited the stadium's non-school use to Thurston County Youth Football, YMCA and City Parks track meets, occasional sports clinics and youth soccer.

Nearly a decade later it was learned that the District was not fully complying with the limitations set forth in the District's Procedure No. 4260P(C). This led to a review hearing before a pro tem hearing examiner, Mr. Dufford, who ordered minor changes to the use

non-school use of the stadium.

restrictions but otherwise continued these restrictions in effect, including the restrictions on the

The earlier decisions by Mr. Bjorgen and Mr. Dufford were limited to Ingersoll Stadium. They were not extended to the other areas on the campus used for athletics and sports, including the practice fields and tennis courts. Thus, use of ballfields, practice fields, tennis courts, etc. have not been under the same restrictions as Ingersoll Stadium, including its restrictions on non-school uses.

This history is an important starting point when reviewing the current project as it proposes to construct a new synthetic turf practice field between Ingersoll Stadium and the high school and provide lighting for the field. This portion of the application has generated similar concerns to those voiced in the earlier hearings before Mr. Bjorgen and Mr. Dufford. Several neighbors request that the new synthetic turf practice field and tennis courts be placed under the same restrictions as are currently imposed on Ingersoll Stadium.

Surrounding residents have expressed a separate, unrelated concern with the project's traffic impacts. The additional classrooms will allow the high school student population to increase by up to 255 students. The District's Traffic Impact Analysis recognizes various traffic impacts from increased students and recommends certain improvements to the Henderson Boulevard/Carlyon interchange. After further consideration, the District and the City now agree that the originally proposed traffic improvements will not sufficiently ensure traffic and pedestrian safety and recommend a traffic roundabout at this interchange. Some nearby residents remain concerned that the proposed roundabout will not ensure the safety of all pedestrians.

Finally, the requested improvements will result in increased impervious surface and hard surfaces in amounts exceeding the maximum amounts allowed in the R4-8 zoning district. The Applicant requests, and the City concurs, that variances should be granted from these limitations.

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PUBLIC HEARING

Prior to the public hearing I undertook an independent site examination.

The public hearing commenced at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2019, in the Council Chambers in the City Hall. The City appeared through Nicole Floyd of Planning

Staff. The School District appeared through Kurt Cross and Lucas Johnson, Civil Engineer, and

was represented by Denise Stiffarm. Several additional City Staff and several other school

representatives were also in attendance. Testimony was received from Ms. Floyd, various other

City Staff, Mr. Cross and Mr. Johnson. A verbatim recording was made of the public hearing

and all testimony was taken under oath. Documents considered at the time of the hearing

included the following:

Exhibit 1

Exhibit 23

Exhibit 24

Exhibit 26

Exhibit 27

Exhibit 28

City Staff Report.

Exhibits 2-22 Attachments 2 through 22 to the City Staff Report.

Revised Notice of Public Hearing (replacing Attachment 23 to the

Staff Report).

Additional written public comment received in advance of the

public hearing.

Exhibit 25 Proposed additions/modifications to conditions of approval

recommended by the Applicant and the City.

Supplemental Traffic Impact Analysis in support of the proposed

roundabout.

Illustration of the amount of light produced by the proposed

practice field lighting compared to other lighting systems.

Supplemental lighting analysis for the proposed practice field.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision - 6

CITY OF OLYMPIA HEARING EXAMINER 299 N.W. CENTER ST. / P.O. BOX 939 CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON 98532 Phone: 360-748-3386/Fax: 748-3387

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Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision - 7

CITY OF OLYMPIA HEARING EXAMINER 299 N.W. CENTER ST. / P.O. BOX 939 CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON 98532

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Ms. Floyd testified in supplement to her written Staff Report beginning with the history of the earlier 2004 and 2013 hearings involving the use of Ingersoll Stadium.

Ms. Floyd noted that the project's SEPA review was undertaken by the District as Lead Agency, resulting in a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS). The period of time for public comment was extended to equal the amount of time the City would have given if it had acted as Lead Agency. There were no appeals of the SEPA Determination.

Ms. Floyd next addressed the School's parking. She explained that the various additions will require relocating existing parking areas and creating new parking near the south main entrance. With the additional students the School will require 605 parking stalls (it currently has 607). By relocating some of the existing stalls and adding additional ones the net result will be a total of 618 parking stalls, more than satisfying parking requirements.

The project has caused the City to review all of the School's bicycle parking. With the added students the school will need 73 short-term and 73 long-term bicycle parking stalls. The project will satisfy both requirements.

Ms. Floyd explained that the project will cause the total amount of impervious surface to exceed the allowed maximum for the R4-8 zoning district, and also exceed the allowed maximum for hard surfaces. Ms. Floyd believes that there are special circumstances justifying the District's request for variances from both standards. When asked by the Hearing Examiner to explain some of the technical support for the variance, she deferred to Jeff Fant of City Staff. Mr. Fant, along with the District's engineer, Lucas Johnson, explained that the primary reason for the variance from the impervious surface limit is that the soils on the site do not drain well. If the District relied on pervious-type parking surfaces, rainwater would drain through this pervious pavement only to then reach a nonporous soil layer. The result would be a significantly greater amount of standing water and poor drainage. In contrast, the proposed use of impervious

Ms. Floyd next addressed the traffic impacts of the project. The Amended Traffic Impact Analysis issued in January proposed to address the project's impacts by adding a "shelter" lane to Henderson Boulevard just north of its intersection with Carlyon. This additional lane would improve the opportunity of left turning traffic from Carlyon to enter Henderson Boulevard by allowing it to pull into the shelter lane before merging with the regular flow of traffic on Henderson. More recently, however, the District and the City have decided that a better approach would be to install a traffic roundabout at the Henderson Boulevard/Carlyon interchange. This approach will not only provide safer vehicular movement but will also moderate speeds on Henderson and improve pedestrian safety. Ms. Floyd noted that offsite improvements such as this are usually addressed in the SEPA Determination but in this case the District has agreed to have the roundabout imposed as an additional condition to the Conditional Use Permit. Another staff member, Dave Smith, echoed Ms. Floyd's testimony and explained that the proposed roundabout is expected to increase traffic safety and reduce the number of interactions between bicyclists and pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Mr. Smith added that a supplemental Traffic Impact Analysis (Exhibit 26) was undertaken for the roundabout and concluded that it will result in "exceptionally better" traffic management and a Level of Service (LOS) of "B".

Turning to the proposed new synthetic turf practice field, Ms. Floyd noted that the written Staff Report does not propose any limitations on its use. Upon further reflection City Staff now recommends some limitations on its use. These proposed limits are set forth in Exhibit 25. They are:

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- Hours of operation are to be consistent with the District's Procedure
 4260P(C). These hours apply to both District and Non-District uses.
- 2. Pyrotechnics, airhorns, cowbells, sirens, public address systems and similar features are prohibited and appropriate signage is required to alert users to these restrictions.

The hours of operation would be:

District Use: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. No Sunday use.

Non-District Use: Monday through Friday 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

These restrictions would apply to the synthetic turf practice field but not to the new tennis courts (which will not have lights) or any other existing sports fields.

Following Ms. Floyd's presentation the School District responded through the testimony of Kurt Cross. Mr. Cross' testimony was largely restricted to issues surrounding the synthetic turf field. Mr. Cross explained that the current practice field is not long enough or reliable enough for all desired uses. The proposed new synthetic turf field will be located between Ingersoll Stadium and the high school in a sheltered, centralized location where it will have minimal sound and lighting impacts. The facility will use the latest generation of LED lighting (Exhibit 27) similar to that currently used at the football stadium at Capital High School. This lighting system will drastically reduce the amount of visible lighting and instead focus it on the practice field. The end result should be that the surrounding neighborhood will not experience any lighting impacts.

Mr. Cross believes that the surrounding neighborhood will also not experience any noise impacts. In the District's letter to the City dated January 24 (Exhibit 20) it declares that the

practice facility will not have bleachers or a public address system, and that noise makers (airhorns, cowbells, sirens, and similar noise makers) will be prohibited. These restrictions should prevent any significant sound impacts.

In the January 24 letter to the City the District also announced that the practice field will not be scheduled for non-district use when Ingersoll Stadium is scheduled for event use. The practice field can be used for warmups for Ingersoll events 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. These restrictions will further reduce noise and lessen traffic.

The District recommends that there be no limitations on the use of the relocated tennis courts. The new courts will not have lights and their use will be identical to the existing courts.

Mr. Cross concluded his testimony will a discussion about the "west gate". The west gate is located west of the high school and is currently locked to prohibit the movement of traffic between the parking lots and streets north and south of the high school. The District proposes to open the west gate to allow greater movement of traffic from one side of the high school to the other. Most importantly, this will allow vehicles greater opportunity to make a right turn when leaving the school parking areas. Reducing the number of required left turns from the parking areas will significantly improve neighborhood traffic. The District does not wish to have the west gate open at all times and would prefer to have it open only from 6:45 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and from 1:50 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on school days (with these times modified to accommodate partial school days), as well as thirty minutes before and to thirty minutes after large events at the school. The District's proposed restrictions on the west gate are set forth in an email from the District to the City dated March 12 (Exhibit 29).

¹ All drivers wanting to go west will be able to turn right onto North Street. All drivers wanting to go east will be able to turn right on Carlyon.

Following Mr. Cross' testimony the District's engineer, Lucas Johnson, addressed the District's request for a variance from the limit on impervious surface. The school campus already exceeds the permitted amount of impervious surface in the R4-8 zoning district. The project would increase the total amount of impervious surface coverage by approximately 3.2%, resulting in the campus exceeding the allowed limit by approximately 14%. (The code maximum is 40%. With the addition of the project the high school would have 53.5% of impervious surface.) The District's justification for this variance is set forth in its "Variance Request" (Exhibit 3) but this document is difficult to understand. Mr. Johnson offered to explain its important provisions.

Mr. Johnson began by explaining that "Freshman Pond", located in the center of the campus, is both a kettle and a wetland. Both onsite and offsite stormwater flows into it. Despite these flows it has never been known to overtop its rim. It does not have an outlet and instead discharges into the ground.

Unlike Freshman Pond, the remainder of the school campus consists of poorly draining soils. For this reason the use of pervious materials for parking lots and driveways would prove impractical, as stormwater would filter through the pervious material only to be blocked from further filtration by the poor soils. Mr. Johnson concludes that the site's stormwater is better managed by relying on impervious surfaces for parking areas and driveways as these will collect and direct stormwater to filtering devices which clean the water before it is sent to Freshman Pond. This additional, cleaned stormwater may help improve the ecology of Freshman Pond.

Mr. Johnson concluded his testimony by confirming that the District supports the proposed roundabout at the Henderson Boulevard/Carlyon interchange. He believes that the roundabout will improve crossing safety while also providing for a better flow of traffic.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision - 12

Following the District's presentation the hearing was opened to public testimony.

Approximately two dozen members of the public attended the hearing and nine testified. While each witness provided a unique perspective, their testimony fell into two distinct camps with four witnesses opposing the project for similar reasons and five supporting for similar reasons:

James Jabalonski, Sandra Brown, Daniel Stusser and Jan Witt testified in opposition to the project or, in the alternative, for significant restrictions on the non-student use of the synthetic turf practice field and new tennis courts. These witnesses testified that the neighborhood is burdened by the noise and light of Ingersoll Stadium and believe that the new practice field may result in new, similar burdens. They ask that, if the project is approved, all restrictions currently imposed on Ingersoll Stadium be extended to the new facilities including the limitation on the non-school groups allowed to use them.

In addition to these common concerns, Sandra Brown (who is blind) expressed concerns about the proposed roundabout at Henderson Boulevard/Carlyon. Ms. Brown testified that roundabouts do not work well for the visually impaired due to their nonstandard interaction points with traffic. She also believes that roundabouts do not work well with children, who are impulsive, and drivers who are focused on traffic coming from their left and failing to see pedestrians coming from their right. Ms. Brown also believes that roundabouts impose significant burdens to those in wheelchairs or are otherwise physically impaired. For all of these reasons she asks for a traffic solution other than the proposed roundabout.

Mr. Stusser also testified separately to his general disappointment with the project and its design. He finds it disheartening that the project will eliminate the lawn in front of the south entrance, which serves as the school's only public place, and replace it with parking. He also wishes that there had been a greater discussion of more efficient ways to utilize the campus including greater use of multi-stories and unused areas. He would prefer that the District make

The remaining five witnesses, Chris McCabe, Wendy O'Haver, Al Pantillo, Sean Johnson, and Lisa Perle, testified in a nearly identical fashion. Each of these witnesses has children in the high school or will be attending it, and their children are active in the Lacrosse Club. The lacrosse team currently practices on the school's practice fields but hopes to relocate to the synthetic turf field when it becomes available. These witnesses strongly discourage the imposition of greater restrictions on use of the synthetic turf field. In particular, they oppose any restriction on the non-school groups allowed to use the field as it would prevent their club's use. They argue that this restriction is unfair, impractical and does not recognize how uses change over time.

At the conclusion of public testimony the City responded to Sandra Brown's concerns regarding the proposed roundabout through the testimony of Andrew Beagle, a professional engineer who has worked on the Safety Advisory Council. Mr. Beagle acknowledged that individuals with vision impairment are often concerned about roundabouts for the reasons expressed by Ms. Brown. Nonetheless, the proposed roundabout will be designed to meet all ADA standards. It will offer straighter crossings for pedestrians, include audible cues for vision impaired pedestrians, maintain the existing flashing beacon to warn drivers of the presence of pedestrians, and offer reduced exposure time for pedestrians in the traffic lanes. Mr. Beagle concludes that the roundabout concept will increase pedestrian safety, reduce traffic speeds and improve the intersection's Level of Service.

With the exception of Mr. Stusser's testimony, there has been no public opposition to the proposed additional classrooms and interior improvements to the high school (and his opposition was to the aesthetics of the additions, not their need). Additional classrooms and other improvements to the school building are well explained and justified.

The more contentious matter is the proposed new synthetic turf practice field. Neighbors remain concerned about its noise and light impacts and that its use by non-school groups will cause an added burden to the neighborhood. The District responds that the lighting system will avoid any lighting impact, while restrictions on bleachers, public address systems and noise makers will prevent any noise impacts. City Staff concurs. The District proposes, and the City supports, restrictions on the hours the field can be used by both students and non-students identical to the current restrictions on Ingersoll Stadium. The stadium and the practice field will not be used concurrently. These restrictions appear to be more than sufficient to protect the surrounding residential neighborhood while still allowing reasonable public use.

Some neighbors have suggested imposing the same restrictions on the relocated tennis courts. This suggestion is difficult to understand as there is no evidence that the current tennis courts create any difficulties and the project will simply relocate them a short distance without adding lights.

Residential neighbors suggest that all of the restrictions imposed on Ingersoll Stadium be imposed on the new practice field, including the current restriction on the non-school groups allowed to use Ingersoll Stadium. This recommendation is strongly objected to by the Lacrosse Club as it would deny it the use of the new field. I concur with the concerns expressed by members of the Lacrosse Club. It is important to note that there has been no testimony that the current use of existing practice fields by other groups has been problematic or unduly

burdensome to the surrounding neighborhood. The request to limit use of the proposed practice field to the same non-school groups currently allowed use of Ingersoll Stadium is without any factual justification and would be arbitrary. I must confess a concern about this continuing restriction on the use of Ingersoll Stadium. It appears outdated and runs the risk of cultural bias, but its continuing application to the stadium is not before the Hearing Examiner. Suffice to say I do not see any reason to extend it to the practice field.

After careful consideration and several Traffic Impact Analyses, the City and the District agree that the additional traffic generated by the school's increase in student population is best managed by construction of a compact roundabout at Henderson Boulevard and Carlyon. The City's and District's engineers agree that this solution will improve the intersection's Level of Service, reduce traffic speed and, most importantly, improve pedestrian safety. Sandra Brown has provided a valuable perspective on the potential risk of roundabouts to those with vision impairments, young children and others who suffer physical disabilities. The City responds that these concerns have been taken into consideration and that the design is intended to both improve traffic flow while also increasing pedestrian safety. I conclude that the proposed roundabout is the best means of addressing the project's traffic impacts.

There has been little or no public opposition to the District's requested variances from the limits on impervious surface and hard surfaces. The justification for the variance from the hard surface limit is well explained in the District's and City's materials. The reasoning for the variance from the impervious surface limit was not as clear at first but has since become so. Demanding a greater amount of pervious surface for parking lots, roadways, etc. will only cause rainwater to percolate through the surface and then encounter soils resistant to infiltration. Pervious surfaces would therefore be less beneficial than impervious surfaces which can collect

9. The project is located in a residential zone and exceeds 5,000 feet in floor space. It must therefore be reviewed before the Design Review Board. On December 6, 2018, the Design Review Board completed the conceptual design and review. The Board recommended approval of the project with no conditions or recommendations for changes to the project design. The project is required to undergo detail design review with the building permit application process. A condition has been added to ensure compliance with this requirement.

Findings Relating to the City Comprehensive Plan.

10. The Staff Report, at page 2, contains Findings relating to the project's compliance with the Goals and Policies of the Comprehensive Plan. City Staff finds that the project is consistent with Goals GL1 and GL20 and Policy PS2.1. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed these Findings and adopts them as his own Findings of Fact.

Findings Relating to Compliance with the Unified Development Code.

- 11. The Staff Report, at page 3, contains Findings relating to the project's compliance with the specific requirements for Conditional Use Permits relating to school projects. OMC 18.04.060(cc) and Table 4.01. In particular, the Staff Report contains Findings relating to each of the six criteria for the approval of schools within a residential zoning district. The six criteria relate to school site size; outdoor play area; building size; screening; the use of portables; and building expansion. City Staff finds that the project is in compliance with each requirement. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed these Findings and adopts them as his own Findings of Fact.
- 12. The project must also be in compliance with dimensional standards for setbacks, height, maximum building coverage and impervious surface. OMC 18.04.080. City Staff finds that the project is in compliance with standards for setbacks, height and maximum building

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coverage. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed those Findings and adopts them as his own Findings of Fact.

- 13. City Staff finds that the project is not in compliance with the limits for impervious surfaces and hard surfaces. The Applicant is requesting variances from these requirements as discussed more fully below.
- 14. The project must be in compliance with the City's landscaping requirements. Chapter 18.36 OMC. The Staff Report, at page 4, contains Findings that the Applicant has submitted a landscaping plan for areas of landscaping which will be disturbed by construction as well as an analysis of existing landscaping areas to demonstrate code compliance. Staff notes that some of the existing parking lot landscaping has died and will need to be replaced as part of the project. Staff finds that the landscaping plans submitted by the Applicant do not identify replacement in all of these areas and therefore request that a condition be imposed on project approval that requires full compliance with the landscaping requirements. A more detailed review of the landscaping plan will be performed with construction permit review.
- 15. The project must comply with the parking requirements of OMC 18.38.060. The Staff Report, at page 4, contains Findings relating to the project's compliance with these parking requirements. The campus currently has 607 stalls. With the project's added students it must have 605 stalls. Staff finds that through relocation of parking stalls and the construction of a new parking area the project will result in a net gain of 11 parking spaces on the campus, to 618 stalls. With these additional parking spaces the campus will exceed the required vehicular parking requirements by 13 spaces. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed these Findings and adopts them as his own Findings of Fact.
- 16. The project must also comply with the City's requirements for short-term and long-term bicycle parking. The Staff Report, at page 5, contains Findings relating to existing

- 17. Located in the center of the campus is "Freshman Pond". The Staff Report, at page 6, contains Findings relating to Freshman Pond. Freshman Pond is a kettle wetland regulated by the City's Critical Areas regulations. The pond is a highly modified wetland with a fully developed buffer. As a fully developed area the existing structures surrounding this wetland may continue and are exempt from further review if there is no negative impact to the critical area and its buffer. OMC 18.37.070. City Staff finds that the proposal will include minor increases in stormwater entering the wetland but that these increases will likely benefit the wetland functions, and that the requirements of OMC 18.37.070 are therefore satisfied. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed these Findings and adopts them as his own Findings of Fact.
- 18. The Staff Report, at page 6, contains Findings relating to the project's compliance with the Engineering Design and Development Standards (EDDS). City Staff finds that the Applicant's plans are adequate for conceptual approval but that the Applicant will be required to submit a Detail Engineering Construction Application for review and approval prior to construction. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed these Findings and adopts them as his own Findings of Fact.

19. The project must comply with Chapter 16.60 OMC relating to trees, soil and						
native vegetation protection and replacement. The Staff Report, at page 7, contains Findings						
relating to the project's compliance with this chapter. Staff finds that the project is found to						
generally comply with the tree retention requirements. Greater detail regarding tree protection,						
fencing and other construction related activities will be provided on the engineering construction						
permit plans. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed these Findings and adopts them as his own						
Findings of Fact.						

- 20. Pursuant to OMC 18.72.140(B) a conditional use permit expires after one year but the Hearing Examiner is given authority to extend its length. The Applicant envisions constructing the proposed classrooms in two phases, with the final four classrooms proposed to be constructed during Phase II within ten (10) years. The Applicant therefore requests that the Conditional Use Permit be extended for ten (10) years to allow construction of all proposed classrooms. City Staff supports this request.
- 21. In accordance with Chapter 18.78 OMC the City held a neighborhood meeting on October 29, 2018, and a Concept Design Review Board Meeting on December 6, 2018.

Findings Relating to the New Practice Field and Tennis Courts.

- 22. Ingersoll Stadium is located on the high school campus between the high school building and Henderson Boulevard In 2004, proposed improvements to the stadium led to a hearing before the Hearing Examiner (Case No. 03-2397) which resulted in restrictions on the use of the stadium as well as on the non-student groups allowed to use it (the "2004 Decision"). The 2004 Decision required the District to comply with the District's Policy 4260P(C).
- 23. When it was learned that the District was not fully complying with Policy 4260P(C) a review hearing was held in 2013 before the Hearing Examiner (Case No. 11-0159)

(the "2013 Decision"). The 2013 Decision made minor modifications to the restrictions on the stadium's use but otherwise upheld the 2004 Decision and retained use of Policy 4260P(C).

- 24. The 2004 and 2013 Decisions only impose restrictions on the use of Ingersoll Stadium. They do not impose any restrictions on the use of the school's tennis courts, practice fields, ballfields or other playfields.
- 25. The project proposes to replace an existing grass practice field with a new synthetic turf field. The field would be located between Ingersoll Stadium to the east and the Applied Arts building to the west. Its location is depicted on the map identified as Exhibit 15.
- 26. The proposed new practice field will require relocation of three of the six existing tennis courts. Three new courts will be constructed to replace the lost courts. They will be located immediately south of the remaining three existing courts.
- 27. Neither the current practice field or the existing tennis courts have lighting. The school proposes to install overhead lighting for the new practice field. The tennis courts will not have lighting.
- 28. There has been no testimony that use of the existing practice field or the existing tennis courts has been troublesome to the surrounding residential neighborhood, including the use of either by non-student users.
- 29. Nearby residents have expressed concern that the lighting system for the proposed new practice field will have unwanted lighting impacts on the surrounding residential neighborhood.
- 31. A fuller description of the proposed lighting system is found in Exhibits 27 and 28. The proposed lighting system relies on LED lights to provide maximum on field illumination with minimal off site glare. Exhibit 27 offers an example of the visible light as

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision - 23

39. The Olympia Lacrosse Club, whose members are mostly Olympia students, currently utilize the existing practice field. If the same restrictions on nonuser groups currently imposed in Ingersoll Stadium were imposed on the new practice field, the Lacrosse Club would not be allowed to use it.

40. There has been no evidence that the new tennis courts will impose a greater burden on the surrounding neighborhood than the existing tennis courts.

Findings Relating to the West Gate.

- 41. As depicted on Exhibit 5, the high school's existing parking is located to the north and south of the high school. The project will slightly reduce the number of vehicle stalls north of the high school and increase the number of stalls south of the high school.
- 42. There is an existing lane running from the north parking area to the south parking area located along the west side of the high school as depicted on Exhibit 5.
- 43. The driveway between the two parking areas is blocked by a gate midway along it (the "West Gate") to control access from one parking area to the other. The West Gate is currently locked.
- 44. To improve traffic impacts resulting from the project, the District proposes to unlock the West Gate during portions of the school day and for special events. The District's proposed hours for opening the gate are set forth in Exhibit 29: 6:45 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on normal school days, with each time adjusted accordingly for partial school days. In addition, the West Gate will be opened thirty minutes before and to thirty minutes after large events held at the school. The West Gate will be closed at all other times except for emergencies.
- 45. Having the West Gate open at the beginning and end of the school day will allow drivers to travel freely between the north and south parking areas. This will provide greater

opportunity to enter and exit using right turns and avoiding left turns. A reduction in required left turns will significantly improve traffic flow around the school.

46. City Staff concurs with the District's proposal to open the West Gate on the conditions suggested by the District.

Findings Relating to Traffic Impacts and the Proposed Roundabout.

- 47. Due to the nature of the project the District was required to undertake a Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) to determine the project's impact on traffic.
- 48. The District prepared an initial Traffic Impact Analysis which the City found lacking in sufficient detail.
- 49. In response to the City's concerns, the District prepared an amended Traffic Analysis dated January 2019 (Exhibit 12).
- 50. The amended Traffic Analysis takes into consideration the increase in student population, the new athletic fields and their intended use, and the opening of the West Gate.
- 51. The amended Traffic Analysis finds that existing Level of Service (LOS) at school access points is LOS D or better for school a.m. peak periods and LOS C or better for school p.m. peak hours. The intersection of Carlyon Avenue S.E. and Henderson Boulevard S.E. was also analyzed and found to operate at LOS E for the a.m. peak hour.
- 52. With the additional traffic generated by the project, the intersection of Carlyon and Henderson Boulevard is calculated to operate at LOS F, but would improve to LOS C if a two-way left turn lane was implemented on the north leg of Henderson Boulevard. The amended Traffic Impact Analysis therefore recommends the construction of a two-way left turn lane on the north leg of Henderson and the opening of the West Gate. The Traffic Impact Analysis does not recommend any other mitigation except for the payment of traffic impact fees as required by the City.

- 53. As noted in the Staff Report at page 7, the recommendations contained in the amended Traffic Impact Analysis did not fully satisfy the City's concerns regarding safety and traffic speeds. Existing data indicates that most vehicle speeds are in excess of the posted school zone speed limit, increasing risks to children walking and cycling to school. The proposed additional of a left turn lane on Henderson would improve the intersection's Level of Service but it would not address these other concerns.
- 54. After further consideration, City Staff concluded that a better solution would be to construct a compact roundabout at the intersection of Carlyon Avenue and Henderson Boulevard as identified on Exhibit 21. City Staff believes that this solution will address pedestrian safety, reduce speeds and improve intersection operation.
- 55. The District agrees that the proposed compact roundabout is the best solution to traffic impacts. It further agrees to have it added as a condition of Conditional Use Permit approval.
- 56. Sandra Brown, who is blind, testified during the public hearing as to the hazards roundabouts often pose for people with sight impairments, for those with other physical disabilities, and for small children. Ms. Brown recommended some other solution rather than the proposed roundabout.
- 57. City Staff responded to Mr. Brown's concerns through the testimony of Andrew Beagle, professional engineer. Mr. Beagle acknowledged that Ms. Brown's concerns are legitimate but that the proposed compact roundabout is designed to satisfy ADA standards and address the special needs of those with disabilities. The roundabout will provide straighter crossings for pedestrians, include audible cues for vision impaired pedestrians, maintain the existing flashing beacon to warn drivers of the presence of pedestrians, and offer reduced expose time for pedestrians in the traffic lanes.

requirements the District offers the following proposed Findings:

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1. That the proposed variance will not amount to a rezone or constitute a change in the district boundaries shown on the official zoning map.

Finding: The District finds that approval of the variance will not result in a change of land use or allow any further land uses other than those currently permitted and ongoing.

That because of special circumstances relating to the size, shape and topography, location or surroundings of the subject property the variance is necessary to provide it with use, rights and privileges permitted to other properties in the vicinity and in the zone in which the subject property is located.

Finding: The District finds that the current size of the high school campus prevents it from complying with hard surface limitation. The property is of insufficient size, is bounded by development, and is in a location where it is not possible to comply with the maximum coverage requirement. Further, there are no vacant, undeveloped adjacent properties which would add sufficient acreage to the campus to allow it to achieve the maximum coverage requirements, and the option of acquiring sufficient acreage of existing single-family homes is unreasonable. While thought could be given to making these school improvements at an offsite location, this would result in a satellite campus and the inefficient use of public resources with a host of health, educational, and safety issues.

3. That special conditions and circumstances do not result from the actions of the applicant.

Finding: The District is directed by RCW 28A.150.210 to achieve various goals through basic education. To comply with these requirements the District must

plan for facility and educational improvements such as the ones currently proposed. In addition, by making improvements to the existing campus the need to consider the construction of new schools will be delayed.

4. That granting of the variance will not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitation upon uses of other properties in the vicinity and zone in which the property is located.

Finding: The District has operated Olympia High School at its current location for 57 years. The requested variance is not a special privilege but will simply allow the District to continue managing and operating the high school as it always has. No new land uses are proposed.

5. That the granting of the variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the vicinity and zone in which the subject property is situated.

Finding: The project wisely consolidates educational resources in the current campus location, furthers public safety, makes efficient use of available public land and build infrastructure, and makes efficient use of human resources by consolidating all high school activities on a single campus. In addition, the project will benefit the high school's entire service area, the surrounding neighborhood and, as mitigated, will not have detrimental impacts on traffic, noise, light and use patterns.

6. That the variance is the minimum variance necessary to provide the rights and privileges described above.

Finding: The requested variance is the minimum variance necessary to allow the District to fulfill the project's goals. Every effort has been made to minimize site

disturbance by assuring that building sizes are the minimum necessary to fulfill State-mandated educational requirements and by consolidating uses into two levels whenever possible. Consideration was given to even greater consolidation but found to be impractical. Each of the three classroom additions provides specific benefit which cannot be achieved through consolidation.

- 66. There has been no public opposition to the requested variance from the hard surface standards.
 - 67 City Staff supports the Applicant's requested variance.
- 68. The Hearing Examiner has reviewed the District's proposed Findings relating to the requested variance from hard surfaces and adopts these Findings as his own Findings of fact.

Findings Relating to the Requested Variance from the Impervious Surface <u>Limitations</u>.

- 69. The District seeks a variance to OMC 18.04.080 Table 4.04 to increase maximum impervious surface coverage from 40% total site coverage to 53.5%.
- 70. Current impervious surface for the high school campus is 50.3% of the site (20.81 acres). The proposal would increase total impervious surface to 53.5% (22.12 acres).
- 71. The maximum limit for impervious surface in the R4-8 zone is 40%. The school is currently noncompliant with this limitation and has been so since the ordinance was enacted.
- 72. The Variance Request (Exhibit 3), referred to in the previous section of Findings, contains additional Findings relating to the project's compliance with the six requirements of OMC 18.66.020 for the second variance. Many of the District's proposed Findings are identical to those in support of the requested variance from the hard surface limitations. In addition to those Findings, the District proposes additional Findings relating to the requested variance from the impervious surface limitations.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law

and Decision - 31

- a. The requested variances will not amount to a rezone or constitute a change in the District boundaries shown on the Official Zoning Map.
- b. Because of special circumstances relating to the size, shape, topography, location, or the surroundings of the subject property, the variances are necessary to provide it with the rights and privileges permitted to other properties in the vicinity and in the zone in which the subject property is located.
- Special conditions and circumstances do not result from the actions of the Applicant.
- d. Granting the variances will not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon uses of other properties in the vicinity and zone in which the property is located.
- e. Granting the variances will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the public and improvements in the vicinity and zone in which the subject is situated.
- f. The variances are the minimum variances necessary to provide the rights and privileges to which the Applicant is entitled.
- 17. The two requested variances should be approved.

DECISION

Now, therefore, the Applicant's request for a Conditional Use Permit is approved and the Applicant's request for variance from the impervious surface limitations and the hard surface limitations are approved subject to the following:

Development shall be substantially in conformance to the approved Site Plan,
 Sheet A.1.0 dated February 19, 2019.

- 2. Specific dimensional specification for the 73 long-term bike parking (fully secure and out of the weather) and the 73 short-term bike parking (covered with racks providing 2 points of lockable connection) shall be provided with the construction permit approval.

 Proposed design of the signage for bike parking shall be provided on the construction permit plans as required by OMC 18.38.220(c). All required bike parking shall be installed prior to occupancy of the building.
- 3. The Applicant shall install a compact roundabout delineated with pavement markings, tubular posts, and a raised mountable asphalt center feature, as conceptually shown in Attachment 21, at the intersection of Henderson Boulevard and Carlyon Avenue. Said improvements shall be installed prior to final occupancy of Phase I (not including the 4 additional classrooms) of the proposed project and must be shown on the engineering permit submittal.
- 4. Following Land Use Approval and prior to construction, the Applicant shall submit engineering design plans to the Community Planning and Development Department for detailed technical review, approval and permitting. All engineering plans shall be in conformance with the City of Olympia's 2018 Engineering Design and Development Standards. The plans shall include all applicable elements as identified in the Standards, Section 3.045 Plan Checklist. The engineering submittal shall include the following:

- a. A construction level detailed landscaping plan reflecting the layout in the approved site plan. This plan shall include a plan for replacing trees and other vegetation within the existing parking lot as outlined in the parking analysis (Attachment 8).
- b. A signed Inadvertent Discovery Plan that outlines how the project proponent and site crew will respond in the event that archaeological resources are uncovered during the course of project work. The IDP shall be maintained and available for inspection on the project site for the duration of excavation and construction, pursuant to OMC 18.12.140.
- c. Plans shall demonstrate compliance with all applicable requirements related to Urban Forestry, such as tree protection fencing details.
- 5. A complete building permit application will be required for the construction of these structures. Projects shall comply with currently adopted construction codes pursuant to the Olympia Municipal Code 16.04. All construction related activities must be appropriately permitted prior to commencement of work.
- 6. Hours of construction noise shall comply with OMC 18.40.080. The project shall comply with noise regulations as outlined in OMC 18.40.080 (protection standards) and WAC 17-60 as it relates to omission noise related to construction and long-term use of the site.

 Pyrotechnics, airhorns, cowbells, sirens, electronic amplification devices and similar features are prohibited at the synthetic turf practice field. Appropriate signage shall be placed at the entrance and shown on the engineering permit plans.

- 7. The approval of this Conditional Use Permit shall be extended by ten (10) years to allow for the second phase of construction (4 additional classrooms) to be postponed to allow time for fundraising set to occur in/around 2025.
- 8. The hours of operation for the practice field shall be consistent with the policies of the School Districts Procedure No. 4260P(C) which is a set of operating rules governing the use of Ingersoll Stadium intended to reduce the effect of the Stadium's use on the surrounding neighborhood. Specific limitations of hours of use are provided for both District and Non-District use.
- 9. The practice field will not be scheduled for Non-District use when Ingersoll Stadium is scheduled for event use. The practice field can be used for warmups 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 it use and the Ingersoll event is beginning.
- 10. During typical full school days, the western traffic control gate will be opened from 6:45 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and again from 1:50 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. These times will be modified accordingly to accommodate partial school days. The gate will also be opened thirty minutes before, and to thirty minutes after, large events being held in the school. The gate will be closed on weekends and school holidays unless a large event is being held at the school. Emergency access may require the opening of the gate during scheduled closed periods. The Olympia School District may request modification of the gate schedule as needed based upon school operations.

DATED this A day of March, 2019.

Mark C. Scheibmeir

City of Olympia Hearing Examiner

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision - 36

RECONSIDERATION/APPEAL

This is a final decision of the City. Any party may file a Motion for Reconsideration
within 10 days of service of this decision in accordance with OMC 18.75.060. Appeals shall be
made to Superior Court pursuant to provisions of Chapter 36.70C RCW. The filing of a Motion
for Reconsideration is not a prerequisite for seeking judicial review. If a Motion for
Reconsideration is filed, the time for filing an appeal shall not commence until disposition of the
Motion.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision - 37