

2023 CIP Ph2 Schematic Design: Meeting #1

**MEETING MINUTES**

PROJECT: Akron Central School District – 2023 Capital Improvements Project Phase II

CPL PROJECT NO.: R21.13091.12

DATE OF MEETING: March 1, 2024 (9:00a.m. EST)

PERSONS PRESENT:

**Akron CSD**

Andrea Kersten, Superintendent  
Eric Polkowski, Board of Education President  
Joe Caprio, Middle School Principal  
Paul Kowalski, Technology Director  
Andy Clouse, Football Head Coach  
Daric Brege, Track Head Coach

**Village of Akron**

Brian Murray, Planning Board Chairman

**The Seneca Nation**

Roger Hill, Tonawanda Seneca Nation Chief

**CPL**

Jason Benfante, Vice President  
Brady Morrison, Senior Architectural Designer  
Austin Genberg, Architectural Designer  
Norm Gardner, Senior Engineering Project Manager  
John Girolamo, Engineering Project Manager

**Buffalo Engineering**

Dante Izzo, Principal Mechanical & Plumbing Engineer

**Campus Construction Management Group**

Megan Sykes, Senior Project Manager

**DISCUSSION:**

A general discussion was conducted in effort to finalize schematic design for the project to gather information.

Specific topics discussed were as follows:

**I. Turf**

- A. The current grass field occasionally presents issues with being too wet for sporting events to take place.



- B. Field lines needed: Football, Soccer, Lacrosse, and Field Hockey
  - i. The district requested that CPL review adding baseball infield lines to the turf.
- C. At least one of the D-zones should be fully turf to allow for additional activities to take place while the main field is being used for practice.
- D. Incorporate field groomer into budget. (most likely will not receive aid)
- E. CPL advised against large intricate central field logos in the turf due to the probable recurring need to replace. Events like lacrosse faceoffs can be very harsh on the turf in this area. CPL to review other possible branding opportunities.
- F. The proposed Turf selection needs to be consistent with the surrounding districts as long as it meets all of the design criteria.

## **II. Track**

- A. The district requires an 8-lane track.
- B. The district's head track coach requested different color exchange zones. "Easier for athletes and officials"
  - i. CPL presented possible issues with varying track colors. This would require more seams in the track (More seams = more areas for water infiltration).
- C. Provide infrastructure to support a Fully Automatic Timing (F.A.T.) System
- D. It was proposed by a member of the district that CPL explore a two-direction section of track for hurdles.
  - i. Overall, the district concluded that they did not need or want a two-direction section of track. Wind direction was not believed to be an issue.
- E. Water access (steeple chase, drinking fountains, etc.) should be located in a manner that does not require water lines to be run under the field or track.
- F. The steeple chase pit will need to have a drain.
- G. The track surface selected should allow for the use of track spikes (BSS 300). The district agreed that a "collegiate level" track surface (BSS 1,000) was not necessary.
- H. The district requested track and field records be incorporated somewhere in the new athletic complex. Currently the records are displayed in the gymnasium, which the district feels are not an appropriate location.
  - i. Three options were discussed: Incorporated into perimeter fence, around/on proposed scoreboard structure, or incorporated into plaza/concessions area.



- I. The district requested that CPL explore an Orange and/or Grey Track surface.
  - i. Large areas of dark track surface should be avoided due to their higher levels of absorption and radiation of heat.

### **III. Field Events**

- A. The district prefers the field events layout at Alden CSD
- B. The district only requires one approach/mat for pole vault.
- C. The district requested that 2 shot put fields be provided (current plan only shows 1)
  - i. If possible, the shot-put fields should be moved closer to the field.
  - ii. Shot put fields should be a “stone dust” composition.
  - iii. Throwing events should be located within close proximity of each other.

### **IV. Spectator Seating:**

- A. Existing Bleachers hold roughly 500 spectators. CPL to review the capacity.
- B. Currently proposed is a 1100-person bleacher system.
  - i. The district has expressed concerns about having a single bleacher system, due to the fear of conflict between rival teams’ fanbases and Akron’s fanbase.
  - ii. The district feels that a 2-bleacher system (home team & away team) would reduce the potential for conflict between fanbases.
- C. Bleachers should be elevated.
  - i. The district liked the idea of elevating the bleachers as much as possible (within reason).
  - ii. Provide an elevated walkway in the front of the bleachers, an elevated walkway at the rear of the bleachers, and a grade level walkway between the bleachers and the perimeter field fence.
  - iii. The elevated face of the grandstand facing the field should incorporate branding.
  - iv. The underside (rear) of the grandstands should be enclosed in a branded screen system.

### **V. Press Box**

- A. The press box should have a rooftop film deck.



- B. The district liked the chamfered corner press box examples presented.
- C. Akron's coach's suite should be larger than the visiting teams' coach's suite.
  - i. There should be four rooms in the press box: Akron's Coach's Suite, Commentator's Suite, Media/Radio Suite, and Visiting Teams' Coach's Suite.
  - ii. Based on the press box plan presented, Akron's Coach's suite should be of equal size to the central commentator's suite.

**VI. Concessions:**

- A. Concessions should be located within the athletic complex's perimeter security fencing.
- B. The existing concessions building scope has not been finalized.
- C. The district is concerned about investing potentially \$500,000 in the existing concessions building, because the location and configuration will likely not meet their needs in the future.
- D. The initial scope of work at the concessions building was to increase plumbing fixture counts and address asset preservation items.
  - i. Providing at least one family bathroom within the current storage room of the concessions building was proposed (along the wall that currently has an overhead door).
- E. At the end of the discussion, it was proposed, and preferred, that work at the concessions building be minimal and only address asset preservation items.

**VII. Field Lighting:**

- A. Track and field events outside of the main track and field do not require lighting.
- B. The district would like the ability to dim main stadium lights at end of sporting events to indicate to spectators that they need to begin vacating the premises.
  - i. Will require supplemental lighting at main exiting walkways.

**VIII. Tennis Courts**

- A. The district is concerned with the deteriorating condition of the existing tennis courts and the potential lifespan of the proposed solution.
- B. There is the potential that the courts will require multiple re-coatings before Phase III of the project begins, which is when the courts are slated to be replaced. (potentially 15 years out).
  - i. The district feels that the funding required to re-coat their tennis courts over



the next 15 years could be better allocated to potentially replacing the tennis courts in the current phase of the project.

**IX. Misc.**

- A. Provide three flag poles: American Flag, Seneca Nation Flag, and an Akron Flag
- B. A neighboring community member has made reports that vehicles use the roadway between the athletic fields and the school at late hours of the night.
  - i. The district requested that CPL explore providing a lockable gate at the roadway entrance.
- C. The entrance into the athletics complex should be monumental and encompass Akron's "identity".
  - i. Examples of field entrances were presented to the district, and compared to the clearance field entrance, the proposed entrance should be more architecturally significant.

**X. Secure Vestibule Improvements**

- A. Provide a new bullet resistant transaction window with a "transparent package receiver" large enough to accommodate backpacks.
- B. A Vulnerability Expert will be visiting the district to review campus wide security issues and will evaluate the secure vestibule.

The foregoing constitutes our understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. If there are any errors or omissions in the basic discussion, please notify the Author within seven days.

Respectfully submitted,

**Austin Genberg**

**CPL**



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