

## Results of Bridgeport Stadium Survey and Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Possibility of a New Stadium Complex

In all, 633 confidential surveys were submitted. In regard to the following question: ***I believe the students of Bridgeport should have a new stadium if it supports all extra-curricular activities and is used for community use***, 449 submitted a 'Yes' and 184 submitted a 'No' to this response. Please understand that we are exploring every site possible and creatively talking about Perkins Field as well as reviewing one additional potential site. The duty of this board of education is to be proactive for our students as it has been two full seasons since their last home football game, band performance, senior night or cheerleading on the field.

Thank you to everyone that suggested sites for consideration through this survey. Please know that these options were taken into consideration and presented to our architectural and engineering firm for their review on January 27, 2020.

**Why is eminent domain even being considered?** The board of education carefully considered this as a ***last resort*** only. Currently our students have been without a home stadium for two years. Our approach is to be proactive for our students. To date, we are still reviewing one other potential site and revisiting Perkins Field with our architectural and engineering firm. The board of education also realizes that eminent domain is a sensitive issue and is doing everything it may to avoid this process as a ***last resort*** only.

**Why take away the laundromat and all of the businesses at Chapter Square?** We will not. The initial offer from the board of education back in 2018 did involve most of chapter square as well as naming the field in honor of John and Della Callarik. However, after working with our architectural and engineering firm, a meeting and plan was presented to Mr. Callarik in ***November of 2019 that would not affect the laundromat or the other businesses that are next to Commercial Drive***. The district kindly presented to Mr. Callarik a smaller portion of his property that ***only involved the car wash and one storage unit***. This way, the laundromat and other businesses next to Commercial Drive would still be open to the community for future use, and there would be room for Mr. Callarik, if he wished, to move the car wash to his remaining land.

**We have also had some questions concerning family homes and the apartments that are behind the school if eminent domain would be used.** No family homes near the school or the apartments behind the school were or are a consideration for a new stadium complex.

**There have been some concerns and questions regarding the other properties that have been looked into for the possibility as a site for the new stadium being non-transparent or never have occurred.** To date, the board of education has investigated a total of 11 different sites for consideration of a new stadium location. The board of education will remain trustworthy to all of the landowners with which it has met. In general, the board of education was looking for 6 to 9 acres during this process. Much of the land in the Bridgeport School District is in a flood zone. The board of education cannot justify building an entire new stadium in a flood zone. After all, that was one of the main reasons for not using Perkins Field.

**Why is the district not using Perkins Field and can you bring in portable bleachers?** Prior to 2020, Perkins Field was not considered as a feasible site due to the flooding issues. The bleachers and concession stand were demolished due to structural concerns. Part of the board of education's concern was that there were voids under the concrete that supported the grandstands and concession stand areas. The board of education is again looking into the possibility of creatively using Perkins Field, but will ultimately need clearance from the state and local floodplain coordinator. We must be able to find an architectural and engineering firm that would be willing to do testing, deem the site as safe and build there. When investigating a flood insurance company, we learned they will only insure \$500,000 worth of coverage if we did return to Perkins Field (this amount may not fully insure what we would have at Perkins Field if the board was given clearance from the state and county to rebuild there).

**Has the district considered filling in Perkins Field so it would be out of a flood zone?**

Yes, filling in Perkins Field has been presented to our architectural and engineering firm. Their recommendation is that this could prove costly. The initial estimate for this job is in the 3 to 4-million-dollar range. In addition, part of Perkins Field is in a floodway. We may not change the land in a floodway. The board of education also has concerns with filling in Perkins Field with 21 feet of fill/dirt which would have Perkins Field 3 feet above State Route 40. The board of education has questions as to how many family homes and businesses may flood if we raised Perkins Field above the flood zone. Ultimately the water would flow somewhere else throughout our communities.

**What is the estimated cost of a new stadium?** It depends upon the land we have to build upon. We do respect the importance of building a facility that will be cost effective. The stadium committee has also discussed the possibility of building in stages and fundraising towards this initiative. Also, the district is considering pursuing grants through the state and other agencies. The board will also be discussing the money collected from oil and gas revenue that the board will consider putting towards this project. Ultimately, depending upon the location and cost, we cannot rule out that we may need to come to the taxpayers for support of our students.

**What is the district's timeline for getting a new field/stadium complex for the students?** The next steps for the board of education will be to explore and come up with a plan for building. Then, this plan would need to be submitted for approval from the state. This process could be in the range of 6 months to a year and a half depending upon the state and county approval as well as funding support for the new field/stadium. Again, eminent domain will be the last step, but ultimately could be what we need to pursue if it is our only option especially if the state or local floodplain coordinator would deny our request to use Perkins Field.

**Has the district investigated what impact of not having a field/stadium complex will do for our student population and the financial implications?** Yes. The board of education understands fully that school spirit and pride for Bridgeport has been impacted by the absence of a home stadium. The absence of our own home stadium could also have an impact on a student when considering our school district. Our approach is to be proactive and purposeful for the benefit of our students, teachers, families, community members and alumni. They are "All In" for the school district and will continue to strive towards providing our students with top notch facilities now and for future generations of Bulldogs.