

LAGUNA BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

• **SPECIAL MEETING** •

550 Blumont St.

Laguna Beach, CA 92651

March 5, 2015

Regular Session 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Opportunities for public input occur at each agenda item and at Public Comment. Members of the public may address the Board of Education regarding items not on the agenda, yet within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction, during Public Comment. The public may speak about items that are on the agenda during consideration of that item. Speaking time is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker with a maximum of twenty (20) minutes per topic.

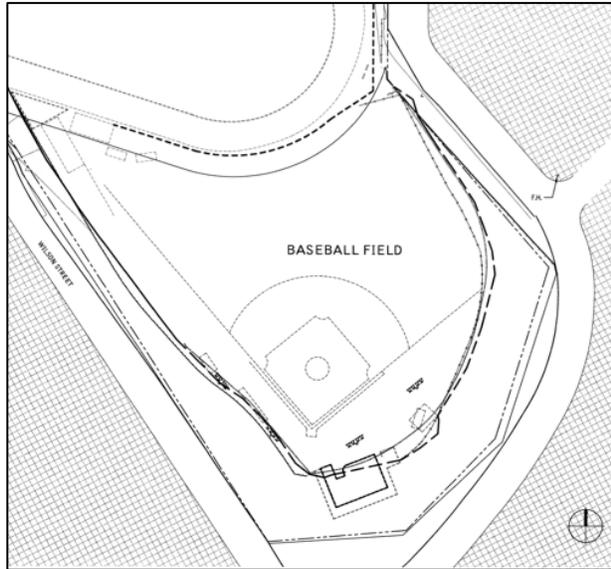
Persons wishing to address the Board should complete and submit a public comment card, available on the information table. Matters not on the agenda cannot be acted upon or discussed by the Board. The Board may ask staff to research and respond accordingly.

6. DISCUSSION: LAGUNA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD

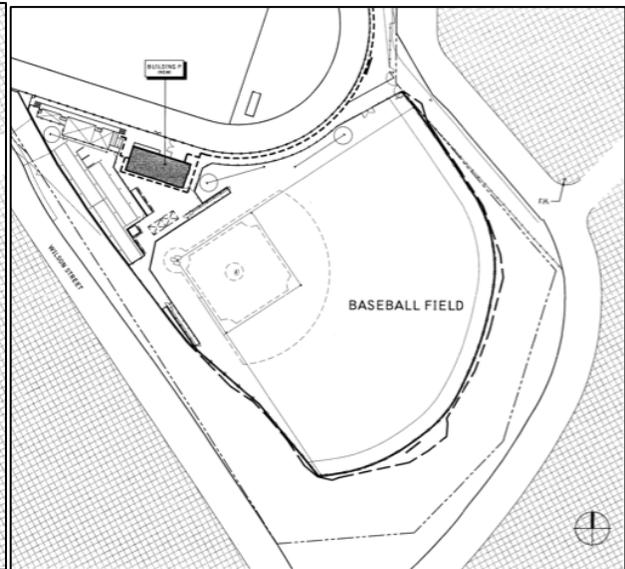
The purpose of the Board Study Session is to review information related to concerns about the high school baseball field. Specifically, the concerns raised have been directed towards errant baseballs leaving the baseball field and entering into the neighborhood.

The baseball field was modified in 2004, which resulted in home plate moving from the southern section of the field to the western portion.

Pre 2004 Layout



Current Layout: (after 2004 improvement)



The baseball field is positioned on the southern portion of the high school campus, adjacent to Wilson Street and St. Ann's Drive. The modified layout of the field decreased the total distance from home plate to left field. Though the fence height was increased to 30' high above field level, batters are still able to hit homeruns and foul balls that go over the fencing and into the surrounding neighborhood. Additionally, some of the netting used in the batting cages is worn and frayed, which has resulted in some balls escaping the campus and also entering the neighborhood.

In order to mitigate the potential for errant balls to escape the field of play and improve the safety around the baseball field, staff has completed, or is in progress of completing, the following measures:

- Added additional netting around existing netting of the batting cages. This offers a dual layer of protection and will prevent baseballs from escaping the batting cage area. (Contractor awarded work, awaiting installation)
- Replaced netting on "turtle cage" used for live batting practice. Also replaced broken wheel on turtle cage for better mobility. (Contractor awarded work, awaiting installation)
- Added signage around perimeter of field along Wilson Street and St. Ann's Drive warning pedestrians of errant baseballs. (Solicited pricing from signage vendors, awaiting proposals)

In addition to the current measures already completed or underway, alternative options have also been developed by staff for the Board to consider with regard to mitigating errant baseballs:

- Modify the baseball field orientation back to how it was prior to the 2004 improvement project.
 - Pros: may limit the amount of baseballs that breach the current left field fence as homeruns.
 - Cons: may not stop all balls from breaching the field of play. Also, may result in homeruns being directed towards the existing track and will require the Division of the State Architect's (DSA) review and approval, which will trigger very high costs for construction similar to prior modification.

- Increase vertical height of outfield fence by way of extending or providing new taller poles.
 - Pros: may limit amount of baseballs able to breach the field of play.
 - Cons: may not stop all balls from breaching field of play. Also, extending the fence vertically will create viewing issues for homes located north and east of the field that currently have unobstructed view of the ocean. Project will likely trigger structural changes in existing poles, or new poles, and will require the Division of the State Architect's review and approval, which will trigger very high costs for construction.
- Convert existing baseball field to softball and relocate baseball program to Alta Laguna.
 - Pros: will likely dramatically limit the amount of balls that breach the field of play and costs much less than reconfiguring or increasing the height of existing fencing.
 - Cons: requires transportation arrangements for current baseball players, likely bussing. Also, there is no current agreement with the City for use of Alta Laguna sports field so it would require negotiation and may not be feasible, as it would disrupt the current usage schedule (i.e. Little League). May require the construction of new batting cages, which could be costly.

We have received support for the current field configuration and use from the baseball program participants and parents. One of the recent correspondences concisely addresses most of the parent concerns and is summarized as follows:

- The baseball program at LBHS dates back to 1938 and has significant importance to the campus.
- The courts have been clear that without negligence, there is no liability issue present near schools or sports facilities with regards to normal outcomes such as flying balls, noise and expectable impacts.
- The configuration of the field falls well within the normal course of the school in terms of altering its own facilities within the normal course of its educational mandate.
- There are increased risks associated with relocating the baseball program to Alta Laguna.

The Board may wish to maintain the existing configuration and program. The three alternatives would likely result in further mitigating errant baseballs from escaping the baseball field beyond what staff currently has completed or is in progress. However, there are significant costs associated with each option, none of which were incorporated into the recently approved facilities master plan.

7. ADJOURNMENT, Ketta Brown, President, Board of Education

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is **Tuesday, March 10, 2015 6:00 PM**
 at the Laguna Beach Unified School District Office Board Room
 550 Blumont St., Laguna Beach, California

For information regarding Laguna Beach Unified School District, please visit our website: www.lbusd.org

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD BY PARENTS AND CITIZENS PRESENT AT THIS MEETING

We are pleased you have joined us for this meeting. Community interest in our schools is welcome and valued.

The members of the LBUSD Board of Education are locally elected officials, serve four-year terms of office, and are responsible for the schools' educational programs, grades kindergarten through twelve. The Board is a policy-making body whose actions are guided by the District's vision, mission, and goals. Administration of the District is delegated to a professional administrative staff led by the Superintendent. Board members are required to conduct the programs of the schools in accordance with the Constitution of the State of California, the California Education Code, and other laws relating to schools enacted by the Legislature, in addition to policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Education.

Materials that are public records related to open session agenda items are occasionally distributed to Board members after the agenda has been posted. These materials will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Superintendent between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: Members of the public may address the Board of Education on agenda items during consideration of that item. Speaking time is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker with a maximum of twenty (20) minutes per topic, unless the time limit is waived by a majority of the Board.

Persons wishing to address the Board should complete and submit a public comment card, available on the information table.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items): Members of the public may address the Board of Education regarding items not on the agenda, yet within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction during public comment. Speaking time is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker with a maximum of twenty (20) minutes per topic, unless the time limit is waived by a majority of the Board. Legally, the Board cannot take action on topics raised by speakers and discussion may not be held by the Board. The Board may ask staff to research and respond accordingly.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

In accordance with the Americans with Disability Act, members of the public who require disability accommodation to participate in the meeting should contact the Office of the Superintendent in writing by noon on the Friday before the scheduled meeting.