



Aiken County Public Schools

1000 Brookhaven Drive • Aiken, South Carolina 29803

David M. Caver, Deputy Superintendent
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March 3, 2015

Ms. Angela Rodgers
Gibson & Associates
7139 Broad River Road
Irmo, SC 29063

Ms. Rogers,

Thank you for sharing your concerns with the Board of Education. Your willingness to voice these concerns provides me with an opportunity to explain the reasoning for the recommendation of artificial turf and some facts concerning this.

The board approved in 2001 allowing \$200,000 yearly for athletic facility needs from the Five Year Facility Plan. Since that time, Ridge Spring-Monetta High had their athletic facilities enhanced with a six lane track (\$242,000), and two athletic activity buses (\$124,000). In addition since 2007, the following upgrades to Ridge Spring-Monetta athletic facilities were completed.

Stadium Lighting \$7800
Portable Bleachers \$78,300
Scoreboard replacement \$3200
Aluminum bleachers \$10,600
Home side bleacher replacement \$34,700

There are many more needs to our facilities and we are still addressing them. For the years 2017-19 the board has approved nearly \$30,000,000 to continue with the Master Facility Plan that will build a new school 4K-12 for Ridge Spring-Monetta. The implementation of the plan began in 2014 with the addition of the new middle school wing. (\$8,475,000)

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Since 2006, North Augusta High School received two athletic buses (\$124,000) and an upgrade to the track (\$337,000) with Athletic Facility funds. North Augusta High School has no baseball field or softball field on campus. Their practice football field is smaller than regulation. There are three teams (Varsity, Junior Varsity, 9th) that must practice on that field. This school also has four soccer teams that must be accommodated for practices and games. In addition, there are two middle schools that play their games on the high school game field. With this much activity on a field, field turf is a need, not a luxury.

On January 30, 2015, I met with the District High School Athletic Directors to help determine the athletic facility needs at our high schools. The needs expressed at Ridge Spring-Monetta High were new gym, field house, stadium and field lighting, bathrooms at the stadium and track resurfacing. Those needs are estimated at \$8,100,000. Some of these needs will be addressed with the new construction. Unfortunately our athletic facility needs far outweigh the available funds. It is my recommendation that each school have their needs addressed. With the funds available, this has to be done, over time, in a cyclic manner just as the track and transportation needs were addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David M. Caver".

David M. Caver

Cc: Dr. Elizabeth Everitt, District Superintendent
School Board Members
Dr. Tim Yarborough, High School Academic Officer
Mr. Warren Wintrode, Principal, RSM High
Mr. Brian McCormack, Athletic Director, RSM High
The Honorable Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina