



STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PHYSICAL PLANT OFFICE

131 WEST NITTANY AVE. • STATE COLLEGE PENNSYLVANIA • 16801-4899
TELEPHONE: 814-231-1026 •

November 1, 2018

State College Borough Council
243 South Allen Street
State College, PA 16801

Attn: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Manager

Re: Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment
High School Track Facility
State College Area School District

Dear Council Members:

As part of the State College Area School District's initiative to improve the high school campus facilities to enhance our student's experiences, the district respectfully requests your consideration of amending Part K Lighting, Section 2706.D.(6) of the Borough's Zoning Ordinance related to the maximum height of luminaries for outdoor facility and event in a residential zone. Specifically, the District is seeking an exception, similar to Memorial Field, to permit the installation of state of the art sports field lights up to a 70 foot height at the high school track and synthetic turf field facility on the south campus. The track facility is located in the R3B Residence Zoning District where the maximum height of luminaries permitted is 25 feet which is not conducive for sports field lighting applications.

As the construction of our high school campus continues and the District is continually adjusting to the new campus layout and facilities, we are observing some challenges with accommodating our extra-curricular activities namely marching band and athletics. As you are aware, our marching band has historically practiced on a parking lot and our new layout has provided that space on the north campus parking lot which opened this summer.

When our south campus building is complete, the band equipment will be housed a fair distance away from the north campus parking lot making band practice logistics cumbersome with crossing of Westerly Parkway twice per practice. When other larger events are scheduled at the high school, the north parking lot is utilized and in conflict with the band practice. While we acknowledge that our south parking capacity is not yet constructed, and that will provide some relief on the north campus parking, we envision there will still be parking and band practice conflicts on the north campus parking lot.

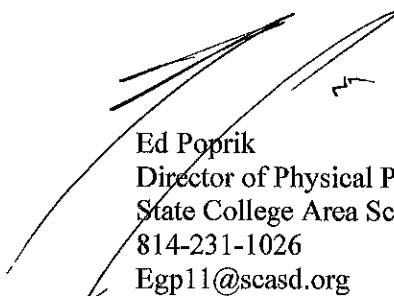
Likewise, our athletic teams are continually being shuffled around to various venues due to the lack of space on the campus which is exacerbated by inclement weather conditions. We do expect some relief of our space constraints for athletics once our north campus synthetic turf field is constructed and operational this coming spring, but we still foresee a shortage of available space for all of our extra-curricular activities.

The administration and Board of Directors has discussed the merits of adding sports lighting to our south campus track and synthetic turf field and are supportive of pursuing installation of sports lighting. Lighting of this facility will extend the usable hours and provide additional scheduling relief for extra-curricular activities and also provide a closer venue for the band practice while minimizing the logistics of crossing Westerly Parkway for evening practices.

The District appreciates the Borough's support and cooperation with our high school campus renewal and looks forward discussing our request to amend the Lighting Ordinance to permit the installation of sports field lighting at the south campus track facility.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ed Poprik
Director of Physical Plant
State College Area School District
814-231-1026
Egp11@scasd.org



Site Plan Exhibit
for
Text Amendment Request
State College Area School District
High School - South Campus
October 2018

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Imagery Date: 4/16/2016

40°46'47.29" N 77°51'30.24" W elev 1134 ft eye alt 2448 ft

Google Earth