



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

Superintendent Communiqué

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SPECIAL EDITION

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Midland Community Stadium Press Box Update

Early Monday, August 27, 2018, the press box at the Midland Community Stadium was hit by lightning, which triggered a fire doing extensive damage to the structure. The press box contained controls for stadium lighting, sound system and scoreboard.

MPS has been working with fire inspectors, structural engineers, State code regulators, insurance adjusters and so many more to determine cause, possible insurance claim amount, and whether the structure will be torn down or is repairable in its current condition.

MPS has repaired lighting controls, scoreboard controls and brought in a portable sound system. Events have been held in the Stadium with very few issues. The home-side bleachers have been restricted from use to ensure the safety of spectators.

Present discussions between the district and insurance company center around whether the structure is repairable in its current condition and doesn't need to be updated to meet current building code, or if it is a rebuild and would need to be brought up to existing code standards, which would include an elevator. The District's position is the structure should be rebuilt as the cost to repair and amount of repair to this structure will, under the building codes, require meeting current standards. Additionally repairing the structure, which was originally built in the 1950's, is nearly the cost to build a brand new structure.

In the meantime, know that all inspections are complete. The District has applied for a permit to remove the structure. The permit process will take ten days, and we plan on having a local contractor remove the building.

This Friday's football game will go on as scheduled and the District will open the home side bleachers, but will restrict seating from approximately the 30-yard-line to the 30-yard-line for safety.

Once the structure is removed, all seating will be available to spectators. Typical press box functions, such as announcing, scoreboard controls, and coaches, will have a temporary shelter on or near where the structure once stood.

Designs for a new press box will be produced with the District's architect and user group input. The project will be put out for public bid as school districts are required to do. We hope to start our rebuild in the spring.

It has not yet been determined the amount of the insurance claim, but it is likely the claim will not cover the full cost of a present-day facility that meets all codes. The District will need to use capital improvement funds from our General Fund to make up the difference.

The Community Stadium is scheduled to have many improvements made to it over the next few years. We have been working with a generous community partner to replace the out-of-date scoreboard and poor-performing sound system. Through Bond funds we are scheduled to replace our 14-year-old turf (that has out-lived its 10-year life expectancy), replace home bleachers as the cement structure has extensive damage and a resurfacing of the track. We will be exploring possible improvements to concessions and restrooms as well.

Thank you to all of our community members who have reached out to us and assisted us in this process.