

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: February 15, 2017

SUBJECT: Turf Fields

PRESENTER: Michael Edney, Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

1. Recent Turf Projects in Western North Carolina Article
<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/sports/high-school/hshuddle/2016/04/08/smoky-turf-field-gets-green-light/82783312/>

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

At the January mid-month meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Chairman Edney requested that the Board discuss adding turf fields to each Henderson County's four High Schools.

Staff and the County's Architect of Record will be available to discuss potential costs and construction.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to discuss the item and provide direction to staff.

Suggested Motion(s):

No motion is suggested

Smoky turf field gets green light

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HUDDLE (WWW.CITIZEN-TIMES.COM/BLOG/HSBUDDLE/)

Andrew Pearson (<http://www.citizen-times.com/staff/30225/andrew-pearson/>), The Citizen-Times

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(Photo: COURTESY PHOTO)

SYLVA - Smoky Mountain is joining the ranks of Western North Carolina high schools with an artificial turf field.

And it came about unanimously.

All five members of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners voted in favor of helping Jackson County Schools make up a \$200,000 budgeting shortfall that stood in the way of a turf field for the 2016-17 school year. The vote was conducted during a Thursday meeting.

The \$915,000 installation will begin "as soon as possible," Jackson County athletic director Cindi Simmons said.

"It's a great day in Jackson County," Simmons said. "This vote speaks volumes about our commissioners' commitment to the county and its young people."

Jackson school officials began taking bids for a turf field on March 22 and had set a deadline for April 15 to raise the \$200,000. About \$60,000 has been collected in donations and pledges from the community.

The Carolina Panthers gave Jackson County Schools a \$200,000 grant through the NFL Foundations Grassroots Program in October. Representatives from the Panthers are expected to attend a groundbreaking ceremony when a date can be hammered out.

Fifteen of the 31 football-playing high schools in WNC will have artificial turf after Smoky Mountain's field is done. And there are plans to include turf in a renovation of McDowell's stadium.

"I'm so proud of our school board and county commissioners for standing up and doing a great thing for our student-athletes," said Smoky Mountain football coach Chris Brookshire, who was hired in January.

"This is just great all-around."

The price to go from natural grass to turf has fluctuated over the years.