

EANES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date: **March 19, 2007**

Board Action #: **031/07**
Change in Scope of 2006 Bond Program and Authorize
Artificial Turf and Lights for Westlake High School Practice
Subject: **Fields One and Two**

Action

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Superintendent's recommendation to change the 2006 bond program scope to include the replacement of the grass playing surfaces of practice fields 1 and 2 at Westlake High School with artificial turf, drainage improvements, and the addition of lights on both fields and that the administration be authorized to proceed with these projects. The changes proposed will eliminate the need for the construction of a fourth practice field as originally considered in the bond program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The 2006 Bond Program provided for the construction a new grass practice field at Westlake High School and provided for some improvements to the other grass practice fields. The replacement of grass fields with turf on practice fields 1 and 2 will provide a satisfactory solution to the need for more available practice space than the addition of a fourth field. It is also anticipated that this solution will be less expensive than the construction of a fourth field.

Lights will allow for the use of the fields after dark increasing the available practice time on the fields. Replacing the grass with turf will eliminate the recovery time needed for the fields and increase the year-round use of both fields. Annual maintenance costs are estimated to be \$45,000 less per year by replacing the grass with turf.

The current bond estimates include \$1,524,000 for an additional practice field and \$440,000 for improvements to practice fields 1 and 2. The preliminary estimated cost to add turf (\$1,020,000) and lights (\$100,000 to \$250,000) to practice fields 1 and 2 is a range of \$1,120,000 to \$1,500,000. More information is needed regarding specifications for the lighting to determine a more accurate cost estimate. Savings are expected to range from \$464,000 to \$844,000. Any savings realized on this project will be reallocated to the District's contingency for other projects within the bond program.