

Greece voters OK school repairs but reject \$8.5M sports stadium

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Voters in the Greece Central School district on Tuesday approved \$35 million in repairs and renovations to school buildings and a land purchase, but shot down a proposal to build a lighted stadium at the Arcadia campus on Island Cottage Road, according to preliminary vote results. Construction could begin in 2017 on the approved package of upgraded ventilation and exhaust systems; heating, cooling and pool system upgrades; flooring, window, lighting and roof replacement; masonry repairs and equipment replacement; telephone upgrades; and parking lot reconstruction. That proposition was approved by a vote of 3,249 to 2,241. Additionally, the district was given permission to spend \$207,450 in coming months to buy four acres of land at 1862 Latta Road. That site, adjacent to the existing transportation facility, could potentially be used for a future project that would include a bus wash and storage facility. Voters approved the proposition by a vote of 3,165 to 2,210.

However, by a vote of 3,079 to 2,305, voters rejected a proposed \$8.5 million lighted artificial turf stadium with press box and other amenities. The facility would have seated 2,600 people and been utilized by teams from all four district high schools, as well as community groups. Greece currently has no lighted field.

Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams said she was pleased by the turnout, which was higher than in other recent district votes. "Community residents have long sought a public vote on a lighted athletic facility," she said. "Today, the voters opted not to support the recommendation, but we remain steadfast in our commitment to Greece students."

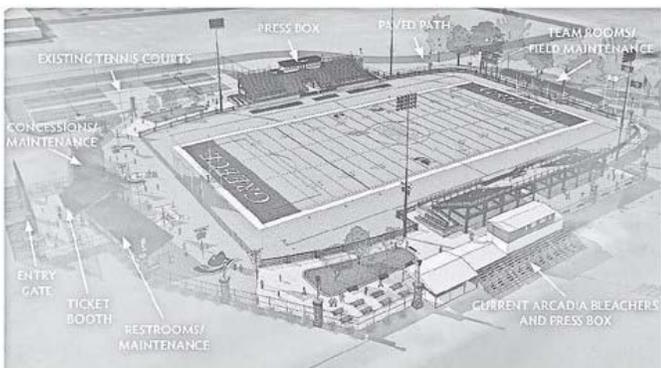
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SUPERINTENDENT BARBARA DEANE- WILLIAMS

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An artist's rendering of the proposed artificial turf athletic field on the Greece Arcadia campus that voters turned down Tuesday.

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