



McLean County Unit District No. 5
1809 West Hovey Avenue
Normal, IL 61761-4339

To: Unit 5 Board of Education
From: Joe Adelman, Executive Director of Operations
Tom Rockwell, Director of Facilities
CC: Dr. Kristen Weikle, Superintendent
Martin Hickman, CFO
Date: June 17, 2026
RE: Normal Community West High School Softball Field

It is the recommendation of the Operations Department to convert the existing Normal Community West Junior Varsity Baseball Field into a dedicated softball field. Currently, Normal Community West does not have an on-campus softball field, requiring the program to utilize off-site facilities for practices and competition. Constructing a new softball field adjacent to the varsity baseball field will provide a more equitable athletic experience for our student-athletes and enhance the overall athletic campus.

The proposed project includes the construction of a new softball field designed to meet current IHSA and NFHS standards. Due to necessary field reconfigurations and persistent drainage challenges, operations advises the installation of a synthetic turf softball field. This solution effectively mitigates water management issues while serving as a pilot program for the District to evaluate synthetic turf maintenance and performance. Furthermore, this development addresses critical space constraints at Normal Community West by providing additional fall practice capacity, bridging the current facility gap relative to NCHS. In addition, this project will provide the District with valuable experience evaluating synthetic turf performance, maintenance, and long-term lifecycle costs.

The project will be completed by Byrne & Jones Sports Construction through the TIPS Cooperative Purchasing Agreement. Utilizing the cooperative purchasing process eliminates the need for a traditional bid process and associated Health Life Safety architectural services, resulting in an estimated savings of \$159,476.

The estimated project costs are as follows:

- Full synthetic turf field (infield and outfield): \$1,024,000

Funding for this project will be provided through revenues generated by the County Facilities Sales Tax (CFST).

Pending Board approval, the project is scheduled for completion during the upcoming summer and fall seasons, with the facility projected for full operational availability by Spring 2027.

Administration recommends approval of this project to improve equity in athletic facilities, increase field availability, and provide a long-term asset for the District and its student-athletes.