

Barrington Middle School Synthetic Turf Field
Proposed Details for Town Council and School Committee Agreement

On March 4, 2024, the Town Council referred to the School Committee the potential for a synthetic turf field at Barrington Middle School (“BMS”), to potentially be presented to voters at a November 2024 referendum, with specifics to be discussed.

On March 28, 2024, the School Committee voted to approve placing the proposal for a synthetic turf field at BMS for a townwide vote at the November 2024 general election, subject to a written agreement between the Town Council and School Committee on details.

On April 1, 2024, the Town Council voted to approve placing the proposal for a synthetic turf field at BMS for a townwide vote at the November 2024 general election, subject to a written agreement between the Town Council and School Committee on details.

This document presents the terms of a proposal for the details to include in a written agreement between the Town Council and School Committee.

1. Size. Rebuild the two existing larger grass fields and baseball field at BMS as a synthetic turf field with a total area of up to 220,000 sq. ft. (the “BMS Field”), consistent with the illustration below.



2. Materials. Recyclable synthetic turf athletic field that requires no infill (“non-infill”) or with organic infill. Options for organic infill could include, but are not limited to, Brock Fill, sand, Safeshell, Envirofill, wood, coconut husk, cork, and others. Suggest that Town Council and School Committee do not need a decision on specific infill at this stage, so long as we are agreed that it will be organic infill.
3. Lights. The proposal includes lighting for the BMS Field.
4. Time and Usage. The Schools to use the BMS Field on weekdays until 5:30 p.m. and again from 8:30 p.m. until lights are off. The Town to use the BMS Field on weekdays from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and all day on the weekends. The School Athletic Director and Town Park and Recreation Director may agree to permit additional use of the BMS Field to the other on a case-by-case, as-needed basis.
5. Responsibility for Design and Construction. The Town will be responsible for engaging professional services for development of construction plans, permitting, and construction oversight, awarding and managing the construction contract, and processing all payments related to the project.
6. Coordination and Public Input. The Town administration and School administration will establish a project committee to oversee the development of the project plans, to include opportunities for public input.
7. Responsibility for General Maintenance Costs. The Town will continue to be responsible for general maintenance of the BMS Field, with funding from the Town’s Field Maintenance Fund and the Department of Public Works field maintenance and grounds budget, subject to the School’s field maintenance credit, as established in the FY 2025 budget approved at the May 2024 Financial Town Meeting.
8. Equipment. The Town will be responsible for obtaining the equipment to maintain the BMS Field.
9. Replacement. The Town will be responsible for the cost of replacing the synthetic turf at the BMS Field at the end of its useful life.
10. Bleachers. The Town does not need bleachers at the BMS Field. The existing BMS fields do not have bleachers, and if a synthetic turf field is installed, it still would not need bleachers from the Town’s perspective.
11. Locker Rooms. The Town does not need locker rooms at the BMS Field. The Town has already installed two portable restrooms at the BMS fields. Recreational teams do not need locker rooms, and Athletic Director Finn reported at the March 28, 2024 School Committee meeting that visiting high school outdoor athletic teams do not use the School’s locker rooms either.

May 3, 2024

It is important to note that further details of the plan (e.g., engineering and other construction plans) will not be available until after the town votes on whether or not to approve a synthetic turf field at BMS at the November 2024 general election.