

Press Clippings 7/26/2018

---Daily Herald--- 7/26/18

Bartlett High athletic complex project gets \$100,000 donation; first phase done

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY



Work on the first phase of improvements at the Bartlett High School Activities Complex, including resurfacing of the football field and installation of new stadium lights and scoreboard, is now complete.

Courtesy of Bartlett High School Booster Club

A Bartlett-based international pasta company has donated \$100,000 toward the Bartlett High School Activities Complex.

The contribution from [Giovanni Rana Meal Solutions](#), producer and distributor of refrigerated pasta, sauces and ready-made meals, concludes fundraising for the first phase of the \$1.5 million project.

"We are very grateful for the contribution as it has helped get close to finishing phase one of our project and offers momentum to continue our plans," Bartlett High School Booster Club Treasurer Ken Pavell said.

Construction of the first phase is now complete. It involved resurfacing the football field; installing new goal posts, permanent bleachers seating 1,500 people, a press box, stadium lighting and a high-definition scoreboard/sound system; and completing the infrastructure required to make the complex playable.

In the past 18 months, the booster club has raised roughly \$925,000 through donations and fundraisers toward the project. Major donors include Bartlett-based food products distributor Greco and Sons Inc., and Cheese Merchants of America (\$500,000 combined), the Bednarke family (\$125,000), Hoffman Estates-based Plote Construction Inc. and the Plote family (\$50,000), Bartlett's Bluff City Materials (\$36,000), Benchmark Construction in Bartlett (\$25,000), and Orange Crush LLC of Hillside (\$20,000).

"Aug. 31 is the opening of the stadium for the first home game," Pavell said. "We will have a donor reception (dinner) that night to acknowledge these large donors."

Club officials also are planning postgame fireworks.

Bartlett High School opened its doors in 1997 without an on-campus facility to host football, soccer, lacrosse and track competitions at the varsity level. The new athletic complex will serve the high school's football, soccer, lacrosse, marching band, cheerleading, dance and track and field teams and clubs and their events.

The project largely is funded through donations secured by the booster club. Elgin Area School District U-46 has committed to covering remaining costs by contributing roughly \$600,000, including tax revenues and a \$425,000 grant, which will be repaid by the booster club through future fundraising, Pavell said.

Fundraising for phase two of the project has begun. It will involve building a new concession stand and locker rooms, and installing artificial turf to replace the grass field once nearly \$1 million in funding is secured.

The field was resurfaced two summers ago when the high school football and soccer teams got together and laid the grass by hand, Pavell said.

"We believe that having it open and allowing people to tour it will help us with donations in the future," he said.

For project updates, visit bhsactivitycomplex.com. To donate or for more information, visit bhsactivitycomplex.com/donations, bhsboosters.org or contact treasurer@bhsboosters.org.

---Daily Herald--- 7/26/18

South Elgin HS athletic director hired by Metea Valley; D204 administrators moved to new jobs

BY SUZANNE BAKER

New athletic director for Metea Valley High School in Aurora is the latest hire by Indian Prairie School District 204 as the district prepares for the 2018-19 school year.

Jason Ward will replace Dan DeBruycker, who moved up to become Metea's assistant principal when Kim Maloney was appointed principal of District 204's STEPS program.

For the last six years, Ward has worked as the athletic director at South Elgin High School, which is part of the **U46 School District**, based in Elgin.

Prior to that, he served as assistant principal at Cowherd Middle School in Aurora, dean of students at East Aurora High School, and a special education teacher at West Aurora High School.

Ward holds a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of St. Francis in Joliet and a bachelor's degree in special education from Benedictine University in Lisle.

Maloney and DeBruyker have been at Metea since 2015.

Before moving to Indian Prairie, DeBruyker served as athletic director at Oswego East High School from 2013-15 and assistant athletic director from 2010-13 at Crystal Lake South High School.

Maloney returned to Indian Prairie after gaining administrator experience while working at as a dean at Plainfield North High School and athletic director at Hinsdale South High School.

She also served as an assistant principal for five years at Gregory Middle School in Naperville.