

**WATERFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, September 21, 2026**

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by President Schwartz at 6:00 p.m. Board members present at the meeting were: Ashley Bzdawka, Kelly Datka, Dennis Purtell, Doug Schwartz, and Noah Wishau.

The committee reviewed a proposed stadium renovation estimated at approximately \$6.0 million. The board gave preliminary support to continue planning. No funding commitment or board action was taken; the funding mechanism must first be confirmed by DPI, district legal counsel, and the auditor.

1. Stadium Renovation Project

Condition of facilities. Key stadium assets are at the end of their useful life. The track is likely well past its 8–10 year resurfacing cycle, and the halogen lighting fixtures are obsolete. ADA access and bleacher compliance also require remediation. The committee acknowledged the problem and agreed to locate documentation of the last track resurfacing and to include ADA repairs in the project scope.

Design. A design firm (a POG/Rettler offshoot) has been hired to complete a full redesign at no design cost to the district. The scope includes turf installation, track resurfacing, LED lighting, bleachers and press box, and ADA concourse and parking improvements.

Cost estimate.

Component	Estimate
Track, field, turf, and lighting	\$3.6M
Bleachers and press box	\$2.0M
ADA plaza and concourse	~\$0.5M
Total	~\$6.0M

The designers will deliver finalized specifications and a refined budget by September 30, 2026.

2. Funding Plan

The proposed funding sources are:

Source	Amount
Fund 46 (existing capital)	~\$940K–\$1.0M
Interest earned on bond (available by April)	~\$1.0M
Leftover referendum construction contingency	Possible; amount TBD
Grants (Musco for lighting; DNR possible) and sponsorships	TBD
Borrowing repaid from Fund 80 (community service)	Up to \$4.0M

Two borrowing options were discussed:

- 1) A 5-year note, which carries higher interest.
- 2) A 2-year levy option, which keeps the mill rate flat.

Approvals required. DPI, district legal counsel, and the auditor must confirm the funding mechanism before the board makes any commitment.

3. Community Use

A turf field would substantially increase use of the facility, including youth leagues, adult leagues, band practice, and tournaments. Because part of the project would be funded through Fund 80, the committee expects community use to exceed school-only use, with a rough target school-to-community ratio of 1:2 to 1:3. The Superintendent requested a concrete events plan from Jim showing community demand and projected bookings.

4. Grants and Fundraising

Grant applications are in progress, including Musco (lighting) and a possible DNR grant. Corporate sponsorship and naming-rights fundraising will also be pursued to reduce the amount the District must borrow. Athletic Director McClowry will lead fundraising outreach. This was not a board action

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Purtell, Board Clerk