

Colfax-Mingo Community Schools



June 22, 2021

Tigerhawk Families -

I hope your summer is going well! Summer can be filled with great memories, time with friends, solitude, summer jobs, family, and relaxation. Please take time to tend to your own needs. Also consider checking in with a friend or family member to see how they are doing. This has been a difficult year for many reasons, so thank you to our Tigerhawk family for staying connected and supportive of each other.

I am writing with an update on our stadium construction project. When our district signed a contract with Rochon Corporation (now Graphite Inc.), the original date of stadium (referred to as Phase I) completion was July 16, 2021. There have been some unfortunate delays that have caused the construction to be behind schedule. While it may be tempting to place blame for why the construction is behind, I am reminded of what a former superintendent mentor told me about construction projects. He said, "Erik, I was involved with five different projects, and not one of them was completed on time. Remember that in the end, the district will have great new facilities, and in five years nobody will remember it was late." While we are not absolving anyone of responsibility for the delay, blame does not get the project completed sooner.

Currently, Graphite Inc. has the following completion dates for the stadium:

- Field turf... Aug 7
- Bleachers... Aug 28
- Fencing around the stadium... Aug 31
- Track coating... Sept 6
- Concession stand and press box... Oct 4
- Storage building at the south end of the stadium... Nov 13

We have impressed upon Graphite Inc. the importance for our community, school district, and football team to be able to play our season on the new turf stadium. The Board of Directors has given direction to Graphite Inc. to have the field ready to play on by our first home game, Sept. 3. Graphite Inc. shared that is attainable, but it is possible that we may only have the field, scoreboard, and play clock. That would mean that our fans might not have access to the bleachers (for safety purposes) and may need to bring their own chairs to sit in for the game. In addition, we would most likely have to use the baseball/softball concession stand as well as portable restrooms until the press box can be completed and safely used.

If the turf stadium is not ready and/or safely able to be used for the Sept 3 football game, we would need to use the old stadium until the new field is ready. That is not anyone's expectation, but it is a real possibility for which we need to prepare. As such, we have continued to prep the field as if we are going to play on it this fall.

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Once Graphite Inc. has the field completed for us to safely use for games, we would be willing to give Graphite Inc. access to the old stadium to begin work on the new gymnasium addition (referred to as Phase II, which was scheduled to start in late July, but will obviously start later).

We are all excited for the new stadium that our community overwhelmingly supported. We share your disappointment that it is not completed on time. Still, we know that this stadium and addition will significantly enhance the facilities for our kids and add to the growth and direction of our district. I am excited to be on this journey with you and would welcome the opportunity to discuss any component further with you.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Take care and be safe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erik Anderson', is positioned above the printed name.

Erik Anderson

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