

McPherson College and USD 418 Stadium Lease Fact Sheet

October 4, 2019

McPherson College and USD 418 have worked for nearly twenty years to share the stadium at McPherson College. Recently, McPherson College notified USD 418 that there would not be another lease offered at the end of the current lease in 2022. It is clear to both organizations that the facility is inadequate to meet the needs of the hundreds of athletes who use the facility on a yearly basis. Although there will not be another lease, McPherson College is committed to supporting USD 418 by providing access to the stadium when it is not in use particularly for varsity games and track meets.

Currently USD 418 is in the early stages of developing a plan to address its athletic needs. McPherson College is participating in planning meetings and will continue to assist the district while it plans for the future.

The following is a summary of the facts around the McPherson College stadium lease:

- USD 418 began leasing athletic facilities from McPherson College in 2002. The first lease ran from 2002 to 2012.
- USD 418 entered into its second lease with McPherson College 7 years ago, and there are currently 3 years remaining on the lease.
- McPherson College has notified USD 418 that by the end of the current lease in 2022, that there will not be another lease. However, McPherson College will allow USD 418 access when the field is not in use.
- The lease has a unique structure where USD 418 pays an annual amount in lease payments and the college agrees to use those lease payments, along with its own matching funds, for mutually agreed upon enhancements. Enhancements in the current lease were focused on stadium renovations including new entrance, seating, ticket booth, fan concourse as well as upgraded walkways and fencing.
- Because of the increased use, McPherson College had to replace the current turf and track 3 years earlier than expected out of its operating budget.
- College and USD 418 leadership work with coaches each year to produce a joint schedule for the 15 teams that use the facility.
- As the stadium owner, McPherson College is responsible for maintenance and liability.
- The number of student athletes utilizing the stadium has doubled since the original lease was signed nearly 20 years ago.
- The facility at McPherson College has been inadequate to meet the needs of McPherson College, McPherson High School and McPherson Middle School and the McPherson community for many years. Over the past several years, growth in programs at McPherson College and USD 418 has magnified those inadequacies.
- Because of increased usage by the college and school district, other organizations that typically utilize the facility for community events now have limited access. Organizations such as McPherson Area Special Olympics, McPherson Youth Football Association and the Youth Track & Field Club find it difficult to schedule events at the facility.