



# DRIPPING Independent School

**Bruce Gearing, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools**

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February 10, 2015

Dear Hidden Springs Ranch Residents,

I wanted to touch base with you to let you know how plans for the new stadium at the existing competition field are moving along. As you probably recall, this project – along with a baseball/softball complex and additional locker room/field house space on the Dripping Springs High School campus – were included in the bond package that passed in May of 2014.

I met with many residents of your neighborhood last spring to provide information about the proposed athletic projects. I also have met individually with some Hidden Springs Ranch residents to answer questions and hear their concerns. I have considered this feedback carefully and it has been integrated into the planning and design process. I also believe that the architects and members of the school board have consistently considered our closest neighbors as we make decisions.

There are a few key points on which I'd like to provide updates:

**TIMELINE:** The athletic facilities originally were planned to open in the fall 2017, with the pre-construction phase starting following the sale of the second set of bonds. However, because DSISD was able to sell all of the bonds at one time in August, we had an opportunity to achieve savings in inflationary costs by accelerating the athletics projects schedule by one year, thus creating savings that can be applied to other bond projects. At this time, our projected opening date for the stadium is August/September 2016.

**ROAD:** When we introduced the concept of turning the current competition field into a stadium, the City informed the district that another road would be needed to provide egress from that site to Highway 290. Therefore, when developing the bond package, funding was included for construction of a road. Negotiations currently are underway for the right of way to connect this road to 290. Hidden Springs Ranch neighbors expressed concern about if and

where the road would intersect with the subdivision and how neighborhood traffic would be affected. The district is planning to end the road at the DSISD property line, just south of the competition field, meaning this project will not connect to the Hidden Springs neighborhood. This will be a City road and any future connections or extensions would be based on City planning.

**PARKING:** New parking lots are planned on the north and south ends of the Stadium. Existing lots at the DSHS campus also will accommodate gameday visitors.

**LIGHTS:** The stadium lights have been in place since the construction of the competition field in 2010. Lighting added for the parking lots will be “dark sky compliant.” When the home grandstands are constructed, there may be a buffering effect between the Hidden Springs neighborhood and the field, which we believe will block some sound and light.

**CONSTRUCTION:** As with any construction project, some noise and dust from machinery is inherent. We plan to work with contractors to ensure that a reasonable schedule is followed for the least possible disruption to neighbors. The City is allowing the unpaved road beside the high school to be used for construction vehicles in order to prevent additional traffic through the neighborhood. Construction likely will begin in April.

Upon sending this information, I will reach out to the neighborhood contacts I have and offer to visit any upcoming neighborhood meetings to answer additional questions. Complete information on the bond program is available at: [www.dsisd.bond.net](http://www.dsisd.bond.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Gearing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "G".

Bruce Gearing  
Superintendent of Schools  
Dripping Springs ISD