

August 8, 2025

Members of Warrior Nation:

As you may be aware, the stadium stairs at Luciano Plesakov stadium have been closed for safety reasons. Please know the district has already begun the process of building a new set of stadium stairs, but it is a lengthy process.

I would like to highlight the process the district has followed up to this point and what we plan to do into the future so you have the facts about this project.

1. We first started discussing a stadium stair project in the winter of 2023. At that time the stadium stairs passed inspection. Initial concerns regarding this project were surrounding the cost and the need for the stairs since they did pass an inspection during the summer of 2022.
2. The stairs were inspected in the summer of 2023 where they passed inspection again.
3. During the 2023-2024 school year the district began to look into the feasibility of moving forward with replacing the stairs where they currently are located. Mr. Campbell, our Director of Buildings and Grounds at the time, began making telephone calls to contractors and engineering firms to obtain firmer pricing, as well as to start project drawings and specifications which would lead to a bid packet being produced.
4. The stadium stairs were inspected in the summer of 2024 where they again passed inspection.
5. During the summer of 2024 the board members discussed the stadium stairs location and instead of replacing the concrete steps, leaving those stairs open and moving the project to a different location on the hillside. The new location would be across from the entrance to the fitness center (where the old railroad tie stairs were located). This location allowed more room for the "landing" areas we are now required to add between the stair sections. This location was agreeable and provided more surface area for the project to occur without disrupting the use of the current stairs or any possible issues with the current hillside location. The project was already included in the 2024-2025 budget, but with the location moving the engineer had to produce a new set of drawings, specifications, and bid packet.
6. An engineering firm was contacted with the new location and began work on the above-mentioned items. Preliminary drawings were provided to the district at the beginning of the 2025 calendar year with specifications to follow.
7. The steps were evaluated and determined they could be repaired with work set to begin in the summer of 2025.
8. Final drawings and specifications were received in Spring of 2025 and sent to the board members and solicitors for review. From these drawings several questions arose, which prompted the need for a meeting with the engineering firm. This meeting was held in July of 2025. Several edits were made to the drawings as a result of this meeting.

9. Revised drawings were produced at the end of July 2025. However, these drawings did not include soil sample testing locations. This leads to today. At this time the district is waiting to conduct soil sample testing and need the updated drawings from the engineering firm, with those locations marked, to move forward with the project. (A soil sample is a test to be certain the hillside can support the structure to be built).

Once received the district will proceed as follows:

- Advertise the request for bids in the local newspaper over a three week period, as required by law.
- The bid package is sent to interested parties.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held.
- The deadline will occur for all bids to be due.
- The district will publicly open all bids to determine the lowest responsible bidder, as required by law.
- The board then will officially approve this bidder at a board meeting (via the meeting agenda and votes).
- Work begins on the project.

As you can see this is a lengthy process and not something that was brushed off or set aside. During this time period you can see the current stadium stairs passed inspection several times...until you come to the summer of 2025. The inspector informed the district that several repairs needed to be made or else the stairs must be closed. This summer, work was started on the stairs to repair the problem areas, but unfortunately one problem after another continued to arise. The stairs are deteriorating at a faster rate than expected. When considering the safety as well as the cost of fixing the many issues, it was determined that utilizing the minimal resources we have to update the current stairs for one season was a fiscally irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars. We made the difficult decision to close the current stairs in order to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and community members.

To answer a few concerns that have popped up related to the closure:

1. **Where will individuals who are at the track/stadium/band bleachers use the restroom?**

The field house has male and female restrooms separate from the two locker room areas. These facilities will continue to be made available to those individuals who will be at the field for an event.

2. **Can individuals who are at the track/stadium/band bleachers purchase items from the concession stand?**

The snack shack can be made available for concession stand use during the football season.

3. **Can we drive to the fieldhouse using the access road and park there?**

No, the access road will be closed for traffic due to safety concerns, such as: students walking on the road, youth practices occurring during event times, buses transporting the

away teams, and access for the ambulance to name a few. In addition, the access road is one lane only with a significant drop off on one side and no space on the other for cars to get around each other.

4. Can we use the access road to walk to the fieldhouse/track/bleacher area?

Yes, you may walk down the access road.

5. What happens in an emergency and a parent needs access to their student?

Our school police officers use a side-by-side during games for this reason. They can provide a ride to the field should the need arise. In addition, the district also owns a golf cart and that can also be used in the event of an emergency.

I hope this information clarifies the process and steps we are required to follow. The decisions made thus far have been made with the best interests of the school district in mind and were not easy decisions. Should you have any additional questions please feel free to contact Mr. Jim Willison, Director of Buildings and Grounds at jwillison@moniteau.org or myself at aschnelle@moniteau.org.

Sincerely,

Aubrie Schnelle

Superintendent of Schools

Moniteau School District