



Marblehead Public Schools

9 Widger Road
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
Phone: (781) 639-3140

John Robidoux
Superintendent of Schools

Julia Ferreira
*Asst. Superintendent of
Teaching & Learning*

LisaMarie Ippolito
*Asst. Superintendent of
Student Services*

Michael Pfifferling
*Asst. Superintendent of
Finance & Operations*

September 10, 2025

Dear Marblehead Planning Board,

As a follow up to the August 12th Planning Board meeting, the district is resubmitting its proposal seeking relief from the planning board's 2013 decision regarding the use of the lights and the public announcement system (PA) at Piper Field, 2 Humphrey Street, Marblehead, MA.

Subsequent to the August 12th meeting, I met with representatives from the abutting neighborhood to listen to, and begin to address their concerns. I also met with representatives from youth sports and our Athletic Director to try and determine the realistic usage of Piper Field that would provide access to our high school and town athletics. It is abundantly clear that the field is significantly underutilized and that maximizing the usage is beneficial to the youth of our town.

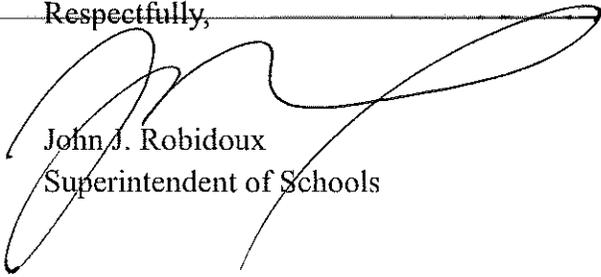
The proposal is to utilize the lights until 9:00 PM from mid-August through November (approximately 105 nights) and then again from mid-March through May (approximately 75 nights). This usage will encompass Fall and Spring athletic seasons as there is no need for the lights to be used during the winter or in the summer. The lights will *only* be turned on when needed and will be turned off at the end of the athletic contests, thereby minimizing the impact to the greatest extent possible. It should be noted that the 9:00 PM timeframe will align with the usage for the other town fields.

In regard to the use of the PA, we are seeking usage for twelve varsity-level MIAA sanctioned high school contests in order to have the opportunity to utilize the system for some male and female athletic contests. There are approximately fifty-seven varsity contests, so requesting only a portion of those to be announced seems appropriate. We will ensure that the volume of the PA system is reasonably controlled. With the exception of the National Anthem, the PA is *not* used to broadcast music.

The Marblehead School Committee approved the initial relief proposal on May 1, 2025. This proposal has been modified from that request in response to the feedback that has been received and was shared with the committee on September 4, 2025. The committee was amenable to moving forward with this continuance. We are hopeful that the planning board will be amenable to this request for the benefit of the youth of Marblehead.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John J. Robidoux
Superintendent of Schools