



# Electronic Transmittal Form for DEEP Remediation, LUST, and PCB Secure File Transfer (SFT)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
REMEDIATION DIVISION, PCB PROGRAM, AND  
LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK COORDINATION PROGRAM

[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)

This Electronic Transmittal Form must be completed and included as the cover sheet of your electronic document when uploading a document to the Connecticut SFT website. Requirements for Transmittals through the SFT website:

- Documents submitted through the SFT website must include all applicable figures, tables and laboratory data.
- Files must be formatted as PDF/A and use the appropriate naming convention:
  - For Remediation Filings: **REM\_REMID #\_SiteAddress\_Town\_DocumentType\_DateofDocument**
  - For LUST Filings: **LUST\_SiteAddress\_Town\_AbbreviationForDocumentType\_DateofDocument**
  - For PCB Filings: **PCB\_SiteAddress\_Town\_AbbreviationForDocumentType\_DateofDocument****Example:** LUST\_1MainStreet\_Hartford\_ESA\_01-01-2001
- Note:** For "AbbreviationForDocumentType" use appropriate abbreviation at [Transmittal of Documents](#)
- If no Rem ID assigned (new filing) or REM ID is unknown leave field blank

## Part I: Primary Recipient\*: Remediation Program (\* required)

For Remediation documents: Primary Program*: Voluntary Remediation Rem ID*: 14385	For PCB/LUST documents: UST Facility ID: (if applicable) Spill Case Number: (if known)
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## Part II: Site Information

Site Name*: Western Middle School		
Site Address*: 1 Western Junior Highway		
City/Town*: Greenwich	State: CT	Zip Code: 06830
Secondary Programs (complete as many as applicable for this document):		
Program: Select Secondary Program	Project ID:	
Program: Select Secondary Program	Project ID:	
Program: Select Secondary Program	Project ID:	
Program: Select Secondary Program	Project ID:	
Provide Project ID for each secondary program if it is known. Each program has a unique ID (i.e. Rem ID, Spill Case #, UST Facility ID, etc.)		

## Part III: Document Information (document type required for appropriate program[s] only)

Remediation*: Public Notice	
LUST/PCB*: LUST/PCB Document Type	
Date of Document*: 2/22/2023	Version: Final

## Part IV: Submitter Information

Name*: Justin Hall
E-mail*: jhall@langan.com
Name of company/business this document is being submitted on behalf of: *
Langan Engineering

22 February 2023

Mr. Jeff Wilcox  
Remediation Division Bureau of  
Water Protection and Land Reuse  
Connecticut Department of  
Energy and Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

**RE: Response to Public Comments  
Remedial Action Plan  
Western Middle School  
1 Western Junior Highway, Greenwich, CT  
REM ID No. 14385  
Langan Project No.: 140148201**

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

Langan CT, Inc. (Langan) has prepared responses to written and oral public comments on behalf of Greenwich Public Schools (GPS) for the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for Western Middle School, located at 1 Western Junior Highway in Greenwich, Connecticut (hereafter referred to as the "Subject Property"). The RAP was submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) on 1 August 2022. Public comments were submitted in writing via email to the CTDEEP during the public comment period between 16 December 2022 and 17 January 2023, or were provided in person during the public meeting held at Western Middle School on 11 January 2023.

#### Summary of Proposed Remediation

The proposed remediation includes the excavation and proper off-site disposal of impacted historic fill at the Subject Property, the construction of Engineered Controls (ECs) to isolate deeper remaining impacted fill at the athletic fields, and the placement of an Environmental Use Restriction (EUR) on the property to prohibit actions that would disturb the ECs or expose remaining impacted historic fill. The proposed ECs will generally consist of a minimum 24-inch thick layer of certified clean soil and/or crushed stone with high-visibility demarcation layers placed both below and above the ECs. The proposed ECs will be constructed a minimum 6-inches below all proposed surface materials (i.e. artificial turf, natural grass, asphalt/concrete) to allow future maintenance activities to occur without disturbance to the ECs.

#### Response to General Public Comments

During the public comment period, 218 comments were received from the public, including 180 comments received by the CTDEEP via email, and 38 comments provided in person or submitted through Zoom during the public meeting. Copies of all the public comments received via email during the public comment period are included as Attachment A and a transcript of the public comments provided during the 11 January 2023 public meeting, as well as comments provided

through Zoom, are included as Attachment B. The overwhelming majority of the public comments expressed support for the proposed remediation and field restoration. Langan and GPS greatly appreciate the public interest and support for the project and we will continue to work with the regulatory agencies in the interest of seeing the remediation project proceed quickly and safely.

In general, the public comments that requested further information or that were critical of the project were not directed at proposed remediation itself. Nonetheless, given the similar nature/theme of many of non-remediation-related comments, some additional clarifying points are provided below (grouped by topic):

- **Timing of Remedial Implementation** – While supportive of the RAP, many of the comments indicated frustration with the amount of time it took to obtain a consensus on the remedial strategy for the project. It is important to note that the easiest and fastest road to completion for Western Middle School would have been to select a remedy that would not have included special approval from the regulators. However, that option is also considerably more expensive and the most disruptive to the community from a construction perspective; therefore, Langan and GPS were tasked with evaluating numerous potential alternatives. The remedies proposed by the project team are based around protective measures to reduce exposure risks, versus removing everything from the site. These types of risk-based remedies require more thought on the part of the town, Langan, and the EPA and DEEP, which translated into the need to collect a lot for more information before a decision is rendered (hence the lengthy back and forth process). While it would be possible to completely remove all of the contaminated material, it would not necessarily be more protective of public health and the environment than the preferred remedy described in the RAP, and it would extend the timeline for remediation by multiple years. The potential benefit to the community of a complete removal is not commensurate with the significant increase in cost, time, and burdens on community infrastructure and impacts to the quality of life for many years. The remediation plan outlined in the RAP is intended to complete remediation and restore conditions prior to the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- **Tree Restoration Plan** – In order to achieve the remediation goals for the project, the removal of large amount of trees is required along the perimeter of the Western Middle School athletic fields. Therefore, the project team is working closely with the Town Tree Warden to develop a landscape/restoration plan that acknowledges the environmental impact of the proposed tree removals. Following concurrence with the Tree Warden, the proposed landscape/restoration plan will be presented during a forthcoming Planning & Zoning meeting.
- **Proposed Field Restoration/Surface Materials (Artificial Turf vs Natural Grass)** – The Town, including the Greenwich Department of Parks and Recreation, is in full support of the installation of artificial grass following completion of the remediation proposed in the RAP. The Town notes the following historic points regarding artificial turf use:
  1. Over the course of several years, commencing on or about 2003, the Town commissioned public forums, investigations and agency reviews of public health, safety, and environmental impacts of the then potential installation of 5-6 artificial turf athletic surfaces on the Town public school and park properties.
  2. The foregoing was commissioned as a result of a variety of public agency, user group and institutional questions regarding the foregoing.

3. Numerous public forums and hearings occurred, including agency discussion groups and analysis.
4. It was ultimately decided by the Town of Greenwich and its applicable agencies that the benefits of artificial turf installation and usage significantly outweighed any potential negative impacts presented by public and private reviews.
5. Since that time, artificial turf usage, particularly including newly engineered materials and designs, has expanded greatly on public and private properties, including scholastic and youth programs.
6. In the Town of Greenwich, artificial turf usage and permit requests far outweigh natural turf surfaces and environmental, safety and health complaints have been minimal or virtually non-existent. In fact, requests for new artificial turf construction far outnumber requests for new natural grass facilities.
7. While it is acknowledged that there is a place for natural turf surfaces, this is only to point out that the prior concerns and hesitations regarding artificial turf fields have been greatly reduced or eliminated in this community.

Furthermore, the Western Middle School field complex currently has a 90-foot baseball diamond. Remediation and artificial turfing of the fields would have numerous benefits. The artificial turf would enhance the use of the field, and there would be quick recovery even from a significant rainfall. With artificial turf, the field would allow Greenwich High School (GHS) baseball tryouts and GHS scrimmages and games at varsity and other levels. This is extremely helpful as high school baseball begins practicing in mid-March, when grass fields are rarely fully available for team tryouts, practices, and games. Currently, using only grass fields for GHS baseball creates significant additional work on other grass fields and results in more field closings and extra strain on the grass fields. In addition to having a usable baseball field from mid-March to mid-November, the outfield area could be used for other sports. Field hockey should also be played on artificial turf; plus, the community has a need for smaller size soccer fields, especially on artificial turf. Painting lines for other sports would grant much more flexibility to this field, while still meeting baseball needs during the fall season.

#### Response to Specific Public Comments

Of the 218 public comments received, only 7 were related to the proposed remediation; we believe these comments warranted individual responses. The public comments regarding the proposed remediation are reproduced in italics below, followed by Langan's responses on behalf of GPS (in blue text).

1. *A couple days ago, I left a voicemail message for each of you regarding the Western Middle School Remediation project. I have reviewed the RAP. My comments are technical in nature and provided below. I will be traveling at the time of the public hearing but will attempt to join via the Zoom option.*

*These are my comments in advance.*

*DA Collins has a history managing PCB contaminated soil and can provide a cost effective, sustainable, environmentally friendly solution in lieu of landfilling.*

*Low Temperature Thermal Desorption is conducted onsite without transferring the material and liability to another location. This is the same technology utilized at the Freeman's Bridge Road project in Glenville, NY and the Luzern Road PCB Remediation Site in Queensbury, NY. Both projects were performed under the oversight of the*



NYSDEC. Case histories are attached. There are many considerations for a project to be a good candidate for thermal treatment. Based on my review of the RAP, this project appears to be a very good candidate.

Thermal Treatment (desorption followed by oxidation) will effectively remediate:

- VOCs
- SVOCs
- PCBs
- Pesticides
- Other volatile organics

The metals hot spots will likely be buffered out during the course of the project due to the nature of the material handling and feedstock-blending for thermal. Benefits of onsite thermal treatment include but are not limited to:

- Contaminated-soil truck traffic in the community is eliminated;
- Liability for the material is not moved from one place to another, the liability for the material is terminated via our technology
- Imported-backfill truck traffic in the community is eliminated;
- Material is processed on site and returned to the excavation as clean backfill;
- Eliminate the unnecessary utilization of ever growing landfills;
- Eliminate mining for backfill;
- Eliminate ongoing monitoring in most cases (dependent on the level of excavation and treatment);
- Eliminate future liability for all stake holders;
- Provide an alternate remediation option at lesser cost

DA Collins not only provides thermal treatment, but can also provide a turnkey suite of services for the entire project including excavation, treatment, backfill and restoration. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the project and present our technology in more detail prior to the public hearing if possible.

*(Email from Phil Theriault to CTDEEP, 5 January 2023)*

The use of alternative remediation technologies were evaluated during the remedial design process; however, such technologies (including thermal desorption, bioremediation, phytoremediation, etc.) were deemed to be inappropriate due primarily to regulatory compliance considerations, site restriction issues, and the level of effort that would be required to implement the alternative remediation technologies.

2. Hello, I am writing in emphatic support of the Western Middle School field remediation project. I am very invested in this project. I not only live down the street, both of my children were impacted by the closure of the fields and I do not wish to see any more WMS students being limited in their use of outdoor facilities. It is not equitable. Many students at WMS also experienced field closures at their elementary schools (New Lebanon and Hamilton Avenue) and our local park (Byram Park). The school is in an Environmental Justice census block and backs up onto the town's transfer station and a factory that has significant tractor trailer traffic and the exhaust that comes with it. This area deserves better and it's time to get this remediation under way.

*In relation to the existing environmental concerns noted above, I do hope that the large number of trees slated to be removed as part of this project will be minimized to the extent possible and that any trees that are clear cut will be replaced with shade trees. We are also expecting construction on two parcels at a town property across the street from the school and would like to see truck traffic on Western Junior Highway and the surrounding residential streets thoughtfully considered and coordinated should the projects overlap. Perhaps access to the fields could be from the town's transfer station or multiple access points (transfer station, Hamilton Avenue, and Western Junior Highway) could be used to mitigate the disruption, noise, and safety issues that come with trucks moving large amounts of soil off of the property.*

*And while I understand the likely necessity, I am also disappointed that artificial turf will be used. The lack of trees in our area and the expected loss of trees from this project and two others in the area are significant. The loss of grass and the heat from artificial turf will only exacerbate the area's poor air quality (we are also close to I-95) and contribute to a heat island effect. As a current member of our local Representative Town Meeting and a former board member of the Byram Neighborhood Association, which advocates for the neighborhood around the school, I do understand the need to strike a balance between the costs and benefits of this project and that we may have no choice but to use artificial turf, but I hope that the final project plans take these concerns into consideration and find creative and cost effective ways to mitigate the negative environmental impacts.*

*I am looking forward to this project finally moving forward and seeing the youth of our community having safe and accessible fields available to them.*

*(Email from Lucy Von Brachel to CTDEEP, 18 December 2022)*

Thank you for your comments on some of the many issues that the Town, regulatory agencies, and scientists and engineers have considered in developing this remedial action plan. The management of truck traffic during remediation activities has been a major consideration during the remedial design process. Due to the access/space limitations and the presence of the residential streets, the use of Western Junior Highway is not being proposed during remediation/construction activities. Instead, the proposed access/egress point during remediation is from Muskrat Pond Drive, located to the northeast of the field near the Transfer Station.

The use of artificial turf as a playing surface at the athletic fields was a field restoration decision due to its limited maintenance when compared to natural grass and not dictated by the remedial design. The areas surrounding the athletic fields are proposed to be restored with natural grass. In addition, the design team is working with Dr. Gregory Kramer (the Superintendent of Parks and Trees and Tree Warden for the Town of Greenwich), arborists, and landscape architects to save as many existing trees as possible and to develop a planting plan that will replace trees within the proposed remediation area.

3. *Dear Mr. Wilcox, I write as a 30-year resident of Greenwich, CT and a current member of the Greenwich RTM. The paragraph below (red) is taken from our First Selectman's recent newsletter, encouraging residents to contact you with views on the CT DEEP Remediation Project.*

*I would like to state my suggestion that draining the swamp in Greenwich, Hartford, and Washington D.C. would be the best pathway to curing the PCB contamination problems in our town.*

*Anyone with a high school education in science and a decent amount of common sense can figure out that no one is or ever has been at risk from trace amounts of PCBs ten feet deep in the soil around our schools. That is, if one even believes "the science" that tells us we have this problem. From Wikipedia on a one-minute search: "In general, people are exposed to PCBs overwhelmingly through food, much less so by breathing contaminated air, and least by skin contact."*

*The soil remediation scam that local, state, and federal governments are running with this nonsense is raping our community and others of 10's of millions of tax dollars which will likely approach \$100 million in Greenwich alone (between GHS and WMS) by the time you are finished, if you ever will be. Rather than spending millions more at Western Middle School I hope that someone in Greenwich or Hartford with true integrity will hire a great investigative journalist to expose this criminal shakedown of our citizens--I estimate that would only cost in the neighborhood of less than \$100K. A bargain!*

*I would further suggest to you that anyone without eyes wide shut can see this, and increasingly so. Perhaps the result of your further studies and the community discussion tonight will result in a fresh conclusion that any contamination of the soil is naturally resolved when sunshine and rain degrade and wash away PCBs and any other pollutants. And with the 100% absence of any documented cases or even claims of harm, which I have never seen in the press here during 30 years of residency, I hope you will decide to abandon this path of corruption upon which your contractors are embarked.*

#### *Western Middle School fields*

*As the new year begins, the Board of Selectmen is focused on the long-overdue remediation of Western Middle School's playing fields. The state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and Connecticut Environmental Protection Agency is holding an in-person and online public hearing on Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. at Western Middle School and people can also send their views to CT DEEP's Remediation Project Manager Jeffrey Wilcox at [jeff.wilcox@ct.gov](mailto:jeff.wilcox@ct.gov).*

*(Email from Christina Volkwein to CTDEEP, 11 January 2023)*

Elevated concentrations of contaminants of concern (COCs), including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, and metals have been detected in soil at the Subject Property between the ground surface to as deep as 9 feet below ground surface (bgs). These contaminants have been detected at concentrations exceeding the CTDEEP Remediation Standard Regulations (RSRs) cleanup criteria developed to be protective of both residential and industrial/commercial uses. PCBs have also been identified in soil above the concentrations allowed under the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and its implementing PCB regulations. These state and federal regulations require that the Town perform remediation at Western Middle School.

The proposed remediation strategy was chosen in consultation with CTDEEP and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) due to its level of protection of human health and the environment, compliance with regulations, long and short-term effectiveness, reduction of toxicity, ability to implement, and cost effectiveness relative to other potential alternatives.

4. *Hi, good evening. I'm just a mom, I don't represent a board and I haven't written anything. I have three kids and I'm new to the community here. So many wonderful and articulate things have been said about the reasons why we all stand in support of this. I just think it feels a little weird that I have to stand here and say that. I have a 7th grader that's here, I have a 4th grader that will be rising. This is my second school year here in town, I moved here from Hong Kong where I spent 11 years and I'm also a little dumbfounded that we*

*have this situation with the school, I didn't think that it would exist here. I wish you all luck. I support a plan that is safe for the children, and I would like to say that based on previous experience that I don't support remediation happening while those kids are in school. I hope that can be a part of it, these things usually do take longer than their supposed to but for all the reasons so beautifully articulated tonight I do hope things can move forward as quickly as possible.*

*(Public meeting comment spoken by Christine Zibilich, 11 January 2023)*

The proposed scheduling of remedial excavation activities has been one of the major considerations of the remedial design process. Due to the close proximity of the school, the anticipated truck traffic, and the nature of the proposed work, limiting remedial activities to only summer breaks is preferred; however, this would substantially increase the length of time to complete the remediation as well as the cost. Due to the short summer vacation, the time associated with contractor mobilization and demobilization, and the technical nature of the work, the anticipated completion time of the remediation during only summer breaks would be around three years. The remediation schedule currently proposes beginning during the 2023 summer recess and completing remedial activities within a single school year. The use of alternate trucking routes via Muskrat Pond Drive, rather than past the school building along Western Junior Highway, and implementation of best management practices, including community air monitoring and dust control, construction site hygiene practices, and secure site access will allow for the remedial activities to occur during the school year in a way that is protective of public health and the environment.

5. *You mentioned earlier the water table. The hydrostatic pressure, have you measured that? Have you gotten the direction of the runoff, the subsurface runoff, and if it reacts to the hydrostatic pressure of a storm? Have you tested downstream, offsite? You might consider sampling offsite in the future.*

*(Public meeting comment spoken by Peter Alexander, 11 January 2023)*

Between 2016 and 2022, 10 groundwater monitoring wells were installed at the Subject Property at both up-gradient and down-gradient areas of the site as well as throughout the athletic fields. Overburden groundwater has been encountered between 7 feet bgs at the southwestern portion of the athletic fields and 16.5 feet bgs at the western portion of the recreational area. Groundwater has not been observed in overburden (soil) on the central or eastern portions of the athletic fields; groundwater has only been encountered in bedrock in these areas. Bedrock groundwater was observed between 14 and 25 feet bgs at the central portion of the athletic fields and between 18.5 and 22 feet bgs at the eastern portion of the athletic fields. The inferred bedrock groundwater flow direction is to the southwest.

Both overburden groundwater and bedrock groundwater aquifer samples have been collected and analyzed for site-specific COCs, including VOCs, SVOCs, PCBs, pesticides, and metals. Given the fields have been open to infiltration since the placement of the historic fill in the early 1960s, the groundwater analytical data indicate that the COCs present within the fill are not leaching into groundwater at concentrations that would present a risk or warrant action beyond that proposed in the existing plan. As such, the collection of offsite groundwater samples is not necessary at this time.

6. *How was it determined, the cost of "new dirt"?*

*(Public meeting comment submitted through Zoom from Cliff Fetner, 11 January 2023)*

Approximately 36,000 cubic yards (CY) of clean material is expected to be imported to the site for use as backfill following remedial excavation activities. These materials include drainage aggregate ( $\pm 11,000$  CY), finishing aggregate ( $\pm 1,600$  CY), and certified clean fill ( $\pm 23,000$  CY).

Clean fill is certified through analytical testing to ensure contaminant concentrations do not exceed applicable criteria. Certified clean fill pricing generally ranges between \$40 and \$50 per CY but is dependent on local supply. Drainage aggregate and finishing aggregate are both generally sourced from virgin quarried stone. Drainage aggregate pricing generally ranges between \$50 and \$60 per CY, while finishing aggregate pricing generally ranges between \$70 and \$75 per CY. As the project moves forward, the Town will take advantage of opportunities to reuse clean fill that needs to be excavated for construction of the fields and utilize the public bid process to minimize costs associated with the work.

7. *If the original testing was done by the perimeter of the groundwater how could it be clean? 1938 the town erected an incinerator. The school was built 1967-1968. That is not accurate and I disagree. Protect our health.*

*(Public meeting comment submitted through Zoom from Dawn Fortunato, 11 January 2023)*

This comment was submitted through the Zoom meeting question portal; however, the specific concerns of the comment are unclear, and therefore it is difficult to answer directly. The planned remedy was developed to be protective of public health and the environment. As previously mentioned under comment #5, both overburden groundwater and bedrock groundwater aquifer samples have been collected and analyzed for site-specific COCs, including VOCs, SVOCs, PCBs, pesticides, and metals, and analytical data indicated that the COCs are not leaching into groundwater at concentrations that would warrant cleanup beyond that proposed in the current plan. In accordance with the RAP, post-remediation groundwater monitoring will occur following remedial activities to ensure remaining COCs underlying the fields are not migrating into groundwater or off-site. According to historic records, Western Middle School first opened in 1963.

We hope these responses adequately address the public comments raised regarding the Western Middle School RAP. Should you have any questions or comments regarding the responses presented please let us know.

Sincerely,  
**Langan CT, Inc.**



Ryan J. Wohlstrom  
Senior Project Manager



Jamie P. Barr  
Principal/Vice President

Enclosures: Attachment A – Public Comments Submitted via Email  
Attachment B – Public Comments Submitted at Public Meeting

cc: Daniel M. Watson, GPS  
Dr. Toni Jones, GPS  
Jane Warren, McCarter & English, LLP  
Kevin Neary, CTDEEP

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Public Comments Submitted via Email**

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Courtney King <courtneylynneking@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 6:10 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Greenwich Public Schools - Western Soil Remediation Project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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To Mr. Wilcox:

It is vital to our community that the students at Western Middle School once again have access to outdoor playing fields at their own school. Over 1200 students have no ability to participate in sports at their own school or have adequate facilities for state-mandated physical education classes.

Too many years of students have been affected by the field closure already. To have a plan to move forward and remove dangerous contaminants from our public school ground and to NOT act would be shameful. It would send the wrong message to the children at the school. It would send the wrong message to the adults in the community, who care deeply about their child's education and school experiences.

Our children need this project approved and set in motion. They need the poisons removed from their school and fields to play on. Our environment needs this too.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Courtney King  
GPS Student Mother



## Justin Hall

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**From:** Kim, Greta L <Greta.Kim@charter.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 11:50 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Brian Kim; gordon\_beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Our Community needs the WMS Field Rebuild

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Dear Mr. Wilcox,

We am writing to emphasize the importance of the Greenwich Western Middle School Field Rebuild project. We have lived on the Western-side of Greenwich for the last 16 years and we love the vibrant and diverse community. During our time here, we've seen WMS flourish under the leadership of Principal Beinstein and his dedicated team at WMS. While WMS has realized many successes and offers a great experience to students, the lack of field access for the last 6 years detracts from what WMS can offer and leaves WMS with unequal access to resources compared to other schools in Greenwich - this gap needs to be addressed.

We have two sons who are currently enrolled at Glenville Elementary and our older son is very excited to attend Western Middle School starting Fall of 2024. We believe that having access to fields and sports activities on premise is key to enriching the middle school experience and feel strongly that our sons should have equal access to resources (in this case nearby fields) compared to other schools in town.

We sincerely hope that the remediation plan will move forward as soon as possible so that Western Middle School can have a safe, state-of-the-art field for students and for the community. The remediated field will benefit not just WMS, it will improve field access for the entire town and neighboring communities.

Sincerely,

Greta and Brian Kim  
22 Turner Drive  
Greenwich, CT 06831



**Greta Kim** | Group Vice President, Customer Service Operations Support | O: 203.705.4493 | M: 203.912.3845

The contents of this e-mail message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee(s) and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. If you



## Justin Hall

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**From:** Carrie Ruehlman <carrieruehlman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 11:18 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** gordon\_beinstein@greenich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Regarding Western Middle School Fields - From a Concerned Parent

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Dear Mr. Wilcox,

Students at Western Middle School in Greenwich have now gone six years without field access — no sports at all, and limited physical education space. Our kids have been shipped all over town to play, and this lack of access has negatively impacted their middle school experience. It's absolutely unacceptable that they should have unequal access compared to other schools in town.

Our oldest daughter will be attending WMS in the fall (and our youngest daughter will be there in a few years). We are hopeful that they and their classmates will have access to the safe, state-of-the-art fields they deserve, fields that will benefit the school as well as the entire community of Greenwich. We look forward to utilizing these new outdoor spaces, ones that the west side of town can be proud of. We are counting on you to help make this happen.

Thank you,  
Carrie and Michael Ruehlman

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Kk Ortiz <kksheridan917@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 4:31 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** beinstein, gordon  
**Subject:** Support for WMS soil remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Hello!

I would like to express my support for the immediate WMS soil remediation work. It has been far too long that we have neglected this important work. Our kids deserve better.

Thanks,

Katherine Ortiz  
Greenwich Resident  
Mother of WMS 6th Grader

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Stephanie Cowie <cowiestephanie68@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 12:41 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Gmail  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field Remediation Support

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Dear Jeff,

I am writing in support of the remediation of the Western Middle School fields. While a tremendous amount of support can be found from the Western Middle School (WMS) community, I wanted to note support goes far beyond Western Middle School's district.

My family is districted to Central Middle School, one of the three middle schools in the Town of Greenwich. Our fields are open, and our students/children can play and utilize all of our outdoor spaces. There are no chain link fences on our property with signage to KEEP OUT. My child had the benefit of these spaces to support his middle school development. For six years, the students of WMS have been unable to access any of their fields. Six years is a very long time to be waiting for almost anything.

While I am not an expert of any kind on the impact on our young learners, as a parent, I can certainly recognize the stress in middle school children. This is a time when children have some of their greatest growth, physically and mentally. These children need time to play and be together. COVID has made the closing of these fields even more complicated for the WMS community. The fact of the matter is no child should ever be without a place to play, a place to grow, and a place to learn.

We urge you to move forward with the WMS fields remediation action plan (RAP). There really should be no further discussion other than moving this plan forward. We stand alongside the Western Middle School community. No more time should be spent without access to their fields.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Cowie

99 Londonderry Drive  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
203-921-5104

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Heather Lowthert <hlowthert@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 12:26 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Gordon Beinstein  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from hlowthert@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing to communicate to you my experiences and concerns with regards to Western Middle School fields.

As a lifelong Greenwich resident and graduate of Western Middle School I can attest to:

- the hours my three sisters and I spent playing field hockey, softball, soccer and track & field events on WMS fields
- the hours I spent on the WMS fields with my friends, classmates and neighbors playing our own recreational games after school and on weekends - having access to fields that I could walk or ride my bike to - how having access to these fields influenced my commitment to my sport leading to a Middle School Banner, High School State Championship and a scholarship to the University of CT, Division I Field Hockey (without Field Hockey I would not have attended college)

As a professional with over 30 years in outdoor education and recreational programming:

- I do not have to educate you on the importance of outdoor physical activity for teens or the benefits of being a part of an organized sports team

As a parent of two young boys I am disappointed:

- that my 15 year old son attended WMS for three years and never had the opportunity to play an organized field sport at his middle school - that my 15 year old and I did not share in the same experience that I did playing and attending sports games at WMS
- that because my son did not have the direct access to a safe playing field in middle school like I did (e.g. home games, no bussing to practice) it directly impacted his interest in field sports overall
- Thought WMS is my first choice, my 9 year old son will most likely attend Central Middle School because he loves football and soccer and I want him to have the opportunities that I had

As a concerned member of the Greenwich Community:

- Six years is too long for WMS students to not have direct access to safe playing fields on their school campus
- Six years without safe playing fields has already impacted too many WMS students in detrimental ways (including my own son)

- We must prioritize the rebuild of WMS fields because there is simply TOO much at stake for TOO many students

Thank you for your commitment to seeing that the rebuild of the WMS fields is a top priority.

Sincerely,

Heather Brown  
WMS Class of 1987

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Doug Feldman <dougfeldman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 4:51 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from dougfeldman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

In regards to the project currently underway for the fields at Western Middle School, I have a few concerns that I would like to share with you.

It has been over 6 years now without field access. This means no sports at all and limited physical education space. We all are aware of the physical toll the pandemic has had on our children and we need this fixed as soon as we can.

Over 1200 students in Greenwich have not had adequate fields to play on. That number is unfathomable for our town.

Our kids have had to be shipped all over town to play sports after school. This has put an undue burden on the families that support their kids' activities.

The most important concern I have is that this whole process has negatively impacted the kids' middle school experience. This is most seen in the unequal access compared to the other schools in town.

I currently have two children enrolled at Glenville Elementary School. They will be heading to Western Middle School when they graduate from Glenville. I hope this project is complete by then.

I am very much looking forward to the state of the art field for the school & the town. This will be another thing to add to our distinguished list of what our town is proud of.

Please do what you can to expedite this and get us back on the right track.

Thank you,

Doug

Douglas Feldman  
21 Fletcher Ave.  
Greenwich, CT 06831

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Ben Connard <ben\_connard@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 3:12 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Ben & Sonia Song Connard  
**Subject:** WMS (Greenwich) Field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from ben\_connard@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

It's been 6 years without field access at Western Middle School in Greenwich. This is too long and a detriment to the student experience at WMS, especially when compared to the other schools in town. No sports are allowed on the field and there is limited physical education space. Students are shipped all over town to play sports.

As a parent who currently has two students attending WMS and will have at least one student attending for five additional years, I'm looking forward to a rebuilt field of which the town can be proud.

Thank you for your time.

Ben

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Randall Horton <Randall\_Horton@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 4:13 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Field - 6 years is unacceptable

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from randall\_horton@greenwich.k12.ct.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

My children are currently 3 and 7. Will they, too, be without a field in middle school?

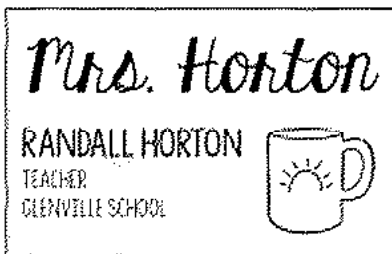
### Concerns:

- It's been 6 years without field access. No sports at all. Limited physical education space.
- Over 1200 students in Greenwich have not had adequate fields to play on
- Our kids have been shipped all over town to play sports after school
- Negatively impacted their middle school experience...unequal access compared to other schools in town

### Looking forward to:

- State of the art field for school and town
- Something this side of town can be proud of
- Will significantly improve field access for entire town, youth through high school, multiple sports

Best,





## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Michael Povemba <mpovemba@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 12:00 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from mpovemba@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Jeff,

I am writing to voice my support of the rebuilding of the WMS field.

It has been 6 years without field access and in the world we live in, kids need to have access to outdoor fields.

To not be able to run outside and play sports is unacceptable.

We are looking forward to a safe, state of the art field for our school and town. The kids deserve this. We need something that our town/community can be proud of.

Kids need to be outside. Kids need a field to play on.

Thank you

Michael Povemba

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Veronica Castaldo <veronicakristi@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 7, 2023 3:50 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Field!!!!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from veronicakristi@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/KxS9CADKD9CB4Y5piG0ITn?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my feelings on the reconstruction of our field. The children in middle school will not have the full experience that they deserve if the field is not quite the way it should be. Having children shipped all over the place to play sports when they could be just playing them in their hometown is very sad and a big inconvenience to many. There is so much money in Greenwich and so much money that has been donated to different things. I really don't understand why school fields are not the priority when all of our children are there. Sports is a huge part of children's lives. I know definitely mine. One of my sons will be attending Western middle school next year and I find it very sad if they can't get the full potential of the whole entire school. They attend Hamilton Avenue and as it is, we have lost our field for quite a while and kids lost a lot of time outside. Please consider all of our emails. Thank you.

Veronica Bizzaro

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** jkowalski\_14@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 7, 2023 5:14 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Support for Western Middle School Remediation (from a past & future family)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from jkowalski\_14@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/KxS9CADKD9CB4Y5piG0ITn?domain=aka.ms> ]

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Hi Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing to you to this evening to express my full support for Western Middle School soil Remediation. We have both a past student (9th grader) and future student (1st Grader). This project began when we moved to greenwich and my oldest son was in 2nd grade. Who knew that he would finish elementary, his 3 years at middle school and half of his freshman year and these fields are still not usable.

As a father of athletes, these fields are important to these kids both for school athletic events and their own recreation. For the past several years our kids have biking or scooting to various fields all around town and in neighboring Rye Brook because they're unable to use the field they'd be most comfortable at, the one that belongs to their middle school.

Please help do all you can to help move this along. I'd hate to see my 1st grader starting middle school In several years and students still not having a place to play their baseball or soccer game, or hold a football practice. It's not right or fair to the kids in our community.

Sincerely,

John Kowalski

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Randi Jachino <randijachino@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 10:42 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Support for Western Middle School Soil Remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from randijachino@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Wilcox -

I am emailing as a GPS parent in strong support of remediating the fields at Western Middle School. This was identified as an issue in 2016, and it is both concerning and frustrating to see in 2022 this has not been resolved yet.

I have read through the initial findings, as well as the plan for remediation. I implore you & DEEP to please finally put this into action and let our kids have a field at their school that belongs to them. As a 10 year CT & Greenwich taxpayer, I am asking you to approve and move forward with the Remedial Action Plan to finally put this into action to resolve.

Our kids at Western Middle have been unfairly held back since 2016 by not having their own safe outdoor space at the school and it is time to now action this and resolve with the current action plan to start this summer.

thank you,  
- Randi Jachino

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Erin Capozza <erin.capozza@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 7, 2023 7:45 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** gordon\_beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Western Middle School (WMS)- Greenwich Field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

*Hi Mr. Wilcox*

*First - thank you for your work to date with our town in efforts to restore our unused middle school field. I am sure you have received a number of emails - all with the same message- we need our field back. This message is no different. I have an incoming 6th grader to WMS for the 2022-2023 year and a son right behind her two years later and I cannot remember a time in their 10 and 8 years when that field was in use. It was of course for their younger years, but now when so many need it, it is cordoned off and barren. My two children have several older cousins who have since graduated from GHS and none of them had access to a working field during their middle school years. I remember hearing from family about how their kids had gym or outdoor time spent on the tennis courts because there was no field. At the time I thought- "oh that will be fixed by the time my kids go to school there". I would have never imagined that 7 years later that we would be in the exact same place with seemingly little movement in restoring the field.*

*WMS is a wonderful school with wonderful staff and great kids. They all deserve a place to run and be active. Further, the town deserves the field. My son plays football and daughter cheers for the BANC raiders and those hard working kids deserve and safe place to practice close to their homes just like all of the other kids in greenwich who play organized sports.*

*Bottom line is the kids and community deserve better and I am hoping that everyone involved can come together and make it happen for the people who deserve it. Please lets remember who this all is for in the end, the students and community who has lost the use of what can be beautiful green space for the last 7-8 years. A few additional points for your consideration are below.*

*Thank you*

*Erin Capozza*

*Impacts:*

- 
- 
- *It's*
- *been going on 7 years without field access. No sports at all. Limited physical education space.*
- 
- 
- 
- *Our*
- *kids have been shipped all over town to play*
- 
- 
- 
- *Negatively*
- *impacted their middle school experience...unequal access compared to other schools in town*
- 

*Looking forward to:*

- 
- 
- *A*
- *safe, state of the art field for school and town*
- 
- 
- 
- *Something*
- *this side of town can be proud of*
- 
- 
- 
- *Will*
- *significantly improve field access for entire town, youth through high school, multiple sports*
-

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Laura Lang <lauralang12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 11:07 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western middle school field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from lauralang12@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I am writing in support of remediation of the fields at Western Middle School. As the parent of 3 very active children who love playing on their elementary school fields I cannot imagine how they will get through middle school without useable fields, never mind the future children who come after them.

As a teacher in a local district our students and parents rely on our fields to be in good working order. Our district would never let the fields like useless for this many years.

This is an absolute shame on the Connecticut government for not progressing this project and taking action.

Thank you,  
Laura Lang  
50 Morgan Ave, Greenwich  
203-767-2089

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** lisa\_a\_small@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 8:48 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields Remediation Project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from lisa\_a\_small@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Wilcox,

I am parent of two Greenwich Public School students - one who graduated from WMS last year and one who will be attending WMS next year. I am writing to you because our WMS students, families and community need and deserve to have safe fields! While we appreciate the thoroughness of the State with its extensive testing to ensure our safety, after six years - two generations - of Middle School students have already missed out on having any fields on which to play or host home-school sporting and other activities and events, it is time to set this project as a high priority, get this project started and complete this project as expeditiously as possible. A few years ago, our Principal Gordon Beinstein was named CT Principal of the Year and this year, our Assistant Principal Suzanne Coyne was named CT Assistant Principal of the Year. Thus, WMS has an incredible administrative staff, as well as a team of amazing and dedicated teachers - several of whom have been awarded the prestigious Distinguished Teachers designation in our town. Unlike the other two middle schools in Greenwich, 45-50% of our student body are free and reduced lunch kids. In addition, our WMS neighbors and families deserves to have a safe place for their families to come after school and/or on the weekends to play since many do not have backyards. All of these constituents - students, administrators, teachers, staff and neighbors - deserve to have safe fields as soon as possible! Too many WMS students have graduated without having a normal middle school experience and it's beyond time to make this happen! WMS has the support of the BOE, BET, RTM, our First Selectman and all of our other Town committees. WMS has a motto - "West Side, Best Side!" Let's make this statement true with respect to our fields! We're ready to go, so please make this a priority!

Thank you!

Lisa Small

**LISA SMALL**  
**Proud WMS Parent**  
**917.836.3341**



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Sonja Parsell <sonjaparsell09@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 7, 2023 9:45 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Field Remediation - Please prioritize this project!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from sonjaparsell09@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/KxS9CADKD9CB4Y5piG0ITn?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I write to you as the parent of a current 7th grade student at WMS and a future Wildcat, who will be starting his journey next year as a 6th grader.

We love this school. The leadership by our principals has attracted the best educators. The school is diverse, on many levels, and it is a place where all can, and have been able to, thrive. Apart from one critical area: outdoor space and playing fields.

My daughter experiences this more acutely during the field hockey season. For as long as she has been playing, she has never had a "home" game like the two other middle schools in Greenwich. They never have a "home crowd" of fellow students cheering for them as they have to be bussed to other fields to play their games. As a family with two working parents, we have an incredibly hard time juggling our schedules to pick up our daughter from games that are not at "home".

In my opinion, it's shameful that the school that is representative of a more economically challenged area of Greenwich, has to suffer the injustices of a complete lack of outside space to play, less ways to develop on-the-pitch teamwork skills, no ability to cheer on their friends or rally at a home game, and, most importantly, feel like they are not equal to other Greenwich middle school students.

Respectfully, please prioritize this remediation project.

Kind regards,  
Sonja

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Large, Abbe <alarge@lenoxadvisors.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 8, 2023 12:53 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Gordon Beinstein  
**Subject:** WMS Field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I hope you had a lovely holiday with family and friends. I also hope that as we enter into 2023, you will drive the remediation plan and construction of Western Middle School field forward. It has been six years since the field has been condemned for use. My youngest has gone through WMS without ever seeing the field. It's truly a shame this has taken this long.

Please, please try to get this done for our town and most importantly, for our students. The bussing of athletes for programs is totally unacceptable at this point. Our children of this town deserve better. It's embarrassing this has gone on as long as it has.

I do hope you can help.

Thank you in advance,

**Abbe F. Large, CLTC**  
Senior Vice President

[Click here to connect with me on LinkedIn](#)



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Two Stamford Plaza  
281 Tresser Blvd., Suite 1004  
Stamford, CT 06901  
**P** 203.978.2203  
**C** 917.359.4031  
**F** 212.271.3476

[alarge@lenoxadvisors.com](mailto:alarge@lenoxadvisors.com)

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Brian Morrissey <bmorrissey36@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 7, 2023 12:27 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from bmorrissey36@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/KxS9CADKD9CB4Y5piG0ITn?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

Please get the Western Middle School fixed asap. It has been at least six years. My son, now a senior at the high school, had his three years at Western greatly impacted: recess on cement, no track practice, no practice fields for school sports or pick up games, and no practice area for Banc Raiders youth football. And, I tore a knee ligament running across the potholed "football field" - which hadn't been fenced off but was generally unusable. It has taken way too long. My kids won't benefit from it now, but hundreds, or thousands, of others will.

Thank you,  
Brian Morrissey, Byram, Greenwich, CT

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Stephanie Barnes <slbarnes11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 8:59 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from slbarnes11@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/KxS9CADKD9CB4Y5piG0ITn?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Having grown up in Greenwich I benefited from the fields at my middles school- eastern. I think it is atrocious that WMS has not has usable fields for the length of time that has passed. My son will go to western n 2025. He practices football at WMS with the BANC raiders. It's a disgrace this has gone on for so long, this town is better than this. We need a change Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Mimi duff <mimiduff@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 7, 2023 6:53 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Please fix the western fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from mimiduff@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/go0YCqxLxMHnZWYjCZe1IQ?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

You have all the facts from the district and principal so I won't detail them here but c'mon, western kids have been without fields for 6yrs - we know how important physical activity is for kids. Our kids deserve better.

Ive lived in greenwich for 18.5yrs - and i have 4 kids in the public schools - we can do better. Stop the holdup and lets move ahead on getting this resolved.

Mimi Duff  
203 564 0025

Sent from my iPad

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Niels Pennings <nielspen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 5:28 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Soil remediation at Western Middle School

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from nielspen@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/go0YCqxLxMHnZWYjCZe1IQ?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jeff,

Happy New Year!!! I am writing to inform you that I am in full support of the soil remediation at Western Middle School. This should be approved and the work should commence immediately. Quite frankly, this should have been dealt with the when it was first known that the soils were contaminated and I am surprised that this has taken this long. I expect this to go through quickly.

Thank you,  
Niels

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Stephie Rojas <stephie.frommer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 5:33 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Soil remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from stephie.frommer@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/go0YCqxLxMHnZWYjCZe1IQ?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please, let's get the fields open.

Stephie  
646-306-0750

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Christine Kraninger <ckraninger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 12:21 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from ckraninger@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/go0YCqxLxMHnZWYjCZe1IQ?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing to you as a long time Greenwich home owner and parent. My children were educated through the Greenwich public and private school systems and loved playing sports. We do live on the west side of town and my children did attend the incredible Western Middle School, but I would be writing this letter if we had remained in our original home in Old Greenwich and they had attended Eastern.

It is a simple fact the Greenwich needs fields. It needs gyms. It needs recreational space for the growing community we are. Any parent whose child plays any kind of travel sport will tell you that our facilities are lacking. So when the opportunity presents itself to remediate, repair, and make a field that was once usable, usable again; I am passionately in favor of that. I will attend the meeting on January 11th, in hopes that the children of Greenwich will be prioritized. I have attended so many meetings over the years where their recreational and health needs have been postponed over and over again. I used to attend these meeting to benefit my kids. Now I attend because all children deserve better. Please rebuild the field at Western Middle School. Greenwich needs it. It is long overdue.

Thank you,

Christine Kraninger  
125 Stonehedge Drive North  
203-249-3322



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Lauren Russell <lauren.russell@stanfordalumni.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 7, 2023 2:30 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle Remediation Project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from lauren.russell@stanfordalumni.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Wilcox,

I'm writing to strongly urge you to support the remediation of Western Middle's field. We strongly feel as a family that this school has waited long enough (SIX YEARS!) and its about time that these kids have fair and equal access to activities.

Sincerely,  
Lauren

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Simon Rumbold <travelsoccer@myogrcc.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 10:25 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** gordon\_beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jeff - I wanted to reach out today regarding the field situation at Western Middle School. I and my organization, the OGRCC, which provides youth sports and activities to 1000+ Greenwich residents are strongly in favor of getting the work done that is needed to make WMS field a usable space.

Outside of the reasons for a child being able to have adequate space during their middle school day / education we are in a position where we view on a daily basis the impact of the Greenwich field situation.

With all fields in use we are at max capacity in terms of being able to run programs / provide positive environments for our young athletes which we feel is such a key part of their childhood and growth as people - This is without even taking into consideration the standard of many of the in town fields due to the overuse that is forced on them.

Completing the work at WMS and reopening the field would alleviate much of the stress and overuse of the fields currently in use and provide our soccer, baseball, rugby etc families a consistent place to practice and play within our community. We have seen a spike in families leaving for out of town / private for profit sports facilities / clubs with many of them citing field conditions and irregularity of fields used as a key cause.

I am unable to attend the meeting next week but wanted to be sure to provide some info from our organization's standpoint. If you have any questions or would like further information regarding this please let me know.

--

Simon Rumbold  
OGRCC Soccer  
203-637-3659, Ext. 101

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Silvana Wheeler <silvanawheeler@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 10:40 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** gordon\_beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** WMS Field Remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from silvanawheeler@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jeff,  
I'm writing to you regarding WMS Fields which has negatively impacted many of us in town and the Byram/Glenville Community.  
It's been far too long that our kids have been without field access. It's been a big inconvenience having to drive to other schools when we could easily be using our local fields. We have to ship our kids all over town which is negatively impacting their middle school experience. It's shocking that in one of the wealthiest towns in the country it has taken so long to get this fixed, and why? Does the town not put our kids and their education as a top priority?

We are looking forward to an immediate resolution, this cannot continue any longer. We need and deserve a safe, state of the art field for the school and town, one that we should be proud of on this side of town. We're done being neglected while other parts of town get priority. It will significantly improve field access for the entire town, for our kids through high school with various sports and something they will remember for the rest of their lives. Let's give them a field these kids deserve!

Thank you,  
Silvana Wheeler  
(Glenville resident)

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Barbara O'Neill <oneillb26@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 9:32 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS field remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from oneillb26@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/go0YCqxLxMHnZWYjCZe1IQ?domain=aka.ms> ]

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Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I write in support of the remediation of the fields for Western Middle School.

The western side of Greenwich is home to our four Title I schools. These children do not have the resources to join private clubs and country clubs as do many of the other students in Greenwich. This side of town also has the densest population and the fewest number of fields and gyms compared to Central and Eastern Greenwich. This makes the remediation of Western fields an urgent matter. Access to safe playing fields is essential to the health and welfare of the children on the Western side of town.

I urge you to move the remediation of these fields forward in the most expeditious fashion.

Many thanks for eliciting community input.

Sincerely,

Barbara O'Neill

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Gianna Hernandez <amorluzg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 11:09 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS FIELD

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Gianna Hernandez

My four children have attended WMS since 2007-- 2220. I live two blocks away from the school. I am highly concerned wit the fact that the situation of WMS has not been resolved yet. It is upholding that this situation continues to pollute our neighborhood. Our children continue to be subject to this pollution. Are we not citizens worthy of attention?. Our children and our neighborhood need urgent attention to this matter.

Gianna

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Kerry Norlin <kerrynorlin@me.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 6:29 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Soil Remediation Project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from kerrynorlin@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/go0YCqxLxMHnZWYjCZe1IQ?domain=aka.ms> ]

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Hi -

I just wanted to express my support to get to next steps and finalize the fields at WMS. We moved to Greenwich in 2019 and two of our kids went to WMS and now at GHS, while our youngest entered WMS this year. For the first year I didn't understand why WMS had fences up and no field, but now understand the initial issue.

I would hope this project gets finalized timely

Thank you  
Kerry Norlin  
36 Alden Road  
Greenwich CT 06831

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Lucy Vigo <lvigo@jhh-law.com> on behalf of Scott Johnson <sjohnson@jhh-law.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 3:20 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Joseph Siciliano; jjkelly2121@gmail.com  
**Subject:** January 11, 2023 DEEP Public Hearing Regarding Western Middle School Remediation Plan  
**Attachments:** L-Wilcox 1-5-23 .pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Mr. Wilcox,

Please see attached letter.

Scott R. Johnson, Esq.  
Johnson, Haslun & Hogeman, LLP  
21 Sherwood Place  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
Tel: (203) 983-6750  
Fax: (203) 983-6755  
Email: [sjohnson@jhh-law.com](mailto:sjohnson@jhh-law.com)

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**WIRE FRAUD IS REAL. BEFORE WIRING ANY FUNDS, PLEASE CALL THE INTENDED RECIPIENT AT A NUMBER YOU KNOW IS VALID TO CONFIRM INSTRUCTIONS.**

# JOHNSON, HASLUN & HOGEMAN, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

21 SHERWOOD PLACE

GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT 06830

SCOTT R. JOHNSON  
[sjohnson@jhlh-law.com](mailto:sjohnson@jhlh-law.com)

TELEPHONE (203) 983-6750  
TELECOPIER (203) 983-6755

January 5, 2023

Mr. Jeffrey Wilcox – [Jeff.wilcox@ct.gov](mailto:Jeff.wilcox@ct.gov)  
CT DEEP  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Greenwich Western Middle School  
Remediation Plan (“RAP”)

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

This letter is written by the undersigned, as former Chairman of the Town of Greenwich Field User Committee and the Selectmen’s Artificial Turf Taskforce. With respect to the above-referenced RAP, please note the following historic points regarding artificial turf use and discussions in the Town of Greenwich

1. Over the course of several years, commencing on or about 2003, the Town of Greenwich commissioned public forums, investigations and agency reviews of potential health, safety, and environmental impacts of the then potential installation of 5-6 artificial turf athletic surfaces on Town of Greenwich public school and park properties.
2. The foregoing was commissioned as a result of a variety of public agency, user group and institutional questions regarding the foregoing.
3. Numerous public forums and hearings occurred, including agency discussion groups and analysis.
4. It was ultimately decided by the Town of Greenwich and its applicable agencies that the benefits of artificial turf installation and usage significantly outweighed any potential negative impacts presented by public and private reviews.



5. Since that time, artificial turf usage, particularly including newly engineered materials and designs, has expanded greatly on public and private properties, including scholastic and youth programs.

6. In the Town of Greenwich, artificial turf usage and permit requests far outweigh natural turf surfaces and environmental, safety and health complaints have been minimal or virtually non-existent. In fact, requests for new artificial turf construction far outnumber requests for new natural grass facilities.

7. While it is acknowledged that there is a place for natural turf surfaces, this is only to point out that the prior concerns and hesitations regarding artificial turf fields have been greatly reduced or eliminated in this community.

The foregoing is not intended to express an opinion on the health or safety of artificial turf surfaces but simply that, in this community, the public is a strong supporter of the reasonable application and usage of artificial turf, together with, and in addition to, well maintained natural turf surfaces.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Johnson

cc: Joseph Siciliano, Director, Town of Greenwich Parks and Recreation  
Joe Kelly, Chairman, Town of Greenwich Board of Education

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Alex Qu <alex.qu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 4:12 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Support of Greenwich western middle school field remediation project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from alex.qu@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at [https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/iN\\_4CKr9r5SPOJzvcMngdy?domain=aka.ms](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/iN_4CKr9r5SPOJzvcMngdy?domain=aka.ms) ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox

I'm writing this email to express my support to the remediation project in order to open the sport field in Greenwich Western middle school. I have two boys, one graduated from western two years ago and one currently attending as a 7th grader. My older son never got to use the field as it's been closed for 6 years. I think all schools, large or small, deserve to have a functioning field for sports or simply allow kids to play outside in a safe environment. Please help moving this project forward so the field can be opened in the near future.

Sincerely,  
Alex Qu

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Jason Wistrand <jasonwistrand@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 6:42 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from jasonwistrand@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at [https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/iN\\_4CKr9r5SPOJzvcMngdy?domain=aka.ms](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/iN_4CKr9r5SPOJzvcMngdy?domain=aka.ms) ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a former student of Western Middle School and also a parent a student to be of Western Middle School in Greenwich CT.

It is important to me and my family that all the fields at Western are open and available for students.

Thank you

Jason Wistrand us  
203-496-3177

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Jennifer Socci <jsocci74@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 6:37 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from jsocci74@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

My name is Jennifer Socci and my son will be attending WMS next year as a sixth grader.

It is absolutely outrageous it has been 6 years that these fields have been closed! Physical education and sports are just as important as reading, math and science. Students need to be active in order to maintain mental and physical health.

It is imperative that the remediation goes forward for all of our children and future students.

Best regards,

Jennifer Socci

Future WMS parent

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Stephanie Knuth <sknuth7173@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 8:53 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

It is pertinent that these fields get finished. It is an integral part of the community. A project was started and multiple classes have gone through the school without having proper playing fields. This has been very sad and frustrating. Can you play sports in your office? The kids can't play certain sports in the school. Please finish the fields.

Stephanie Knuth  
Parent to Thomas and Theresa Knuth

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Olivier Grace <outlook\_67BB9834CFC9EA81@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 3:01 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

I am writing in support of doing whatever it takes to get the field of Western Middle School safe and up and running.

Grace Oliver  
An Alumni of Western

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Kathleen Yu <kathleenyu123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 8:06 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Clare Kilgallen; Clare Kilgallen  
**Subject:** Western Middle Schools field remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

It is both amazing and appalling that I find myself in a position to write tonight in advocacy of the long-overdue remediation of Western Middle Schools fields in Greenwich.

My oldest son had the bad fortune of entering Western middle school in 2016, the year that the fields closed. I recall advocating for the quick remediation of the fields as the PTA President then. Our community was energized and hopeful for a fast remediation that would allow Western students to run and play on the field during recess rather than being relegated to playing on the blacktop every day. We laughed about the irony of living in a town called "*Green*" wick.

He is now a senior at Greenwich High School, soon to be exiting the public school system, and has yet to put a toe on that field. My younger son, who was six at the time, is now a sixth grader at Central Middle School. At the time, we magneted to Western Middle School because of its fantastic staff and support systems, but our younger son is an enthusiastic football player, and we did not want to deprive him of the ability to run and play on a field.

I truly grieve for the generations of kids unable to access Western's fields. These fields, which were used by kids across the district, were one of the largest in Greenwich and were used extensively by all members of the community. There is no question that having no sports at all, limited education space, and being shipped all over town have had incredibly detrimental effects.

I am writing to voice my strongest support for safe and quick remediation, which will provide a state-of-the-art field for the school and the whole town and significantly improve field access for the entire town and for all sports.

Give our kids back their field!

Kind regards,  
Katie Yu  
21 Desiree Dr., 06830

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Colum Kilgallen <ckilgallen@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 4:25 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Clare Lawler Kilgallen; Gordon Beinstein  
**Subject:** WMS field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am the parent of a current 7th grader at Western Middle School. He has not been able to use the field during his time at Western. In fact, my two other sons graduated from Western in recent years and they weren't able to use the field during their time there either. The lack of an adequate field/outdoor space for students to use for sports and gym has been and continues to be a detriment to Western students.

I urge the DEEP to complete the field remediation as quickly as possible. The students at Western have been disadvantaged for too long and they deserve a state of the art field.

Colum Kilgallen  
5 Hilltop Road  
Greenwich, CT

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** mpalacio@trefz-corp.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 8:04 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jeff,

I am a parent of 3 in Greenwich and I have already witnessed the effects of the field situation at WMS. My daughter is a freshman in college and remember her not being able to utilize the fields for sports or Physical education. She had to take a bus to other fields which takes away time from kids. I now have my 2nd child at WMS and still have issue with the fields. How can any city be dealing with the same issue for so long. We need a solution now! This can't continue. It's not fair for children in different parts of Greenwich having different middle school experiences. Enough is enough. I can understand the field being temporarily not usable but 6 yrs!!! REALLY ? How do we look, in Greenwich, not being able to resolve for the well-being of our children. All our fields should be state of the art so our children have the experience they deserve. I hope this is resolved . We want to move forward ! I have another son to come after to WMS so please we need to do this for our kids and the community!

Thank you,  
Maria Palacio Hernandez

-- Maria Palacio Area Supervisor Trefz Family Restaurants 203-650-1360 mpalacio@trefz-corp.com The information contained in this e-mail and any accompanying documents is confidential, may be privileged, and is intended solely for the person and/or entity to whom it is addressed (i.e. those identified in the "To" and "cc" box). This message is the property of Trefz Corporation. Unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or copying of this communication, or any part thereof, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this e-mail in error, please return the e-mail and attachments to the sender and delete the e-mail and attachments and any copy from your system. Trefz Corporation thanks you for your cooperation.

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Margaret Presley <Margaret\_Presley@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 8:22 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to urge you to rebuild and take care of the fields at WMS. This has gone on too long and the students and community deserve to have these field issues remedied. While my 2 children, who went to WMS, are older, I am a Greenwich resident and WMS alumni myself. Thank you for listening to my concerns and again, please take action.

Regards,  
Meg Presley

Meg Presley  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
Glenville Elementary School  
(203) 531-9287

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Donna Rosato <donna.rosato@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 4, 2023 3:35 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Beinstein, Gordon  
**Subject:** Fwd: Western Middle School playing fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Wilcox - I am resending this email because I wrote your last name incorrectly in my earlier note. My apologies!

Donna

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Donna Rosato <donna.rosato@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 3:32 PM  
**Subject:** Western Middle School playing fields  
**To:** <Jeff.wilcox@ct.gov>  
**Cc:** Beinstein, Gordon <gordon\_beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us>

Dear Mr. Cox,

I am the parent of a 7th grader at Western Middle School and I'm writing to you to express my adamant desire to have Western's fields remediated and rebuilt ASAP. I'd love for my son to experience what it is like to have proper playing fields at his school before he graduates in 2024. There are more than 700 kids at Western who are now in the third generation of students who have gone to school without adequate space for sports games or physical education.

My son is on the Western Middle School track team and during warmups and practices for events, they have to run a crazy route around the school because of the limited outdoor space.

I understand that when the fields are finally remediated and replaced, they will be state of the art and a resource that benefits not only students at Western but the entire town which will have access to the fields for multiple sports. But it's ridiculous that more than 6 years have gone by just to get to this point in the process.

I will be at the January 11th meeting and I hope to hear that this is a top priority and we have a specific timeframe for Western to have the fields it has long waited for to be restored.

Sincerely,

Donna Rosato  
917-673-6840

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** arganem@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 10:17 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** gordon\_beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** GREENWICH WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL ISSUE

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

*Dear Mr, Wilcox,*

*I am writing on behalf of my children who are currently attending or will attend Western Middle School, Greenwich CT.*

### **FACTS:**

- 
- 
- *It's been 6 years without field access. No sports at all. Limited physical education space.*
- 
- 
- 
- *Our kids have been shipped all over town to play*
- 
- 
- 
- *Negatively impacted their middle school experience...unequal access compared to other schools in town*
- 
- 
- 
- *The above results in OBESITY, depression, ANXIETY and loss of socialization. These are hard medical facts one cannot ignore.*
- 

### **WE WANT:**

- 
- 
- *A safe, state of the art field for school and town*
- 
-

- 
- *Something this side of town can be proud of and allow our entire community to enjoy.*
- 
- 
- 
- *Field access for the entire town, youth programs through high school, and options for*
- *multiple sports and sporting events.*
- 

*As an American, this seems like a basic necessity for a public school to offer, and I would hope that governance would agree with the above and help our town take care of our children and provide needed space and resources.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Amanda Ganem*

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Kenneth Borsuk <Kenneth.Borsuk@greenwichct.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 11:36 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Statement from Greenwich Board of Selectmen

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Wilcox, please accept this statement from the Greenwich Board of Selectmen: First Selectman Fred Camillo, Selectwoman Lauren Rabin and Selectperson Janet Stone McGuigan with regard to the planned action at Western Middle School to remediate the athletic fields.

Thank you

The Greenwich Board of Selectmen stands united behind the effort to remediate Western Middle School's playing fields.

Students at Western have been denied the chance to use their own playing fields for far too long. Western's community has waited six years for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to take action and the time is now for this overdue remediation.

Western Middle School is a Title I school and is also a feeder middle school for two of the Town of Greenwich's Title I elementary schools. It is not fair or right that Western's children have not been able to use their fields. Kids have gone through the entirety of their time in middle school, which are critical years, without once being able to step on the grass and enjoy themselves like other students have been able to do at their schools.

Greenwich's Board of Selectmen is seeking a remediation directive that will appropriately protect our children's health from toxic soil. We do not want to expose our children to environmental risk, but outdoor activity is also essential to their health and well-being.

We should not have to make a choice between the two. Please take action now to remediate these fields.

## Ken Borsuk

Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

Town of Greenwich

Office of the First Selectman

101 Field Point Road

Greenwich, CT 06830

Office (203) 622-7702

Email [Kenneth.borsuk@greenwichct.org](mailto:Kenneth.borsuk@greenwichct.org)

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Dawn wistrand <dawnwistrand@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 8:35 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am in support of having the field fixed. It is so important to have a space for our children to play and be outside. It's terrible to see it sitting there and not being able to be used.

We stress the importance of keeping kids busy and involved in sports, yet we do not support them in giving them ways to be active.

Thank you,  
Dawn Wistrand  
Parent



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Sunny Grillo <sunny.grillo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 1:50 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Mr. Wilcox,

It is imperative that the fields at Western Middle School are restored at the earliest possible date. While some can argue that the date should have been within the past 6 years, I will only say that acting now is the best remedy to past delay.

Sunny Grillo  
Mother of  
Bo Grillo GHS 22 (limited field access while at WMS)  
Rocco Grillo GHS 24 (never had field access while at WMS)  
Mack Grillo GHS 28 (at risk for no field access while at WMS)

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Philip Theriault <ptheriault@dacollins.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 1:16 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff; Jamie Barr  
**Cc:** Jim Adrignola  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Remediation Public Hearing  
**Attachments:** Color Flow Diagram.doc; Freeman's Bridge Road Thermal NYSDEC.pdf; Luzerne Rd Thermal NYSDEC.pdf

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Jeffery and Jamie,

A couple days ago, I left a voicemail message for each of you regarding the Western Middle School Remediation project. I have reviewed the RAP. My comments are technical in nature and provided below. I will be traveling at the time of the public hearing but will attempt to join via the Zoom option.

These are my comments in advance.

DA Collins has a history managing PCB contaminated soil and can provide a cost effective, sustainable, environmentally friendly solution in lieu of landfilling.

Low Temperature Thermal Desorption is conducted onsite without transferring the material and liability to another location. This is the same technology utilized at the **Freeman's Bridge Road** project in Glenville, NY and the **Luzern Road PCB Remediation Site** in Queensbury, NY. Both projects were performed under the oversight of the NYSDEC. Case histories are attached. There are many considerations for a project to be a good candidate for thermal treatment. Based on my review of the RAP, this project appears to be a very good candidate.

Thermal Treatment (desorption followed by oxidation) will effectively remediate:

- VOCs
- SVOCs
- PCBs
- Pesticides
- Other volatile organics

The metals hot spots will likely be buffered out during the course of the project due to the nature of the material handling and feedstock-blending for thermal.

Benefits of onsite thermal treatment include but are not limited to:

- Contaminated-soil truck traffic in the community is eliminated;
- Liability for the material is not moved from one place to another, the liability for the material is terminated via our technology
- Imported-backfill truck traffic in the community is eliminated;
- Material is processed on site and returned to the excavation as clean backfill;
- Eliminate the unnecessary utilization of ever growing landfills;
- Eliminate mining for backfill;
- Eliminate ongoing monitoring in most cases (dependent on the level of excavation and treatment);
- Eliminate future liability for all stake holders;
- Provide an alternate remediation option at lesser cost

DA Collins not only provides thermal treatment, but can also provide a turnkey suite of services for the entire project including excavation, treatment, backfill and restoration. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the project and present our technology in more detail prior to the public hearing if possible.

Please let me know if you have a few minutes to discuss.

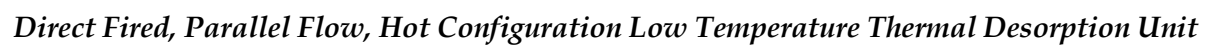
Phil Theriault, Environmental Specialist  
D.A. Collins

(518) 441-8475

[ptheriault@dacollins.com](mailto:ptheriault@dacollins.com)

[dacollinscompanies.com](http://dacollinscompanies.com)

269 Ballard Road, Wilton, NY, 12831





## 34 Freeman's Bridge Road

D.A. Collins Environmental Services, LLC. | [www.dacollinscompanies.com](http://www.dacollinscompanies.com)

**Owner:** New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

**Site:** Glenville, New York



A \$22MM soil remediation and on-site thermal treatment project in Glenville, New York. Project scope elements included removal and treatment/disposal of over 99,000 CY of Non-TSCA and TSCA soil and debris, and site restoration. The excavation plan called for a complicated 50'x50' grid system of excavations in 2' increments to terminal depths of 6-9' below grade. Excavation grids typically contained a combination of both TSCA and non-TSCA layers were then segregated for treatment or disposal. Excavations also frequently encountered drums with unknown wastes that required special handling. Non-TSCA soils (45,000 CY) were thermally treated in ESMI's mobile thermal treatment plant where all organic contaminants (PCBs, VOCs, SVOCs) were destroyed. Approximately 33,000 tons of TSCA soil and debris were shipped to an off-site TSCA landfill for disposal. An additional 21,000 tons of non-TSCA debris (from screening) was also shipped to a non-hazardous landfill.





# Luzerne Road PCB Site Soil Remediation & On-Site Thermal Treatment

D.A. Collins Environmental Services, LLC. | [www.dacollinscompanies.com](http://www.dacollinscompanies.com)

Owner: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Site: Queensbury, New York



Site preparation required clearing and grubbing of over 7 acres, removal of surficial debris, construction of a full perimeter security fence, and installation of all erosion and sedimentation controls over a 13-acre site.

Soil removal consisted of three (3) main excavation areas: South Area (10,000 CY), West Area (45,000 CY), and the TSCA Cell (24,000 CY). Excavations in the South and West Areas utilized a systematic 50'x50' grid system with various cut depths terminating as deep as 23' below grade. Excavation grids typically contained a combination of both TSCA and non-TSCA layers which were segregated for treatment or disposal. Deep excavations were performed in sequential 4' lifts with a strict sloping protocol due to sandy soils.

Non-TSCA soils were pre-processed prior to low temperature thermal desorption (LTTD). On Site Pre-processing including screening out debris to a 2" minus specification and blending the sandy subsoil and topsoil to achieve consistent feed to the LTTD plant. Non-TSCA soils were thermally treated in a mobile thermal treatment plant where the PCBs were destroyed. Treatment rates typically averaged 42-43 tons per hour due to the favorable soil conditions. Approximately 65,000 tons of soil was successfully treated by D.A. Collins to a treatment standard of <1ppm (typical results were Non-Detect).

Due to residential proximity, the community air monitoring program included four fixed air stations with both real time monitoring for dust and VOCs and documentation sampling for PCBs and PM10 dust. Odor suppression and dust suppression were highly prioritized in order to mitigate community nuisance concerns.

All thermally treated soils were reutilized as backfill material and the site was restored with imported topsoil and vegetation.

All site facilities and utilities needed for construction and operation of the LTTD plants were installed by DAC. Utility services included a temporary gas, electrical, water, and communications. The LTTD plant was situated on a temporary concrete slab (over 1,200 CY of concrete) which was removed at the end of the project.



## Justin Hall

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**From:** Robin Zisson Leader <Robinleader@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 4, 2023 4:53 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS fields - Greenwich CT.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from robinleader@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi. My name is Robin Leader and my children attend Western Middle School as magnet students. My oldest started the year the fields were closed, and my youngest will be a 6th grader next year. It is time to fix this problem. The diminished physical education space has negatively impacted their health - this is their time to run around - and as kids with ADHD they need it!! For some students, coming from area elementary schools, this is yet one more school with limited field space, and unequal education towards those in other parts of town. This where there is less green space overall, backyards and local playgrounds.

While my children don't play sports, their friends have been carted all over town just for practices! Not only have they never had the benefits of "home field" advantage. They also lose valuable practice time to bus rides. This will negatively impact them as they try out for sports at GHS and possibly diminish their abilities for college scholarships!

Please approve the plan that was put forth by Greenwich Public schools. As a town we are behind the plan to make a wonderful field not only for all future western students, but something for this side of town to be proud of, to use to change a small part of their life. Greenwich has many sports leagues that will benefit from this revamped field, giving field access for the entire town, youth through high school, and multiple sports.

Thank you for your time!

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Colleen Ford <colleen\_ford@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 8:29 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Gordon Beinstein  
**Subject:** WMS fields remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Good afternoon,

I am a teacher at Western Middle School. Shortly after I joined the district, the WMS fields were fenced off and deemed unavailable for student use. Claims that the problem would be addressed over the summer were heard, but no real changes were made. As a result, our students moved to using the staff parking lot for recess, lacked space for outdoor gym classes, and no longer got to host sports games at their school. As a result, the school climate and culture quickly suffered.

Eventually some parts of the fields were "partially opened," though no fix was provided. Our students still lack a real location for organized sports and clubs, which are even more important following the time lost due to the pandemic. It is not lost on students and families that WMS lacks the access to school fields provided at the other middle schools. We have had multiple years of students who played soccer, baseball, and other sports at WMS but were never able to host a home game (and therefore rarely had their friends present to cheer them on and build school spirit).

We look forward to being able to not only provide a state of the art field to our students, but to have an area that is an asset to the community and other western Greenwich teams.

Thank you,  
Colleen Ford

--

Ms. Ford  
Western Middle School  
7th Grade ELA



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Christine R <christine.j.park@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 4, 2023 3:46 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Hello Mr. Wilcox,

How are you? I am emailing you as a concerned parent of two GPS students, one of whom is at WMS. It has been 6 years without field access - no sports and limited physical education.

This is incredibly disappointing in a town like Greenwich.

The parents of WMS students are hoping for timely remediation of this problem. Field remediation benefits not only the WMS community,

but the entire town.

Thank you and best,  
Christine Rothstein  
21 Martin Dale North  
Greenwich, CT 06839

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Suzanne Broadbent <suzanne.m.broadbent@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 10:40 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** wmspta1@gmail.com; Glenville School PTA  
**Subject:** Writing in support of remedial action at WMS fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jeff,

First, thank you for your work on this project. Having a safe, recreational space for our students and community is critical to our community's health.

I am writing tonight to voice my strong support for remedial action to commence at the WMS fields as soon as possible. With children in the elementary school that feeds into WMS, I am hopeful that both of them will be able to benefit from the use of new, upgraded, safer fields in the near future. I think we can all agree that it's a shame the fields have been inaccessible for so long and many classes have passed through WMS without field access at their schools.

I've spent my career in the environmental engineering field, marketing proposals for projects just like this and reporting out to media outlets on remediation projects that have taken years and sometimes decades to complete. This background gives me a deep appreciation for the complexities around remediation projects - how they must be done correctly, how much care goes into protecting human and ecological health, compliance, consideration of neighboring properties, and more.

But tonight, I'm on the other side of this discussion as a parent, resident, and former WMS student myself urging the team: **let's get it done**. We cannot afford for more students to miss out on field access. Not only does the student experience suffer without immediate access to athletic fields, but the community suffers, too.

Having grown up in a home adjacent to the WMS property, I saw and experienced the impact the field had for after-school and weekend recreation - everything from sledding to sports to bike riding and much more. We spent HOURS taking advantage of these facilities. There are hundreds, actually probably thousands, of people in the neighboring communities who would benefit from closer access to green, recreational space. As you're well aware, the neighborhoods surrounding the school consist of single and multi-family dwellings on modest-sized lots and several apartment complexes. Safe, accessible public green spaces can only improve the strength of this community.

Lastly, I suspect you're also aware of problems that plagued the Hamilton Avenue School field, another nearby green space, for many of these same years. We have students going through a bulk of their elementary and middle school education without field access at their school.

Now, we have the opportunity to correct that for upcoming students and should move forward with this project with urgency.

Thank you,  
Suzanne Broadbent  
Glenville Elementary School Parent & PTA Board Member  
WMS Alumni  
Lifelong Greenwich resident

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Bernadette and Carl Johnson <carlandbernie27@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 3, 2023 9:30 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Support requested for the Western Middle School soil remediation project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Mr. Wilcox,

Happy New Year!

We are writing to request your support for the Western Middle School soil remediation project.

- WMS has not had field access for 6 years--we, as a community, are not okay with WMS fields being out of commission for a third generation of WMS middle school students, not to mention the many children throughout the Greenwich community who would otherwise be able to use WMS fields for football, soccer, softball, field hockey, etc.
- Our community has experienced unequal access and hardship caused by the fact that WMS fields have been off limits for 6 years. We are ready and excited for what could be--because of the flat and wide topography of the current field--a state of the art field that can benefit all Greenwich residents.
- After remediation, the WMS field will also significantly improve multi-sport field access for the entire town of Greenwich--from youth through high school sports--which is very needed.
- WMS students have had limited physical education space. WMS has not been able to hold sports games and practices on its fields for 6 years. This has negatively impacted our children's middle school experience...also, unequal access compared to other schools in town.
- Children living in the WMS neighborhood have had to shuttle across town to other fields for field hockey, softball, soccer, football practice and games while never having had the opportunity to play these intramural and extracurricular sports close to their home.

Thank you for your time and support for this worthwhile community project.

Sincerely,

Carl & Bernadette Johnson  
Parents of WMS student and Greenwich residents

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Megan Fina <megan\_fina@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 3, 2023 11:12 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff; Gordon Beinstein  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field

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Good Afternoon,

As a Western Middle School alumni, and now a faculty member- I am writing in regards to the status of the fields at Western Middle School. I have fond memories of playing and attending games on our field as a student here and am disappointed for our current students that they are missing out on this opportunity and have been for **several** years.

We look forward to you making this project a priority- something the Western side of town can be proud of and our students can finally utilize in their own neighborhood.

Thank you for taking the time to read this note and for moving this up on your priority list to show our students that we care - that their athletic experience on their home field is important to all of us!

--

Megan Fina  
7th Grade School Counselor  
Western Middle School  
(203) 413-8440

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Christine Younkin <christine.younkin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 3, 2023 10:10 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field Remediation

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Mr. Wilcox,

I'm a new GPS parent with my first child in first grade at Glenville. Upon joining this community I've been so impressed by the teachers, community support and access to recreational activities. Although my children are still young, I look forward to the days where we are cheering them from the sidelines.

I was very saddened to hear the news that for 6 years students have been limited to physical education space and have had no field access! I can't imagine my own middle school years with that taken away from me. These are years where so many find a true love of a sport, meet a coach who's been so impactful or frankly, reflect back on how painful it was having to run the mile on the school track!

I'm writing to you in my support of the remediation efforts and looking forward to cheering on my kids and many others on the sidelines of the new facility.

Christine Younkin

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Sabrina Rizzo <sabrinarizzo2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 4, 2023 8:59 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Good Morning Jeff,

I am writing as a community member and parent of children in Greenwich We are thrilled to hear that there is a remediation action plan to restore our fields at Western Middle School. This has been a long awaited process and we fully support the plan to give our community and children access to quality fields. This process has been long overdue and we look forward to utilizing the fields in the near future. Thank you for your assistance.

Sabrina Rizzo  
845-304-8132  
[Mommy and Me Speech Therapy](#)

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** nancy cacciola <naca32@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 4, 2023 9:55 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School fields - Greenwich CT

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Dear Mr. Wilcox;

I am a resident of Greenwich, CT and a teacher in town. I am emailing you in support for the soil remediation project approval at Western Middle School.

For 6 years, Western Middle School has not had access to their fields. This inability to access the fields has negatively impacted the student population and their equitable access to outdoor space for Physical Education class and sports teams. In addition, the neighboring community and the entire town has lost access to this property for outdoor sports and activity over the past 6 years.

The Greenwich community is excited for this project to be approved. Field space is at a premium in our town and with this project it will benefit the students of WMS and entire Greenwich community.

Thank you for your time,  
Nancy Tarantino



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Ralph Marmor <Ralph\_Marmor@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 3, 2023 2:15 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Gordon Beinstein  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields

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Hi Mr. Wilcox,

My name is Ralph Marmor and I am an English teacher at Western Middle School. I have worked at Western for 14 years. I am writing because I am concerned about the fields at Western Middle School. I remember that before the fields were closed students were able to use the fields for sports and physical education. Since the closure students are unable to play any home games, with many family members unable to watch their children play because of a lack of transportation. Many parents live in the area and would attend home games frequently.

I have heard from many students how hard it is to always have to travel to play games and how they wish they could play at Western.

They also wonder why we are the only school that has the problem with the fields.

I am truly hoping that the field will be fixed soon for the students, teachers, coaches, and the community. I know that a field for Western will really improve students' health and happiness. Western students are amazing and deserve to have a field that they can be proud of and use to improve their skills in sports. Those important skills can help them in the long run through High School and college.

Thank you for your time,

--

**Ralph Marmor**

**6th grade English**

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Donna Rosato <donna.rosato@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 4, 2023 3:32 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Beinstein, Gordon  
**Subject:** Western Middle School playing fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dear Mr. Cox,

I am the parent of a 7th grader at Western Middle School and I'm writing to you to express my adamant desire to have Western's fields remediated and rebuilt ASAP. I'd love for my son to experience what it is like to have proper playing fields at his school before he graduates in 2024. There are more than 700 kids at Western who are now in the third generation of students who have gone to school without adequate space for sports games or physical education.

My son is on the Western Middle School track team and during warmups and practices for events, they have to run a crazy route around the school because of the limited outdoor space.

I understand that when the fields are finally remediated and replaced, they will be state of the art and a resource that benefits not only students at Western but the entire town which will have access to the fields for multiple sports. But it's ridiculous that more than 6 years have gone by just to get to this point in the process.

I will be at the January 11th meeting and I hope to hear that this is a top priority and we have a specific timeframe for Western to have the fields it has long waited for to be restored.

Sincerely,

Donna Rosato  
917-673-6840

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Mary Ann Ranalli <co-president@isdpta.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 4, 2023 3:06 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS field access - please remediate and open these fields!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Hello Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing to strongly request that the WMS fields be remediated and made usable again. I have three children in the Greenwich Public Schools and was just at WMS for basketball and was reminded of the field conditions. Making these fields accessible again would benefit not just children at WMS, but the entire Greenwich community. And it is the right thing to do!

My kids participate in a lot of sports, from soccer to basketball, dance, baseball and swimming. We have a real and significant lack of usable fields in the town, and many teams and groups have to rotate practices and games (or worse, have them cancelled) due to field conditions. It's disappointing and avoidable. Additionally, the poor condition of our playing fields becomes very visibly apparent when traveling to neighboring towns for sports competitions. My kids have often remarked that our competitors fields are much nicer and better maintained than Greenwich.

Renovated and updated fields at WMS would significantly help to address this issue.

It is unbelievable that these fields have been unusable for 6 years! It has been a long road, but we need to get this done. A state-of-the-art improved field at WMS is imperative.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Mary Ann Ranalli  
GPS Mom of 3

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Emily <emilyp@bhrestoration.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 4, 2023 8:54 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS field remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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My children do not go to WMS but I support all efforts to get these kids the facilities needed for sports and other outdoor activities.

Thank you,  
Emily Erceg

B&H Restoration, Inc.  
37 - 39 9th Street  
LIC, NY 11101  
(718) 274-5598

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Fraser Owen-Smith <fowensmith@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 4, 2023 12:46 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS field remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir -

I am writing to you concerning the upcoming meeting to discuss Western Middle School's remediation plans. As a concerned parent of one former WMS student and two upcoming students, I would urge you to move forward with the plans as soon as possible. Six years without fields at a middle school in a community as vibrant as Greenwich isn't acceptable. Please let's get this project moving so our children can have a normal middle school experience!

Sincerely,  
Fraser Owen-Smith

--

Thanks,

Fraser  
+1 (347) 522 0066

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Sophia Brosterman <sophia.brosterman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 1, 2023 10:44 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Expressing Strong Support for Western Middle School Soil Remediation Project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dear Jeff,

My family and I reside in Glenville. We are writing to voice strong support for swift execution of the WMS soil remediation project. It is shocking, especially in a town as affluent as Greenwich, that the students of WMS have been without field access for 6 years. This has impacted over 1,200 students, and this matter should be addressed immediately before this number gets even larger.

We look forward to a state-of-the-art field for WMS, which will significantly improve the Western middle school experience and address the glaring disparity between WMS and other Greenwich Public Schools in town.

Thank you,  
Sophia Brosterman

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Cory Williams <cory.williams.rtm8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 31, 2022 10:49 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Greenwich Western middle school

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from cory.williams.rtm8@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/RudECxkLk7hDky43h818t-?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jeff,

I am writing you as a parent of public school kids, a resident of Greenwich, and im also a member of the towns legislative RTM body.

I respectfully request that this project and move forward as soon as possible so that the kids can finally have the recreational space they need. Action and remediation are long overdue here.

Best,  
Cory Williams

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Emery Brenner Kafka <emery.brenner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 2, 2023 6:09 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western middle school

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from emery.brenner@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mr. Wilcox,

I am a Glenville parent of 2 who is writing to you to encourage the western middle school soil remediation project to move on.

Unfortunately some other western middle school classes have never been able to enjoy the field during their stay. I have 2 boys and it is very important they get outside daily for for their mental health. It is important to get the field open and operational.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Emery Kafka

--

[emery.brenner@gmail.com](mailto:emery.brenner@gmail.com)



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Sal Corda <salcorda613@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 1, 2023 4:01 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Athletic Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from salcorda613@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I had the honor and privilege of serving as the interim Superintendent of Schools in Greenwich in the 2016-2017 school year. In the summer of 2016, we learned of the contaminants affecting the playing fields at Western Middle School. Mindful of our responsibility for the safety of the students and the larger public who used the field, we immediately closed the fields to prevent any use until all problems had been addressed. I am aware that, after an extended period of time where two full cohorts of Western Middle School students have not been able to use the fields, a number of solutions have been examined and a decision may be forthcoming shortly that will address this problem and restore the fields. I heartily support any efforts that are being made that will bring this matter to closure expeditiously, restore the integrity of the fields, and allow them to be used for the benefit of students and the community.

Sincerely,  
Salvatore J. Corda, Ph.D

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Laura Kostin <laura\_kostin@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 2, 2023 10:04 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from laura\_kostin@greenwich.k12.ct.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

I wanted to write to express my enthusiastic support for the remediation and restoration of the long-closed fields at Western Middle School in Greenwich.

The field closure has negatively impacted students who rely on usage of their grounds for physical education programming and after school activities.

Addressing the matter expeditiously is of the utmost importance so students can once again access the fields for the student-centered purposes they were intended.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Laura Kostin  
Member, Greenwich Board of Education

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Tara Harvey <taraminiharvey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 2, 2023 6:55 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from taraminiharvey@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing to you as a life long Greenwich resident, Western Middle School alumni, future parent of 2 WMS students, and Greenwich Public Schools teacher whose students will one day attend WMS.

For the past 6 years student of WMS have gone without field access and limited physical education space. Over 1,200 students in Greenwich have not had adequate fields to play on and have had unequal access compared to other schools in town. It is time for the students of WMS and residents who live in the western part of town to have state of the art field. This field will significantly improve field access for entire town, youth through high school, for multiple sports, which is something that is GREATLY needed in Greenwich.

Thank you,  
Tara Harvey

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Linda.FerraroRN <linda.ferrarorn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 3, 2023 1:48 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from linda.ferrarorn@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jeff,

I am a Critical care registered nurse at Greenwich Hospital and have been for the last 9 years. I am also the mother of 3 young children. Two of my children are currently in Kindergarten and 1st grade at Glenville Elementary School and soon they will be heading off to Western Middle School, just as I did many years ago, as I am a product of the Greenwich Public School system. When I heard about the issue with the WMS fields and the fact that students have not been able to utilize and enjoy those fields for the last 6 years, my heart just broke. I cannot imagine my time at WMS without going outside for gym class or staying after school to watch the wildcats crush their opponents at competitive sports. I can still smell the delicious, sweet bakery scent when the wind would blow in just the right direction. I also vividly remember the not so sweet aroma of the nearby dump when the wind would blow in the opposite direction... but hey, I wouldn't change a thing, it is a right if passage!

It really is not fair for the kids of the western part of Greenwich to have access to less outdoor extracurricular activities than the other Greenwich kids that attend CMS or EMS. Please help restore the fields so that the future classes of WMS can also experience those amazing and lasting memories as I have.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,  
Linda Ferraro RN-BSN

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** margaret petty <mppt97@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 31, 2022 11:47 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS field remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from mppt97@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/RudECxkLk7hDky43h818t-?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I am writing as a parent of a WMS 8th grade student in support of the field remediation that will hopefully occur soon.

Neither of my children will benefit from this remediation as WMS students since they will both be graduated before it is complete. However, it is not lost on us that it is a vital part of the WMS experience to have working fields that the students can utilize. It truly has been a long time that this school has been without working fields and we would love to see that change for current and future students as well as the community as a whole. It only makes our town that much better when all of the public schools can offer the students and the community all that it has to offer. Please help WMS attain quality fields!!

Thank you in advance for your support.

Margaret Petty

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Davina Clermont <davinaclermont@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 2, 2023 4:06 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS field restoration

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from davinaclermont@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing to support the restoration of the field at WMS in Greenwich. We have kids currently attending WMS and ones who will be in the future. It is important for our kids to have access to a safe and managed field where they can play and learn sports. Not only that, but it is important for school spirit and activities. Please support this restoration!!

Thank you,  
Davina Clermont

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Lauren Armstrong Spelman <armstrong.laa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 3, 2023 9:32 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Field/Soil Remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from armstrong.laa@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jeff,

I have heard your name repeatedly as my three children have explored Greenwich youth sports. (If it is a different Jeff Wilcox, please excuse me!) Because of the name recognition I chose to email you and I hope you have a moment to read this email!

I met a woman several years ago who informed me she is the one who reported the soil concerns to the town. She was very proud of the fact that she had been the one to do so. What struck me most was that she didn't care at all about the ramifications to our youth when the fields were closed and she had very little information on what was actually wrong with the soil when pressed. While I would never want our children to knowingly be exposed to dangerous chemicals, I also am frustrated that closing the fields has caused significantly reduced sports resources for the community.

Western Middle School is the school my three children did/have and will attend. My daughter plays field hockey and during the season they have to practice on a half field, with no real goals, due to the other teams that also need field space. As field hockey is a running game, I am sure you can appreciate that a half field for practice presents a challenge when playing on a full turf field against other teams! Totally different conditioning and practice conditions! That said, our girls DID make it to the final championship game this year so they are fighters.

My youngest plays for the Greenwich Youth Football league and all have to share one field. They make it work, but additional space would clearly be beneficial.

Also frustrating is that while the fields are closed to sports, people can readily walk their dogs through those areas.

In a town as wealthy as Greenwich I find it infuriating that our fields, which can be fixed, have been closed for six years. All this to say, I fully support whatever remediation needs to happen as long as it gets done ASAP!!!!

If you have made it to the bottom of this email, thank you.

Best,  
Lauren Spelman

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** David Sullivan <david.w.sullivan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2022 7:53 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Complete Western Middle School Remediation Please. Thank you

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from david.w.sullivan@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am a parent of a student at Western Middle School in Greenwich, CT and I fully support completing the environmental remediation program at Western Middle School. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Sullivan



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Bob Mendelsohn <rvmendelsohn@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 26, 2022 4:38 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Greenwich Middle School fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from rvmendelsohn@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

We are writing in support of the project to remediate the athletic field at Western Middle School--a project that already has been delayed for years.

We admit that, since we live on the east side of town in Old Greenwich and our children had attended Old Greenwich and Eastern Middle schools, we were only vaguely aware of the problems at Western. When our grandson enrolled at Western Middle this year, we finally realized the impact the unavailability of the field has on students. While the impact on sports is obvious--with the kids having to travel to fields all town--there is also an impact on the every-day educational experience. Of course it affects the Phys Ed program, but it also limits the opportunities for the students to interact with each other at recess and after school. Western is by far the most diverse of our Middle Schools, both in terms of race and socioeconomic status, making it even more important that the students have opportunities to interact with each other outside the school building.

Frankly, we were shocked to learn that has taken some six years to get the project to this point. Please do what you can to move it forward.

Thank you,

Bob and Pat Mendelsohn

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** James Waters <james.a.waters@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2022 1:56 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Support for Remedial Action Plan for Western Middle School Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from james.a.waters@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jeffrey,

I wanted to write in support of the remedial action plan for the Western Middle School fields and to encourage you to expedite regulatory approval to proceed with this work.

It is unconscionable that hundreds of children in our town have been without field access for the past 6 years! Not only has this lengthy closure negatively impacted the middle school experience of hundreds, it has also provided them with unequal access compared to other children in our town and across the state. It's time to act and my hope is that this remedial action plan proceeds quickly rather than continuing to linger and further negatively impacting children at Western Middle School.

Many thanks for reading this note and taking swift action to get this done. Hope you have a great holiday season.

Best,

James

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** veronica Bizzaro <veronicakristi@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2022 6:44 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western middle school

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from veronicakristi@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/xvFbCBB9BRS0j170sz5c3Q?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing this email because I would like to let you know how important the field is to our community. As of right now my sons are in elementary school, but one of them will be going to Western middle school. Next year. We have had many issues with the field at Hamilton Avenue School and unfortunately, my sons have not had the greatest experience utilizing the schools field because it has been closed, this year it has opened and what a joy it is to see them running around and having fun with their friends being outside is such an important factor in a child's life I would love to see my children running around western middle school field instead of being inside. Please take all our emails into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Veronica Bizzaro

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Samantha Himelman <samanthahimelman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 24, 2022 7:25 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from samanthahimelman@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/xvFbCBB9BRS0j170sz5c3Q?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jeff,

My name is Samantha Himelman and I am a mom and resident of Greenwich CT. My daughters will attend Western Middle School, which has had unusable fields for over 6 years. The children need a place to play! Please approve the remediation plan. The children are counting on you.

Wishing you happy holidays and a great new year.

Best  
Samantha Himelman

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Alex Popp <alex\_popp@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2022 5:14 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from alex\_popp@greenwich.k12.ct.us. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/xvFbCBB9BRS0j170sz5c3Q?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

RE: Western Middle School/Greenwich

Field remediation at WMS is long overdue. It's unimaginable that my high school daughter is graduation high school soon, and the play field at her middle school is still off limits. Just too many years. In addition, when she was enrolled at New Lebanon elementary, the ball field was closed due to soil contamination and new construction staging area. Ironically, several of her high school fields (Greenwich) are closed.

I support moving remediation ahead on the quickest, safest route.

Alex Popp  
Greenwich

Roll away the dew.  
Roll away the dew.

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Edison Castillo <edison\_castillo@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 24, 2022 10:41 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Mr. Wilcox, my name is Edison I am a new employee at Western Middle School and will potentially start working with the soccer program at the school soon. I have been informed the school's field has been closed for several years due to its contaminated soil and the people of the state want to work on a petition to start a project to fix it and reopen it. I consider this to be very good and really hope it goes through and gets done, the kids need it for all the sports, the physical education teachers would benefit from it too as there will be more options available for different activities with an extra and bigger space for students to play, not only that but also for the safety of the students to prevent injuries, and as a community it is not a good look to have one of the main schools in the state not have a decent field for its students. I would love to be part of the change and would gladly work the field right with you if the project goes through.

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Peter Bernstein <pdbesq@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2022 10:17 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Soil Remediation Project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from pdbesq@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/xvFbCBB9BRS0j170sz5c3Q?domain=aka.ms> ]

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Mr. Wilcox-

My name is Peter Bernstein and I am the former Chair of the Board of Education in Greenwich, Connecticut and the father of two Greenwich Public School students. I am writing in favor of the Western Middle School Soil Remediation Project.

This project has been long in the making and should move forward without further delay. The fields have been unavailable to students and the community since testing began in 2016 - far too long!

The remedial action plan that has been submitted is both reasonable and responsible and will ensure the long term safety of this site.

Please reach out with any questions.

Peter D. Bernstein  
(917) 574-5090

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Judy Dickerman <studio357@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 30, 2022 8:29 PM  
**To:** Gordon Beinstein; Taryn Weiss; Wilcox, Jeff; suzanne\_coyne@greenwich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Western Middle School

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Jeff Wilcox, your effort to move forward to a green field for the students , community teachers and the residents of Greenwich, Ct is very important and appreciated.

It has been a focus of our community for some time.

Greatly appreciate your work and effort on the west side of Greenwich.

Regards, Judy Dickerman

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Ariana E Kuehne <ariana.kuehne@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 29, 2022 8:16 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Wilcox,  
I'm writing to express my support for the soil remediation action plan at Western Middle School. My daughters will be middle schoolers there in the coming years. I myself attended GPS and remember my time spent out on the fields of North Street School, CMS and GHS. Please continue to do everything you can to help this remediation project succeed. As a resident and parent in the Western community, I am behind restoring access to quality fields for our middle schoolers.  
Thank you,  
Ariana Kuehne

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** J Young <jyoung0489@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2022 2:14 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Fwd: Western Middle School Field  
**Attachments:** WMS Spt Ltr.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Please see attached support letter.

>  
> Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.  
>  
> Regards,  
> Jennifer Young  
>

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Gordon Beinstein <Gordon\_Beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2022 7:59 AM  
**To:** Amanda Marie  
**Cc:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Parent Supporting WMS RAP

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Great letter, thanks for taking the time to write this! It can only help.

Have a great holiday

Gordon

Gordon Beinstein  
Principal  
Western Middle School  
Greenwich CT 06830  
203-531-5700  
#WestSideBestSide!

On Sun, Dec 18, 2022 at 9:32 AM Amanda Marie <[lolliamanda@gmail.com](mailto:lolliamanda@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Mr Wilcox,

Good morning. I live and work in Greenwich and my daughter Emily ran track at WMS in 6th grade in spring 2019 and won a CT state championship silver medal with her relay team. Today she is a GHS sophomore and a US Figure Skating Team USA athlete competing internationally. Emily is one story, out of many, of how our students in Greenwich are such achievers. We owe them achievement back and so I support the RAP so the students have a field to train and play on and where they can host other schools in events and feel proud of their WMS community. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Duarte

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Joe Kelly <joe\_kelly@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2022 9:02 AM  
**To:** J Young  
**Cc:** Wilcox, Jeff; beinstein, gordon; Gordon Beinstein; BOE; Toni Jones; Toni Jones; Fred DeCaro III; Ron Young  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Western Middle School Field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Great letter!  
Thank you Jennifer.

On Dec 21, 2022, at 4:00 PM, J Young <[jyoung0489@gmail.com](mailto:jyoung0489@gmail.com)> wrote:

Please see attached support letter.

Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Regards,  
Jennifer Young

<WMS Spt Ltr.pdf>

### Joe Kelly

*Greenwich Board of Education Chair*

*Phone: (203) 536-0025*

[joe\\_kelly@greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:joe_kelly@greenwich.k12.ct.us)

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Fred DeCaro III <Fred.Camillo@greenwichct.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2022 8:18 AM  
**To:** J Young; Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** beinstein, gordon; Gordon Beinstein; BoardofEdMembers@greenwich.k12.ct.us; Toni; Valentine, Linda; Ron Young  
**Subject:** Re: Western Middle School Field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Thank you, Jen!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** J Young <jyoung0489@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:00:55 PM  
**To:** Jeff.wilcox@ct.gov <Jeff.wilcox@ct.gov>  
**Cc:** beinstein, gordon <gbeinstein1@gmail.com>; Gordon Beinstein <Gordon\_Beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us>; BoardofEdMembers@greenwich.k12.ct.us <BoardofEdMembers@greenwich.k12.ct.us>; Toni <toni\_jones@greenwich.k12.ct.us>; Valentine, Linda <Linda\_Valentine@greenwich.k12.ct.us>; Camillo, Fred <Fred.Camillo@greenwichct.org>; Ron Young <ronyoungjr@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field

**[EXTERNAL]**

Please see attached support letter.

Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Regards,  
Jennifer Young

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the Town email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you have verified the sender and know the content is safe.

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Wilcox, Jeff <Jeff.Wilcox@ct.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2022 9:50 AM  
**To:** J Young  
**Cc:** beinstein, gordon; Gordon Beinstein; BoardofEdMembers@greenwich.k12.ct.us; Toni; Valentine, Linda; Ron Young; Fred DeCaro III  
**Subject:** Re: Western Middle School Field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Ms. Young:

If you would like to submit the letter referenced in your December 21, 2022, email below, for the record and response, can you please submit it to me directly.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Wilcox  
Environmental Analyst 3  
Remediation Division  
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse  
860-424-3902

---

**From:** Camillo, Fred <Fred.Camillo@greenwichct.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2022 8:17 AM  
**To:** J Young <jyoung0489@gmail.com>; Wilcox, Jeff <Jeff.Wilcox@ct.gov>  
**Cc:** beinstein, gordon <gbeinstein1@gmail.com>; Gordon Beinstein <Gordon\_Beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us>; BoardofEdMembers@greenwich.k12.ct.us <BoardofEdMembers@greenwich.k12.ct.us>; Toni <toni\_jones@greenwich.k12.ct.us>; Valentine, Linda <Linda\_Valentine@greenwich.k12.ct.us>; Ron Young <ronyoungjr@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Western Middle School Field

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Thank you, Jen!

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---

**From:** J Young <jyoung0489@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:00:55 PM  
**To:** Jeff.wilcox@ct.gov <Jeff.wilcox@ct.gov>  
**Cc:** beinstein, gordon <gbeinstein1@gmail.com>; Gordon Beinstein <Gordon\_Beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us>; BoardofEdMembers@greenwich.k12.ct.us <BoardofEdMembers@greenwich.k12.ct.us>; Toni <toni\_jones@greenwich.k12.ct.us>; Valentine, Linda <Linda\_Valentine@greenwich.k12.ct.us>; Camillo, Fred <Fred.Camillo@greenwichct.org>; Ron Young <ronyoungjr@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field

**[EXTERNAL]**

Please see attached support letter.

Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Regards,  
Jennifer Young

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the Town email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you have verified the sender and know the content is safe.

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Laura Seltzer <lseltzer81@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 6:10 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Support of the WMS Field Remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from lseltzer81@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am the parent of a WMS 6th grade boy, a huge supporter of sports and outdoor play and I have been heavily involved in my son's school's PTA since preschool. It has been a shock and embarrassment as a Greenwich resident to not have a field for use at my child's school. I am writing in support of the WMS Field/soil remediation project.

It goes without saying that Principal Beinstein has done an amazing job at finding ways for our children to have outdoor time all these years, but enough is enough. This project FOR OUR CHILDREN is long overdue. Our middle schoolers recreational sports and outside gym time are an important component to developing social and emotional skills. Without access to fields at our middle school, our children are missing a vital component to their middle school experience. I don't even quite know how to explain it to my child without scaring him.

Our kids deserve a sports field they can use for sports and gym class, and for activities and social time. Access to sports and fields is a well needed outlet for our kids. Please support the WMS soil remediation project and a timely commencement of the project.

I look forward to the update on January 11th.

Thank you,

Laura Seltzer  
6th Grade Parent



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** liliana pugliese <lilianagdp1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2022 10:11 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir,

The WMS fields have been shut down for the past six years. Finally the state has the remediation action plan (RAP) plan put forth by Langan and AE.

Please accept this plan as soon as possible so that our Western students can have a safe field and enjoy their middle school experience as other middle schoolers do. My sons were without a field while they attended WMS. It was unfortunate. But I ask that you please make it available for future students. It has been too long.

Thank you for your consideration to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Lillian Pugliese  
Greenwich parent

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** J Young <jyoung0489@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:01 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** beinstein, gordon; Gordon Beinstein; BoardofEdMembers@greenwich.k12.ct.us; Toni Jones; Toni Jones; Fred DeCaro III; Ron Young  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field  
**Attachments:** WMS Spt Ltr.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Please see attached support letter.

Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Regards,  
Jennifer Young

December 21, 2022

Jeff Wilcox  
Remediation Division  
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

I am writing to you today to offer my full support for the recommendations in the remediation action plan (RAP) put forth by the Town of Greenwich for the soil removal and clean-up of the fields at Western Middle School. By approving the RAP the state of Connecticut will protect the health of our students and environment while accommodating school activities and other uses of the site.

As you know, the Western Middle School community has been without field access for over six years; completely obliterating its sports programs and limiting its physical education space. Students are forced from their home field and bused all over town to play; including my daughter's softball team. The lack of a home field affects their ability to bond and develop as a team. This has not only negatively impacted their overall middle school experience but is frankly, *inequitable, unfair and discriminatory* as compared to students in other Greenwich schools who are not experiencing the same harm.

In addition, during the height of COVID outdoor spaces remained one of the few locations people could social distance, provide a space for safe outdoor activities and serve as a foundation to maintain favorable health and quality of life so vital during the lockdown phase. However, due to the permanent closure of its fields, students at Western Middle School were denied the benefits of outdoor recreation and varying health benefits; including improvement in mental well-being.

Following remediation the design includes the installation of artificial turf. I expect that some members of the community will oppose the proposed artificial turf field, however these type of fields are widely used successfully around the world for many sports and at many levels of performance. Furthermore, thanks to advances in technology and science, artificial grass is safe with several brands of synthetic turf on the market that are non-toxic, lead free and provide a high level of hygienic protection. Tax dollars will not be wasted on the maintenance of more grass fields and a synthetic turf field will prevent countless rainouts due to poor drainage and maintained which plagues many of our fields in town today.

While it is highly likely that by the time the field is accessible my children will no longer be students at Western, I nonetheless respectfully urge you to support the remediation plan and subsequent turf field being proposed in the RAP. Greenwich is well behind our neighboring communities in terms of the quantity and quality of grass and turf fields. The new field at Western Middle School will ensure that the athletic infrastructure meets the needs of our school and the growing community and can support multiple sports programs.

Our student athletes for generations will be pleased and well served by this new state of the art field that both the school community and community-at-large can be proud to call home.

Thank you

Regards,

Jennifer and Ron Young  
Greenwich, CT

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Robert Mcknight <rjmmkt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2022 9:48 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Soil Remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Mr. Wilcox,

I am the Chairman of District 4 in the Byram section of Greenwich, Connecticut and a member of the RTM. The next steps of the Soil Remediation Project are slated to start moving forward. I support all efforts in getting the field open and operational again for our students.

Thank you.

Robert J. McKnight  
RTM District 4 Chairman

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Diana Lin Wong <diana.e.lin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2022 10:40 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Mr. Wilcox -

I am writing as a Greenwich tax paying resident with kids in the Greenwich Public School district. We are 100% behind the field work that needs to be completed at Western Middle School. We use those fields for football and lacrosse (baseball is no longer possible given the state of the field) and would greatly appreciate any help we can get on having these fields back in use.

Thank you,  
Diana Wong

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Sarah Klocinski <klocinski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 6:24 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Fix Western Middle School Field - Greenwich CT

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from klocinski@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox-

I am writing in support of Greenwich Public Schools Western Middle School students and community. The State of CT and Federal Agencies have failed the WMS students and town by not providing the remediation of the contaminants found in the soil in a timely manner. It has been 6 long years with the fields closed and physical education classes and sports have to find alternative locations or activities for the students.

I am a GPS parent of 4 children (as well as a GPS alumni myself). My older two children attend Eastern Middle School, but both of them have best friends who attend WMS. While my children have been able to do sports and physical education class, as well as general outdoor classes, on their EMS school field for their whole middle school experience - their close friends have not been given this same opportunity.

This amount of inequity is unfair and unacceptable. In addition the delay in remediation adds to our annual GPS school budget when students are required to be bused to alternative field locations in town! (Money that can be put to much better use in other areas of GPS.)

Greenwich is a jewel of Connecticut and our public school system is consistently rated among the top in the country. It is embarrassing that the State and Federal agencies can't come to an agreement to get this problem solved.

**Please, support the Remediation Action Plan (RAP) that has been put forth by Langan and AECOM. We need action to start now and not waste another six years when all of these students will be in college already!**

Thank you for reading my email.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Klocinski

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Justin August <justinpaulaugust@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 12:37 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Open the WMS field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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We strongly support the work to open the Western Middle School fields. The WMS fields have been shut down for the past six years. The state has the remediation action plan (RAP) plan put forth from Langan and AECOM. Our family supports the plan being implemented ASAP.

Justin, Sophie, Pierre and Francoise August

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** majical@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 11:49 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Support for Athletic Fields at WMS

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jeff,

My husband and I fully support all your efforts to get the athletic fields at Western Middle School open and operational again for our students. This is a critical issue that needs to be addressed for the health, wellness, and well- being of our students and the community at large.

Sincerely,  
Marianne and Clifford Schorer  
Greenwich, Ct.



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Maria Kowalski <mariakowalski216@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 5:20 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Support for Western Middle School Remediation (from a past & future family)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from mariakowalski216@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/XE5SCBB9BRS0j1V0UzPpr1?domain=aka.ms> ]

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Good Evening Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing to you to this evening to express my full support for Western Middle School soil Remediation. We have both a past student (9th grader) and future student (1st Grader). This project began when we moved to greenwich and my oldest son was in 2nd grade. Who knew that he would finish elementary, his 3 years at middle school and half of his freshman year and these fields are still not usable.

As a mom of athletes, these fields are important to these kids both for school athletic events and their own recreation. For the past several years our kids have biking or scooting to various fields all around town and in neighboring Rye Brook because they're unable to use the field they'd be most comfortable at, the one that belongs to their middle school.

Please help do all you can to help move this along. I'd hate to see my 1st grader starting middle school In several years and students still not having a place to play their baseball or soccer game, or hold a football practice. It's not right or fair to the kids in our community.

Sincerely,  
Maria Kowalski  
(mom of a past and future Western Middle Schooler)

Maria R. Kowalski  
Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Amanda LeBlanc <amaozza@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 9:19 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field Remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Mr. Wilcox,

I am the parent of a WMS 6th grader and have another child who will enter WMS in two years. I am writing in support of the WMS Field/soil remediation project. This project has been thoroughly researched and analyzed and it is overdue to be completed. It is a disservice to our middle schoolers to not have access to a field at their own school.

Our middle schoolers (one of 3 middle schools in Greenwich) have had no access to a field for 6 years - this means no on site sports (schlepping to other fields to play), and very limited space for physical ed. Sports and outside gym time are an important component to developing social and emotional skills in middle schoolers, and in fact in all children. Without access to fields at our middle school, our children are missing a vital component to their middle school experience. We are a Title One school - the only one in Greenwich - with an exceptional program and kids from all over town who WANT to come to Western. And yet our WMS students have unequal access to fields and sports.

My understanding is the plans provide for a State of the art field to be used by both our school and for the Town. It will benefit not only WMS students but our entire town. Our kids deserve a sports field they can use for sports and gym class, and for activities and social time. In this day and age of high mental illness rates, way too much technology use and screen time, having access to fields is CRITICAL to all of our children. Access to sports and fields is a well needed outlet for our kids. Please support the WMS soil remediation project and a timely commencement of the project.

I look forward to the update on January 11th.

Thank you.  
Amanda LeBlanc

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Beth Acerbo <bethacerbo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 7:53 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Gordon Beinstein  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Mr. Wilcox,

I am the parent of a WMS 6th grader, a lifelong Greenwich resident, and co-President of WMS PTA. I am writing in support of the WMS Field/soil remediation project. This project has been thoroughly researched and analyzed and it is overdue to be completed. It is a disservice to our middle schoolers to not have access to a field at their own school.

Our middle schoolers (one of 3 middle schools in Greenwich) have had no access to a field for 6 years - this means no on site sports (schlepping to other fields to play), and very limited space for physical ed. Sports and outside gym time are an important component to developing social and emotional skills in middle schoolers, and in fact in all children. Without access to fields at our middle school, our children are missing a vital component to their middle school experience. We are a Title One school - the only one in Greenwich - with an exceptional program and kids from all over town who WANT to come to Western. And yet our WMS students have unequal access to fields and sports.

My understanding is the plans provide for a State of the art field to be used by both our school and for the Town. It will benefit not only WMS students but our entire town. Our kids deserve a sports field they can use for sports and gym class, and for activities and social time. In this day and age of high mental illness rates, way to much technology use and screen time, having access to fields is CRITicAL to all of our children. Access to sports and fields is a well needed outlet for our kids. Please support the WMS soil remediation project and a timely commencement of the project.

I look forward to the update on January 11th.

Thank you.

Beth Acerbo  
WMS Parent and PTA Co-President

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Audrey Jankiewicz <audrey\_jankiewicz@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 8:33 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields (Greenwich CT)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Mr. Wilcox,

The fields at Western Middle School in Greenwich have been shut down for six years now, and the impact this has on the students and the entire community is far reaching. Students have a limited space for physical education, field days, and recess. No outdoor sports can be played "at home" which means few teachers are able to show up to support their students. Western Middle School sits atop a beautiful landscape and vast space, none of which can be used. I implore you to move forward with the plan to revitalize the Western Middle School community, and the Greenwich community at large, with the fields our students deserve.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Sincerely,  
Audrey Jankiewicz  
7th Grade English Teacher  
Purple Team Learning Facilitator  
Western Middle School  
Greenwich, CT

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** David Langhorne <D.Langhorne@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 6:37 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff; gordon\_beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Western Middle school fields Greenwich

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from d.langhorne@outlook.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/XE5SCBB9BRS0j1V0UzPpr1?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning sir,

I'm a parent of children who've gone through and are currently going through WMS.

I've been battling as best as I can for 6 years to get the fields reopened. I actually asked if any child, coach parent etc had got sick or worse still passed away over the past 59 years or so since the fields and school were constructed. I'm sure you can guess the answer.

The above has resulted in a major disruption to every aspect of school life, especially athletics and outdoor recess.

The children have had to be shipped all over town, parents have had to collect children from all over town.

Many children had to stop participating for various reasons not least the difficulty of families who have to work. I personally took many a child home from such events.

Due to the social and racial makeup of WMS minorities and girls were impacted far more than other students it alone certainly makes the case to have the fields finally repaired, having a more difficult environment for the children of WMS to participate is just plain wrong.

My personal experience was quite a challenge getting off work to race to the other side of town to watch my daughter play field hockey became a race against time, not withstanding the "advice" I was getting on the home front!!! It sounds silly but it's a least 20-30 minutes to get from WMS to some of the other parks in town especially at 3/4 o'clock.

My son played baseball on the back field for a few years prior to its closing and in fact he and I used to mow the infield before games on occasion and it was really a great experience for us both and the other families. A very special spot for us. My youngest son has never played on the WMS fields as he's going to graduate from WMS this year.

I genuinely believe at this point the school, the town, the outstanding school teachers and staff, ( as you can see from the test scores and recognition) deserve some state of the art facilities and something we as part of the WMS family can really be excited about and be proud of that we leave WMS after 9 years better than we found it and built for the future. I implore you and your team to approve this most meaningful project for the entire town.

I'm so grateful for your efforts to get this through and look forward to meeting you at the January meeting.

Yours with much appreciation

David Langhorne

My phone is 917-386-4471

Feel free to call if there is anything else you might like to ask.

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Michele Williams <michele.williams417@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 4:42 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School, Greenwich CT

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to express my concern over Western Middle School fields. My child will be entering middle school next year and I am deeply concerned about the contaminants found in the soil. My son has struggled during covid and has found that sports are a major outlet for him. I hope this can be resolved so he can have a full experience as well as all other students.

I will be attending the January meeting to show my support. Please help to encourage this process to move forward.

Best regards,  
Michele

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Hala Husami <hhusami@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 10:49 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Mr Wilcox

I am a parent of a current 7th grade student at Western Middle School as well as a parent to a son who went through his 3 years at WMS and another athletic daughter that attends private school. Over the 4 years that our family has been at Western, we have seen the athletes (and actually all students at Western and on this side of town) suffer the consequences of the lack of attention to finally making substantial steps to remedy the problematic fields. All 3 of my children enjoy sports and we feel strongly that spending time outdoors with their peers teaches them many valuable lessons that can never be taught in the classroom. Our athletic children never have had the opportunity to enjoy the spacious property that WMS is lucky to have because of the lack of attention to the problem. I know that this problem most likely will not be fixed before my youngest daughter graduates out of Western next year, however I really love and value our community on this side of town and would love to see Western finally get the support we need to fix the problem. I implore the town of Greenwich to finally prioritize this project and really lift up the Western community and allow our children to have the facilities they deserve.

Thank you for your time,

Hala Si-Ahmed

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** David Sullivan <dbsull@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 10:06 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Field at Western Middle School

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jeff,  
I have two active sons who will be at Western Middle School next year.  
They need fields to play and socialize on!  
I do hope you can be a force for change and get the fields put into usable condition asap!!!!  
See you at the meeting on Jan 11.  
Best,  
David Sullivan

---

David B. Sullivan  
M: (646) 416-1107  
[DBSULL@hotmail.com](mailto:DBSULL@hotmail.com)



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Sandrine Utzinger <sandrine\_utzinger@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 9:24 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Fields at Wms

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Good morning

I am writing as both a current parent of 4 who has a 6th grader at WMS as well as a staff member. My daughter who is now a Freshman in College was one of the last classes to enjoy the fields at WMS. Since that time, our students/kids have had to engage in PE classes at different fields as well as play our games at Cos Cob, Pemberwick or wherever else was available which makes our fan base minimal. Although we have made the best out of what we got, which is what WMS is known for - Best Side West Side, I support our student's access to quality fields. WMS is a special community that would benefit from access to fields on our campus as well as draw others to the use of those fields in the community.

West Side Best Side:

Sandrine Utzinger

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** stephanie liss <stephanieliss@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 8:58 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Fix the Western Middle School fields!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from stephanieliss@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/VwwCCv2L29fqxPzAuQksdU?domain=aka.ms> ]

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Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am a member of the Western Middle School community. It is imperative that the WMS fields be remediated fully and quickly. We can hardly believe that in a community such as Greenwich, CT, children have been going to school next to fields harboring unhealthy materials AND without access to fields to run and play. This has gone on for FAR too long!

Please move to fix these fields and restore our 12-14 year olds access to their fields as quickly and safely as possible!

Thank you.  
Stephanie Otten

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Stephanie Catino <stephanie.catino725@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 11:01 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Greenwich CT WMS fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Mr. Wilcox,

I have a kindergartener who attends Glenville Elementary school. She is my first child and venturing into the public school system as a parent has been a big and exciting change for our family. I feel fortunate to be part of a community like Greenwich, specifically Western Greenwich. I, myself, am a GPS alum. I attended Glenville Elementary School, Western Middle School and Greenwich High School as my daughter and son will.

As I am newly more engaged in the goings on at GPS, I've learned that the Western fields have been closed for 6 years. I am distraught to learn that for 6 years, children have not had the opportunity to engage in the outdoor and after school activities at their school as I did in the 1990s on those same fields. I am concerned not for my two who will not be at Western for quite a few years, but for all those who are incoming Sept '23 and onward.

I ask you to please make this a priority for our kids asap.

Thank you kindly and Happy Holidays

Stephanie Catino

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Aasim Khwaja <aasimkhwaja@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 10:50 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School - Remediation Action Plan for the Fields - SUPPORT from a parent

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Hi,

I have a daughter in Western Middle School and her two younger siblings will be moving to Western Middle School in the next few years.

It is unfortunate that the kids at Western have not had access to the fields for the past six years. We hope the Remediation Action Plan is approved and the kids get access to the fields soon!

Thank you.

Aasim Khwaja

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Kristen Niemynski (ICON) <kniemynski@icon-intl.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 9:41 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields - Greenwich CT

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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I write to you as a parent who has had two children go through Western Middle School and never have access to the use of the fields. As a State and a local Community, we have failed our children. These fields have sat for six years with absolutely nothing being done to them, as our children must wonder what kind of incompetent adults are running things to allow this to happen. I am appalled that in a community as nice as Greenwich, CT, we are not even able to provide our Middle School Children with fields to utilize. Although my children have already gone through Western Middle School and have lost out on three years each of having proper fields for exercise, sports and free time, I am speaking up for the children currently in WMS and those who have yet to begin Middle School, so that they may be able to finally enjoy a Middle School experience with fields to use.

Everyone involved in leaving these fields sitting unavailable to our children should be embarrassed. Enough is enough! You must move forward with the remediation action plan proposed. Please share my sentiment to all those involved if I am unable to attend the January 11, 2023 meeting.

Best Regards,

*Kristy*

Kristen Niemynski

*Accounting Manager*

ICON International, Inc.

One East Weaver Street

Greenwich, CT 06831

203-328-2377

Cell 914-565-6318

[kniemynski@icon-intl.com](mailto:kniemynski@icon-intl.com)

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## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Niels Pennings <nielspen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 10:31 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Soil Remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jeff,

It has come to my attention that the State of Connecticut is finally considering the remediation action plan for contaminated soil at Western Middle School. As a parent of a daughter who currently attends WMS and a son to attend next year, I would sincerely hope that this plan be approved and that work commence immediately as child safety should be the first priority. I hope and expect that this moves forward quickly.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Best regards,  
Niels

--

Niels Pennings  
[nielspen@gmail.com](mailto:nielspen@gmail.com)  
(917)583-2567

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Kevin Wyler <kwylr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 9:27 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Jeff-

I am a parent of two elementary school children who will attend WMS. I am writing to express my support for the field remediation plan and that it be completed as quickly as possible.

Thanks,

Kevin Wyler

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Hetal Naik <hetalnaik@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 9:40 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** 'BARBARAMYKA@HOTMAIL.COM'  
**Subject:** WMS Field - Remediate Contaminants ...

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I request an immediate resolution on the WMS Field ASAP. I have my Son going to WMS School in the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and urge for a prompt resolution so the field can be used for the purpose it was created.

Thanks

- Hetal Naik



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** MrMrs.Quinn <mrmrs.quinn3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 9:20 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS remediation plan

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Please pass this plan as it is vital to our kids development and overall experience in middle school. To be able to play sports and activities on site will strengthen an already incredible community and gives WMS students a sense pride and ownership. I will have 2 boys at WMS- one as early as 2024. Action is needed to ensure the fields are usable.

Courtney Quinn

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Elliot Rothstein <elliott.rothstein@lascauxrc.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 8:46 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Christine Rothstein (christine.j.park@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Greenwich WMS Soil Remediation -- Support

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jeff

Just wanted to write that we are in support of the WMS RAP as planned and hopeful it can happen this summer.

Best Regards

Elliot and Christine Rothstein

21 Martin Dale N, Greenwich CT 06830

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Amanda Marie <lolliamanda@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 18, 2022 9:32 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Parent Supporting WMS RAP

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Wilcox,

Good morning. I live and work in Greenwich and my daughter Emily ran track at WMS in 6th grade in spring 2019 and won a CT state championship silver medal with her relay team. Today she is a GHS sophomore and a US Figure Skating Team USA athlete competing internationally. Emily is one story, out of many, of how our students in Greenwich are such achievers. We owe them achievement back and so I support the RAP so the students have a field to train and play on and where they can host other schools in events and feel proud of their WMS community. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Duarte

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Cora Towle <cctowle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2022 12:22 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Support for Western Middle School Soil Remediation project on the Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Wilcox,

This email is being sent in support of moving quickly forward with the Soil Remediation Project for the Western Middle School sports fields in Greenwich, CT. It has been six long years for no fields for this school, which is already disadvantaged within our community and is a Title 1 School. Our kids deserve to have fields they can use safely and the community has been patient enough to wait this long.

Please act to move this project forward as quickly as possible to allow the fields to benefit not only our school community but the town as a whole. There are not enough sports fields within Greenwich as it is, and hence bringing back the use of these large fields at Western will make a positive impact on the overall sporting community in the area.

Kind regards,  
Cora Towle, WMS Parent

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Ira Frimere <ira@soilconnect.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 18, 2022 11:54 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School - field remediation project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Hello Jeff,

As a parent in a family with a 6th grader at Western Middle School and as community members, we strongly support any projects that can quickly and safely re-open the fields.

As it's been several years since the fields have been open and as the need for available safe fields grows in our community, there's never been a more needed time to get this project completed.

In addition to our personal support, as an employee of Soil Connect ([www.soilconnect.com](http://www.soilconnect.com)) if there's anything my company can assist with related to bulk dirt brokering, transportation and contaminated fill handling, please let me know or contact [info@soilconnect.com](mailto:info@soilconnect.com) directly.

thank you,

Ira Frimere  
914.413.4035

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Mark Kordick <mkordick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 18, 2022 6:31 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Lucy von Brachel  
**Subject:** Western Middle School (Greenwich) Field Remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir:

I understand you are CT DEEP's Remediation Project Manager for the aforementioned project. By way of introduction, I am a long-time Greenwich resident, recently retired 31-year veteran Police Captain from the Greenwich Police Department and an elected representative of the Greenwich Representative Town Meeting (RTM) from RTM District Nine. (Although Western Middle School is located in another RTM District, my District is a "feeder" District for Western Middle School and every District Nine middle school child (including my own) attends, will attend or has attended Western Middle School (Go Wildcats!))

I will not waste your time with a repetition of the inglorious history of this project. I am sure you are intimately familiar with the circumstance. This is a community embarrassment that has dragged on far too long. In point of fact my own youngest step-child (now a High School Junior) spent his entire Western Middle School career (3 years) and was never allowed on the fields of his own school.

I am writing to express my full support for the current Remedial Action Plan (RAP), as submitted, for Western Middle School and hope you will do everything in your (and DEEP's) power to facilitate a rapid and safe resolution to this issue. Resolving the problem has wide community and political support. Importantly the Representative Town Meeting and local Board of Estimate and Taxation have expressed strong backing for absorbing the not insignificant costs associated with this important project.

I understand that you are interested in hearing from our community. I am writing to express both my support for the planned RAP but also my gratitude in advance for all you might do to help us. Feel free to contact me at any time with questions or if I can express my support additionally with others.

Respectfully Yours,

Mark Kordick (he/him/his)  
[mkordick@gmail.com](mailto:mkordick@gmail.com)  
(203) 257-0066

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Elizabeth Pierson <ebpierson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 18, 2022 9:09 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School field remediation plan in Greenwich

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I am very excited about the prospect of the fields opening up in time for when my now 1st grader will attend middle school at Western. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

I have two concerns. Why are there two ball fields proposed? The western part of town already had a glut of ball fields that are rarely in use. Could one of the fields be for field hockey or tennis/pickleball, or basketball? It feels redundant and unnecessary to have two ball fields.

Second, could the plan consider integrating a skate park? There is a huge interest in skating and BMX biking in the western part of Greenwich. The one skate park in town is a full exit away in Central Greenwich. The skaters and bikers therefore end up filling the newly paved New Lebanon Elementary school parking lot with loud music, foul language and trash and as a result disrupting the neighbors with homes that abutt the parking lots.

The western fields are farther away from homes and will therefore cause less disturbance to the neighborhood, and the young people want this. They don't want more ball fields. They want to skate and do bike tricks.

Thank you for your consideration on these items.

Thank you,

Elizabeth  
Byram neighborhood resident

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Lucy von Brachel <lucyvb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 18, 2022 10:38 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field Remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Hello,

I am writing in emphatic support of the Western Middle School field remediation project. I am very invested in this project. I not only live down the street, both of my children were impacted by the closure of the fields and I do not wish to see any more WMS students being limited in their use of outdoor facilities. It is not equitable. Many students at WMS also experienced field closures at their elementary schools (New Lebanon and Hamilton Avenue) and our local park (Byram Park). The school is in an Environmental Justice census block and backs up onto the town's transfer station and a factory that has significant tractor trailer traffic and the exhaust that comes with it. This area deserves better and it's time to get this remediation under way.

In relation to the existing environmental concerns noted above, I do hope that the large number of trees slated to be removed as part of this project will be minimized to the extent possible and that any trees that are clear cut will be replaced with shade trees. We are also expecting construction on two parcels at a town property across the street from the school and would like to see truck traffic on Western Junior Highway and the surrounding residential streets thoughtfully considered and coordinated should the projects overlap. Perhaps access to the fields could be from the town's transfer station or multiple access points (transfer station, Hamilton Avenue, and Western Junior Highway) could be used to mitigate the disruption, noise, and safety issues that come with trucks moving large amounts of soil off of the property.

And while I understand the likely necessity, I am also disappointed that artificial turf will be used. The lack of trees in our area and the expected loss of trees from this project and two others in the area are significant. The loss of grass and the heat from artificial turf will only exacerbate the area's poor air quality (we are also close to I-95) and contribute to a heat island effect. As a current member of our local Representative Town Meeting and a former board member of the Byram Neighborhood Association, which advocates for the neighborhood around the school, I do understand the need to strike a balance between the costs and benefits of this project and that we may have no choice but to use artificial turf, but I hope that the final project plans take these concerns into consideration and find creative and cost effective ways to mitigate the negative environmental impacts.

I am looking forward to this project finally moving forward and seeing the youth of our community having safe and accessible fields available to them.

Thank you,

Lucy von Brachel



17 High Street  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
(917) 297-4306

Greenwich Representative Town Meeting, District 4, Secretary Greenwich Representative Town Meeting, Land Use Committee, Secretary Byram Neighborhood Association, Land Use Committee and former Secretary

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Mirella Porto <mirporto@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2022 12:50 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Field plan

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Mr Wilcox,

I write to you regarding the plans to remediate Western Middle School's field.

This is long overdue! It is very important to the kids to have access to that area and to be able to practice and host games in the HOME field.

We know how much schools are important to build strong and healthy communities and Western has been missing a piece for too long.

Please, help us bring back Western's home field for kids, sport and community.

Thank you,

Mirella Porto  
203-252-4179

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Jennifer Kemka <jennkemka@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2022 1:11 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Field RAP

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Hello Jeff,

I have been a longtime resident of Greenwich -in fact my father grew up here too-and currently have two children in the school system and one about to enter next year.

My oldest is in 7th grade at Western and it's basically a sin that he will not be able to use the school field during his middle school career.

My daughter will be entering 6th grade next year and it's likely she too will not benefit.

My third child, however, will be in kindergarten next year at Glenville Elementary School. My hope is that by the time she gets to middle school the field will have been completed for her to enjoy.

It should be embarrassing at this point that the Greenwich community has to step in to get this project done but we are willing to do what it takes to make our children happy.

A town with the wealth of Greenwich should never hesitate when it comes to community betterment. Obviously having access to a school field is vital in any community and ours is no different.

Please get this project underway so our kids can see that the grown ups of their town are on their side.

Thank you,

Jennifer Kemka

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Blaise Pedlow <blaisepedlow@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2022 1:37 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Mr Wilcox,

The testing and planning has gone on for awhile now. I strongly believe it's time to complete the task at hand, restoring the school fields for the students. It's hard for me to imagine having gone to school without fields.

Please let the process begin.

Respectfully

Harry Pedlow

Parent of a WMS student

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Jennifer Benedict <jenniferbenedict19@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2022 9:18 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Soil Remediation at Western Middle School

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Mr. Wilcox,

Please move forward with the proposed Remediation Action Plan for the field at Western Middle School. After so many years working towards this, the WMS community is counting on you to get our field back in action. Thank you for your help.

Best,

Jennifer Benedict  
Mother of a WMS 7th Grader  
WMS alumna (1985)

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Juliette Menga <jmenga@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2022 7:56 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Support for Western middle school remediation project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Good Morning Mr Wilcox,

This email is to voice my strong support remediation project. As a long time resident of the Byram/Greenwich community and parents to two children at Western, we know how important this project is for the school and community. My kids both play sports and we have seen first hand some of the issues that arise from not having access to that field for most of the last 6 years. After a particular difficult last few years with covid, our kids deserve as much safe open spaces and fields .

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to having full access to the fields for our kids as students and as community members who play sports.

Juliette Menga

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Brian Morrissey <bmorrissey36@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2022 10:58 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School field remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mr. Wilcox,

I understand that it is a critical time regarding finally "fixing" the fields at Western Middle School in Greenwich. Please make this happen quickly. The fact that it has been closed for six years or more seems ridiculous. I have lived within blocks from Western for 25 years. Both my kids went to New Lebanon Elementary and Western Middle. Our youngest is now a senior at the High School. He experienced years of field closing while at New Lebanon, then the fields at Western closed when he started Western in sixth grade. For three years he had recess on cement and had to go elsewhere for youth football, baseball, etc.

It seems unbelievable that the remediation could not have gotten done sooner. We live in the richest community in CT, but in the working class side of town. My kids will no longer benefit from the remediation, but we do want this neighborhood resource to live up to its potential.

Please get this done.

Brian Morrissey  
60 Gold St., Byram

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Janet Lee McMahon <jleenyc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2022 9:08 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields, Greenwich CT

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am a resident, taxpayer and public school parent in the town of Greenwich and I am writing to implore you to expedite and prioritize the soil remediation of the Western Middle School fields. My kids may go to Central Middle School, but we are ONE COMMUNITY and I stand with my friends at Western Middle School who have been waiting OVER SIX YEARS without a field to have recess on, play ball on, and just enjoy the outdoors on. There is very little green space in the area so the little green space that the contaminated fields once provided is desperately needed by the kids.

I'm sure you've heard the stereotypes about Greenwich, but I invite you to visit the area and you will see that the stereotype is not even remotely close to reality. The western section of Greenwich has long been neglected, not just by our own town, but by the state as well. These kids and the surrounding community deserve so much better.

I understand you must be very busy but please do prioritize this project. Please do right by the hardworking middle class people, parents and students in the Byram/Chickahominy area of Greenwich and prioritize the remediation of WMS fields.

Happy holidays and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best,  
Janet McMahon



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Gordon Beinstein <Gordon\_Beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2022 9:23 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dear Mr. Wilcox,

My name is Gordon Beinstein and I am the proud principal of Western Middle School. I am writing to express my strong support for the timely start and completion of the Western Middle School Field project. As you know, our fields were shut off to our students on the first day of the 2016-17 school year. For the past 6 years, our kids have been shipped all over town to participate in athletics. This has had a significant impact on their middle school experience.

Having sat in on a number of the meetings about the field. I do understand better than most the nature of the contaminants and the challenges of remediation. I believe the plan put forth by our partners, Langan and AECOM, is very thorough and provides a very safe surface for our children to play and compete on. I also know first hand that our community is anxious to get this work started..they are 100 percent behind this project and I think you will see that in the emails you will receive and at the meeting at Western on January 11th.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have about our community commitment to this work.

Thanks for reading and I will see you on the 11th.

Gordon

Gordon Beinstein  
Principal  
Western Middle School  
Greenwich CT 06830  
203-531-5700  
#WestSideBestSide!

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Derek De Vries <derek.devries317@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2022 11:16 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School soil remediation...

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Just an email to say I support doing whatever is necessary to get these school fields opened ASAP. I don't have kids at Western middle school but have empathy for these kids that have been through school closures for Covid, remote learning, and the kids that are at Western today have NEVER been able to fully enjoy what are some pretty nice fields (in theory). I would also support putting in some turf fields so the kids could play in the rain.

I understand that there are costs associated, and those need to be managed, but let's do right by the kids.

Derek De Vries  
[derek@devriesweb.com](mailto:derek@devriesweb.com)  
+1-203-343-4700

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Annie Pedlow <annie.pedlow@greenwichschools.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2022 9:22 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western needs their field back!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from annie.pedlow@greenwichschools.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a 7th grader at Western Middle School and I play field hockey and run track.  
To say it is challenging to play field hockey on a small, lumpy patch of grass next to our parking lot is a major understatement.  
Please get our field back up and running.  
Thank you.

Annie Pedlow

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Allison Foley <allisonfoley5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2022 11:29 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS field

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from allisonfoley5@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jeff,

I live in Glenville and have a student at WMS. I am writing to express that I support the work for access to quality fields for our kids.

Thank you,

Allison Foley

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** AFL <abbelarge@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2022 5:43 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS remediation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[You don't often get email from abbelarge@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/qUU0CrkVkMh7EzvXt7cRJB?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

It's been six years our children at Western Middle School have not had a field. Six years! Shame.

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Lauren Russell <laurenfenice@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2022 5:29 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Writing in support of soil remediation project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from laurenfenice@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Wilcox,

I'm writing to fully support the soil remediation project at Western Middle School. My daughter is a student there and it is truly a shame that the children have not had a safe field for so many years. I hope this project will be fully funded and conducted promptly.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Russell  
56 Riversville Rd  
Greenwich, CT 06831

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Snyder, Susan <Susan.Snyder@greenwichct.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 10:44 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Mohr, Donald; Siciliano, Joseph; Scott Johnson; gordon\_beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us; joe\_kelly@greenwich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Letter of support for WMS RAP  
**Attachments:** WMS field remediation plan letter.pdf  
  
**Importance:** High

You don't often get email from susan.snyder@greenwichct.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Jeff Wilcox,

Please see attached letter from the Town of Greenwich Parks and Recreation showing support for the Remedial Action Plan of Western Middle School fields in Greenwich.

Regards,

Susan Snyder, MS, CPRP  
Recreation Superintendent  
Greenwich Parks & Recreation  
101 Field Point Road  
Greenwich, CT 06836-2540  
203-622-6471  
[www.greenwichct.gov](http://www.greenwichct.gov)



**Joseph A. Siciliano, Director**

Daniel Carlsen, Assistant Director

Susan M. Snyder, Recreation Superintendent

Brian Kerzner, Marine & Facility Superintendent

Dr. Gregory T. Kramer, Parks & Trees Superintendent

Steve Pyo, Golf Course Operations Manager



Administration	203-622-7814
Recreation	203-618-7649
Marine & Facility Operations	203-618-7651
Parks & Trees	203-622-7824
Griffith E. Harris Golf Course	203-531-7200
Information/Programs	203-622-7830

To: Jeffrey Wilcox, CT DEEP  
[Jeff.wilcox@ct.gov](mailto:Jeff.wilcox@ct.gov)

From: Joe Siciliano, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Scott Johnson, Chairman, Board of Parks & Recreation

Date: January 10, 2023

Re: Support of Western Middle School Field Project

Introductory Comments

The Greenwich Department of Parks and Recreation Administration and Scott Johnson, Chairman of the Board of Parks and Recreation are in full support of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) of Western Middle School fields. Western Middle School (WMS) field complex is very diverse with great flexibility to benefit a wide variety of sports and to accommodate multiple uses at a time. The parking at Western M.S. is good, with a large parking lot across the street from the School building to supplement the on-site parking. The facility is close to both I-95 and U.S. Route 1, making it easily accessible to the community by car. Not only would Western M.S. be able to resume a full physical education and athletics program on campus, the Greenwich sports community would benefit greatly as well, because of the project. Prior to the closure of the fields at WMS, Parks and Recreation would schedule roughly 1900 hours of community use on the fields in addition to the use by Greenwich Public Schools. We anticipate gaining more than the 1900 hours of field time for the community once synthetic turf fields are in play at WMS.

The Baseball Field at WMS

WMS field complex currently has a 90' baseball diamond. Remediation and synthetic turfing of this field would have numerous benefits. Obviously, synthetic turf would enhance the use of the field, and there would be quick recovery even from a significant rainfall. With artificial turf, the field would allow Greenwich High School (GHS) baseball tryouts and GHS scrimmages and games at varsity and other levels. This is extremely helpful as high school baseball begins practicing in mid-March, when grass fields are rarely fully available for team tryouts, practices, and games. Currently, using only grass fields for GHS baseball creates significant additional work on other grass fields and results in more field closings and extra strain on the grass fields. In addition to having a usable baseball field from mid-March to mid-November, the outfield area could be used for other sports. Lines for a field hockey field and a 9 v 9 and/or a 7 v 7 size



soccer field could be painted on the baseball outfield. Field hockey should be played on synthetic turf; plus; the community has a need for smaller size soccer fields, especially on synthetic turf. Painting lines for other sports would grant much more flexibility to this field, while still meeting baseball needs during the fall season.

### The Main Field at WMS

The plan for the main field will provide for a variety of uses. This would include a full-sized multi-sport field which would accommodate football, 11 v 11 soccer, a universal lacrosse field, rugby, and flag football. With the removal of the hill, the Town should be able to include a 46'/60' softball field with the likelihood of including a 50'/70' baseball field that would be for WMS Softball and potentially adult softball and youth baseball. The diamond field would probably best be in the existing Field #1 area to reduce sun and glare in the batter's and catcher's eyes. This would help WMS Softball in spring and community softball / baseball programs even more in the summer. The main field would primarily be used for other sports in the spring and fall seasons. The Town would also pick up beneficial practice space by the former #2 softball field at WMS. This space could possibly host a 7 v 7 or 9 v 9 soccer field and could also be helpful for sports practices such as flag football practice and for smaller group instruction.

### Community Needs

The WMS RAP project will help ease some critical future field space needs. First, the construction of a new Central Middle School (CMS) will create severe problems not only for the CMS athletic teams and physical education program, but also many other community users who rely on this field space. The new CMS building will be constructed on the existing field space and will take several years to complete. Secondly, the construction of a new Hamill Skating Rink may temporarily create a problem with field space at the current rink location. Additionally, field maintenance projects which are continually needed and the potential alterations on existing school buildings, necessitate the provision of alternative field space. These issues continue to cause a shortage of field space for the Town. Any additional field space, especially synthetic turf, will help to ease the overall field shortage. Therefore, the Department of Parks and Recreation Administration and Scott Johnson, Chairman of the Board of Parks and Recreation express their full support of the Western Middle School Fields Remedial Action Plan.

Cc: Joe Kelly, Chairman, Board of Education  
Gordon Beinstein, Principal, WMS

## Justin Hall

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**From:** John Black <mrjohnblack@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 12:48 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Support Western Middle School Field Project

You don't often get email from mrjohnblack@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

As President of the BANC Raider Football Organization, as well as a member of the Greenwich Youth Football Board, a coach within the BANC Organization and most importantly a parent of a WMS 8th grader current 6th grader - I whole heartedly and **100%** understand the importance of what needs to be done with the fields at WMS.

I advocate for the work we are trying to get approved and will do whatever is needed to support the overall cause. We cannot wait any longer for progress. The right time is now. Our children deserve better from us and the elected official we have chosen to represent us. The youth of our district need their space back - they have persevered through difficult times and for us to delay this project is a disservice to all of them.

I prefer to not be combative or abrasive but feel it is necessary to clearly articulate messaging, and ask how the community can best navigate the channels to get the fields in working order for both our youth at Western, as well providing safe fields to support the youth programs on this side of town.

I was at the BOE meeting right before the pandemic where fields were addressed for quite some time and both sides argued their cases. The entire debate/controversy needs to be boiled down to common sense and thought out action. We need to put aside the noise to serve our youth. If we lead with our children, we cannot make a bad decision.

Thank you for your time, I know the right choice will be made.

Sincerely,

John Black

## Justin Hall

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**From:** K Gilm <kgilm515@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 1:46 PM  
**To:** Beinstein, Gordon; Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Wester Middle School Field

You don't often get email from kgilm515@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning, Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing to support expediting the soil remediation process at Western Middle School.

My son is in 7th grade. He's 12.

He was impacted by the construction process of New Lebanon school. Now, at Western, he doesn't have access to a full-size field.

We talk about experience and making education and school and our learning environment a "good experience for our kids". It's part of why I moved to Greenwich to raise him.

This leads to my question:

How is not having access to a field making our kids experience one that they benefit from?

He has one more year at Western. I am disappointed to think he will have missed out on a safe field.

A safe field could allow student athletes to excel. Our kids are encouraged to dare to dream and reach for the stars but how can they reach for the stars if they can't even run across the field?

I do appreciate the positive changes that have happened on this side of town. The construction of Hamilton Avenue school, the Byram Park and Pool, New Lebanon School. These are positives that draw people to living in Greenwich.

Our school field shouldn't be a deterrent.

Thank you for your time today.

Very truly yours,

Kellie Gilmore  
A Western Middle School Mom

Cc: Principal Beinstein

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** meganamorell@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 5:47 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field Remediation

You don't often get email from meganamorell@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing you in support of the remediation project for the Western Middle School fields. I think our Selectman Fred Camillo said it best:

“Students at Western have been denied the chance to use their own playing fields for far too long. Western’s community has waited six years for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to take action and the time is now for this overdue remediation.

Western Middle School is a Title I school and is also a feeder middle school for two of the Town of Greenwich’s Title I elementary schools. It is not fair or right that Western’s children have not been able to use their fields. Kids have gone through the entirety of their time in middle school, which are critical years, without once being able to step on the grass and enjoy themselves like other students have been able to do at their schools.

Greenwich’s Board of Selectmen is seeking a remediation directive that will appropriately protect our children's health from toxic soil. We do not want to expose our children to environmental risk, but outdoor activity is also essential to their health and well-being.

We should not have to make a choice between the two. Please take action now to remediate these fields.”

It is outrageous that it has taken 6 years to get to this point. That is far too long. I have 4 young children (4<sup>th</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, pre-K, and 2’s) that all will be at Western Middle School in the upcoming years. This project is very important to the Western/Glenville Community and our family. Please help expedite this process and get these fields open and useable asap.

Thank you,  
Megan Morell

Megan Morell

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Danielle Powers <danielleapowers@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 1:00 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** gordon\_beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field

You don't often get email from danielleapowers@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Jeff,

I am writing as a concerned parent, Western Middle School alum and active member of the Greenwich community. It is imperative that our children are afforded every opportunity to succeed and it is a part of our role as adults, educators, administrators to provide only the best. We have failed the students attending Western Middle School.

For the last 6 years, the children at Western have been deprived of the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activity; outdoor activity that is enjoyed by all other Greenwich Public School students; outdoor activity that is said to boost academic performance.

The field must be remediated and we must ensure it is safe for our children now and in the future to utilize. I can remember running around that field as a 7th grader, racing my friend, Lilian, to the 1 mile finish line. Let's give these children the opportunities they deserve and give them back the field they deserve to compete and have fun.

Regards,  
Danielle A. Powers  
203-918-4243

## Justin Hall

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**From:** VP Facilities <vp-facilities@greenwichptac.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 12:36 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields

You don't often get email from vp-facilities@greenwichptac.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

My name is Bob Chaney and I have students who attend public school in Greenwich and am on the board of Greenwich PTAC.

The Western Middle School fields have been shut down for six years now and no student is allowed on the fields.

I ask for your support to move this project on as quickly as possible.

Thank you.

Bob Chaney  
PTAC VP Facilities

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Lee Morgan <leeam257@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 12:25 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Greenwich CT - FIELDS

You don't often get email from leeam257@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing in support of the WMS fields project. I am a parent of a current 6th and 8th grader at Western Middle. It's been 6 years... with NO SAFE FIELDS for the students and kids in western Greenwich.

Because of the neglect, it has turned into an unauthorized off leash dog park and the fields are littered with dog feces and holes that the dogs have made.

This is a complete disservice to the children in town.

- We need safe fields, NOW!
- This has negatively impacted the kids. Where is the physical activity space outside? Behind barricaded fenced in overgrown grounds and signs that say Fields Closed!
- We have the space to have a beautiful playing area for all sports.
- No more delays!

This is a much needed project at Western. And we need to act now.

Sincerely,

Lee Morgan

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Patti D <defe10@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 11:49 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL REMIATION  
**Attachments:** Patricia DeFelice.docx

You don't often get email from defe10@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jeff,

Attached please find my letter dated January 10th to you.

Thank you for your time reading and getting the project going!

Warm regards for a Happy New Year,

Patricia DeFelice  
Greenwich, CT



**Patricia DeFelice**  
**14 Cambridge Dr**  
**Greenwich, CT 06831**  
[Defe10@aol.com](mailto:Defe10@aol.com)

January 10, 2023

Mr. Jeffrey Wilcox  
Jeff.wilcox@ct.gov  
CT DEEP  
79 Elm St  
Hartford, CT 06106

jennyober@hotmail.com  
Dear Jeffrey,

I am in support of the long overdue WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL Remedial Action Plan submitted on August 1, 2022 for the proposed remediation and restoration of the playing fields.

The Western Middle School students and community deserve and pay taxes for access to open space in Greenwich that has been significantly reduced since the field closed in 2016.

The delayed project needs to be expedited and moved forward with the start of work.

We need your help as it is unheard of to have a school field contaminated to the point that it is dangerous and affects the quality of life for the children and residents.

I hope you will be on board to guide the project to completion.

Warm regards for a Happy New Year,

Patti DeFelice  
Patricia DeFelice  
Greenwich native

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Genice Mark <genmark888@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 9:41 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School

You don't often get email from genmark888@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Wilcox,

I have been a parent and active PTA member at WMS. I have 3 children who have now graduated for GPS and attended WMS. The fields were closed during many of the years that they attended WMS if not all. The impact this has had on programming and the overall health and well being of the students has been a negative one. I support the remediation plan that is safe and efficient to improve the well being of the student.

Kind regards,  
Genice Mark

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Dalia Ivanov <daliaivanov@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 1:02 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Beinstein, Gordon  
**Subject:** WMS Soil

You don't often get email from daliaivanov@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Jeff, we are 100% supportive of the Soild Remediation project at Western Middle.

Thank you,  
Dalia

--

(Please excuse typos from my iPhone) Dalia Ivanov (203) 952 3696

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Wilcox, Jeff <Jeff.Wilcox@ct.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 9:03 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Athletic Fields at WMS

---

**From:** majical@aol.com <majical@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 11:49 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff <Jeff.Wilcox@ct.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Athletic Fields at WMS

You don't often get email from [majical@aol.com](mailto:majical@aol.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jeff,

My husband and I fully support all your efforts to get the athletic fields at Western Middle School open and operational again for our students. This is a critical issue that needs to be addressed for the health, wellness, and well-being of our students and the community at large.

Sincerely,  
Marianne and Clifford Schorer  
Greenwich, Ct.

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Kimberly Pennings <kimberly\_pennings@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 8:07 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Niels Pennings; Gordon Beinstein  
**Subject:** Soil Remediation at Western Middle School

You don't often get email from kimberly\_pennings@greenwich.k12.ct.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing in support of the soil remediation effort at Western Middle School. As both a Greenwich High School teacher and the mother of two Western Middle School students, I have a long-term interest in seeing this project come to fruition. I am well aware of the benefits of outdoor play for students of all ages and access to fields is paramount for students to have the space to exercise. I am so excited to hear that we are possibly moving forward toward a positive outcome.

Additionally, my husband is a member of PTAC, specifically the Glenville Elementary representative for PTAC Green Schools. We would be so proud to see this initiative move forward because it reflects our values and our fondest wishes for the good of this community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you soon and attending Wednesday's meeting.

Sincerely,  
Kimberly Pennings

--

Kimberly Pennings  
ext. 2411  
Greenwich High School  
Sheldon House 409  
Honors English 213 / Essay Writing / Honors Modern World Literature  
National English Honor Society Chapter Advisor

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Adam Downs <adam.w.downs1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 10:33 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Athletic Fields

You don't often get email from adam.w.downs1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

I strongly support ensuring that the fields at Western Middle School are healthy, clean, and available for our community's children.

I have had children in Western for the last 4 years and I strongly believe it is damaging to the children to have contaminated fields, out their window, that they cannot utilize. That immediately remediating the problem is still being debated remains shocking to me.

In any event, I confirm my support for the remediation project, hope you do too, and thank you for your time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Adam W. Downs

10 Memory Lane

Greenwich CT 06831

203-585-3007

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Johan Lang <johanlang03@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 9:28 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Fields

You don't often get email from johanlang03@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am sure you are receiving tons of emails about this, so here is one more. Remediate the damn soil.

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Elena Wies <elenalian@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 10:00 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Gordon Beinstein  
**Subject:** WMS soil remediation project

You don't often get email from elenalian@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing to you to please approve the work of soil remediation for WMS. My son has gone to WMS for three years and has been negatively impacted by the lack of a proper field for sports games and practices that his friends at EMS have been enjoying. This inequality has gone on for many years and our children deserve better. They deserve equality. We have been shuttling across town for soccer, football practices, and more while never having the opportunity to play these intramural sports at our home school.

There have been more than 600 soil samples collected over the past six years. Please let's start the soil remediation now and give our children a state of the art field that everyone in Greenwich can use and be proud of.

Thank you,  
Elena Wies



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** ELIZABETH RUSSELL <yogadiamondmine@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 1:07 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Soil Remediation Project

You don't often get email from yogadiamondmine@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I heartily support the soil remediation project at Western.

Six years is a long time to postpone this urgently needed project.

The children of Greenwich (including my two grandchildren!!!) would benefit so much from having this perfectly suited space made available for games and more!

Thank you for hearing me!  
Elizabeth Russell

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Colleen Wood-Smith <colleen.woodsmith@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 8:39 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff

You don't often get email from colleen.woodsmith@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mr. Wilcox! How are you?

I am a current homeowner and tax payer at 224 Byram Shore Road in Greenwich, and we have 4 children in the Greenwich Public Schools: 8th grade and 7th grade at Western, and 5th grade and Kindergarten at New Lebanon School.

My daughter is graduating Western this year as an eight grader and has never once had access to the closed fields at Western the entire time she attended middle school. She played softball, ran track and usually had to be bussed to other places to practice and have games. My son is currently in 7th grade and has also never had access to the fields, either. And unfortunately, they really did not have much access to the fields at New Lebanon School for the bulk of their elementary school years as well. It's extremely upsetting and disheartening for me as a parent, because of the amount of years my kids have spent at both New Leb and Western and they both have little to no experience with having playing fields at all when compared to many of their peers throughout the town in different schools. It feels like we have been ignored and pushed aside.

I write to you because there is still hope for my current 5th grade student, and for my kindergarten daughter. They deserve to experience the same fields, practices and educational opportunities outside that every other student in town gets to experience. My older children have sadly had multiple years of missed opportunities on the fields at Western. I now picture them meeting friends to play soccer on the weekends as they get older and getting to run around with their friends like other kids do at their schools in town. I also picture my younger kids having field time when they get to middle school that their older siblings did not have: practices without being bussed all over town, more outdoor gym classes when the weather is nice, and in general, a place to go to play ball or participate in games without worrying about toxic chemicals. In softball, we attended every game at the other two middle schools, but when it came to our school, everyone had to meet at the Byram Park. It would be a nice, and quite frankly, normal thing, to invite other schools to OUR OWN school, to show them our school and that we have a functioning field just like they do.

At the end of the day, this SHOULD NOT be a dream. It's not a privilege. It is a RIGHT. Every child in this town deserves adequate grass, playing fields and space to play sports and hold practice like other schools do, and to provide students and families in the neighborhood with the fields they once loved.

Please PLEASE fix and remediate the fields, ASAP. Every day and every month that the fields remain closed is another month that more and more students grow up without the field access that they and their families deserve.

Thanks so much.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Wood-Smith  
224 Byram Shore Road  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
Cell: 716-307-3479

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Giulia Sanford <Giulia\_Sanford@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:31 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Hamilton Avenue Fields

You don't often get email from giulia\_sanford@greenwich.k12.ct.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Jeff,

Hope you are well! Just want to send an email to express my concern over the Western Middle School fields. It is vital that our students have a field that isn't contaminated. I am appalled that it is taking this long to have something fixed so it is safe for our students of the Greenwich Public School District. I just hope none of our students have seen any health issues because of this. I myself am a teacher in Greenwich and my children attend the schools as well. Please know as a parent I support you in any way I can.

Take care,  
Giulia Sanford

--



**Giulia Sanford**  
Orchestra Director, Julian Curtiss & Glenville Elementary Schools

JC: 203.869.1896/ GL: 203.531.9287 | Youtube: Stringz4kidz

[Giulia\\_Sanford@Greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:Giulia_Sanford@Greenwich.k12.ct.us)

"...For the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning" Plato

Create your own [email signature](#)

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Smith Family <cdtutino@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 10:27 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Middle School field

You don't often get email from cdtutino@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

As the parent of soon to be students at Western Middle School in Greenwich, I ask you to please help make the field a safe place for our children. It's very sad that the field has been left in this condition and it's unacceptable for our students not to be able to enjoy their school grounds. PLEASE know how important this is to our kids and our families. These children need a safe, natural, outdoor place to play and exercise. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Colette and Paul Smith

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Annick Liamani <annickliamani@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:51 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Soil remediation: Western Middle School, Greenwich, CT

You don't often get email from annickliamani@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing to you as a concerned parent and resident of Greenwich, CT. My son, Luca Liamani is in 4th grade at Hamilton Avenue.

I would like to express my support for the soil remediation project at Western Middle School. It is important for the children to have a safe and accessible field at the Middle School.

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Annick Liamani

28 Edgewood Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Raffaello Trofa <raffaello.trofa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 9:05 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western field in Greenwich

[You don't often get email from [raffaello.trofa@gmail.com](mailto:raffaello.trofa@gmail.com). Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/w4JDCv2L29fqPL2McQ9awp?domain=aka.ms> ]

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Please fix the field. I will have two young children going there!

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Rosemary Hyson <roseh100@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 7:22 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School (Greenwich) field remediation

You don't often get email from roseh100@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Wilcox,

As a Greenwich resident, I am writing to express my strong support for Greenwich Public Schools' remediation plan for the fields at Western Middle School in Greenwich, CT.

The Town of Greenwich has gotten away with ignoring problematic soil under our public recreational space for too long.

A sound proposal has been made to remove the worst contaminated soil and cap deeper, lower concentrations of it with turf.

The lack of fields for middle school sports and physical education at Western Middle School, and spillovers to other Town recreational facilities that are also in dire need of work, make it essential that the remediation work planned for WMS proceeds as quickly as possible.

I fully supported the work currently being done at Greenwich High School to restore its fields - and my current Greenwich High School student spends hours on those fields every year as a baseball and soccer player. I have absolutely zero concern about turf fields being installed. The harm for limiting the opportunity for middle school students and others to engage in physical exercise due to fields being closed due to contamination, or grass fields being too wet for use is far greater than any minuscule risk of harm from artificial turf. Hundreds of other municipalities, schools and colleges have had well-engineered turf fields for years with no ill adverse effects.

Our town suffers from grass fields that have poor drainage so additional turf fields will not only give the residents of Greenwich access to fields usable for more days each year, but it will also help the town take better care of the grass fields which remain.

I urge you to support the remediation plan and grant any and all approvals needed for it to move forward.

Thank you.  
Rosemary Hyson  
41 Tomac Avenue  
Old Greenwich, CT 06870

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Rebecca Fox <Rebecca\_Fox@greenwich.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:17 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field

You don't often get email from rebecca\_fox@greenwich.k12.ct.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing as a parent of a current Western Middle School student, a parent of a future Western Middle School student and as an educator of students who have and will be attending Western Middle School. The fact that it has 6 been years since these kids have had access to a field is ridiculous. Over 1200 students have not had adequate fields to play on. My daughter has been bused to different "home" fields to play her softball games and it is an embarrassment for the town of Greenwich.

I am looking forward to a state of the art field for the school and town that we can be proud of. We need your help to make sure we have significantly improved field access for the entire town for children ranging in ages from elementary school through high school. We owe it to the children to make sure they are given something as basic as field access for sports going forward. Although my oldest child will not reap the benefits of a new field, many, many, many other students will and should.

Thank you for your time.

Rebecca Fox

--

Rebecca Fox  
2nd Grade Teacher  
Hamilton Avenue School



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Paul Barrett <paulsbarrett@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 8:07 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** gordon\_beinstein@greenich.k12.ct.us; RBRNY@aol.com  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields

You don't often get email from paulsbarrett@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jeff,

I hope this email finds you well.

Ahead of the public hearing scheduled for tomorrow I would like to voice my big support for the proposed remediation and construction of synthetic turf fields. The school and community have been deprived of decent fields for years. Other school districts have far superior facilities yet we all pay the same taxes which is very unfair.

The community needs this. Please make it happen.

Thanks,

Paul

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Bill DeHaven <wdehaven@villamariaschool.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:48 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields

You don't often get email from wdehaven@villamariaschool.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

While I will also be in attendance this evening, I am writing to express my support for the RAP and a quick start to the remediation of the fields after such a long, over-investigation of what to do.

Here's to a successful evening. Thank you for all of your work,  
Bill DeHaven

Bill DeHaven  
Head of School  
Villa Maria School  
<http://villamariaschool.org>  
203-322-5886 x 101

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** sarah harrington <slharrington@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 7:13 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School fields

You don't often get email from slharrington@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am the parent of two boys who will soon attend Western Middle School in Greenwich, CT. I'm writing to express my support for the immediate remediation of the school's playing fields, which as you know have been closed for several years due to soil contamination.

Our kids need safe outdoor spaces now more than ever. These fields have remained accessible for far too long, especially given that this is a Title 1 school with a higher proportion of underprivileged students than in other parts of town.

Please exercise the full power of your position at CT DEEP to move the remediation project forward ASAP. I've copied here the statement issued to DEEP by our Board of Selectmen, with which I could not agree more:

"The Greenwich Board of Selectmen stands united behind the effort to remediate Western Middle School's playing fields.

"Students at Western have been denied the chance to use their own playing fields for far too long. Western's community has waited six years for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to take action and the time is now for this overdue remediation.

"Western Middle School is a Title I school and is also a feeder middle school for two of the Town of Greenwich's Title I elementary schools. It is not fair or right that Western's children have not been able to use their fields. Kids have gone through the entirety of their time in middle school, which are critical years, without once being able to step on the grass and enjoy themselves like other students have been able to do at their schools.

"Greenwich's Board of Selectmen is seeking a remediation directive that will appropriately protect our children's health from toxic soil. We do not want to expose our children to environmental risk, but outdoor activity is also essential to their health and well-being.

"We should not have to make a choice between the two. Please take action now to remediate these fields."

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Evans  
Treasurer, Hamilton Avenue School PTA &  
Proud Hamilton Avenue School Parent

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Justin Bokmeyer <jbokmeyer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:13 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Soil Remediation Project

You don't often get email from jbokmeyer@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Wilcox,

I am writing to you to support the immediate need to get the students and future students of Western Middle School. It is imperative that we, as a community, set these students up for success by giving them the ability to have fully functional fields. Recreation, physical activity, and sports are critical to youth development, both physically and cognitively, and we have neglected this for too long for these students and families. The ability to be outside and conduct physical activities teaches key life skills. This will be seen in the future when they contribute to the growth of our community.

We moved to this area a few years ago because we heard about the great schools and community but the lack of fields at this middle school (and one my two daughters are set to attend) seems to contradict every value that the community states. I urge you to move forward quickly with addressing this issue, removing the soil, and adding the turf fields. This is bigger than all of us and the future generations need us to step up and be leaders here.

Thank you for your attention and time.

Justin Bokmeyer

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Boys Tejada <tejadafamilyct@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 9:01 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS field remediation

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening Mr. Wilcox,

I am the concerned parent of an 8th grade student and current 4th grader who will be attending WMS in a little over a year. With that said, my 8th grader and 4 of his cousins who also attended WMS have never been able to enjoy the field. I would be very disappointed and saddened to have another one of our family members not be able to use this space.

WMS has not had field access for 6 years. We, as a community, are not okay with WMS fields being out of commission for a third generation of WMS students, not to mention the many children throughout the Greenwich community who would otherwise be able to use WMS fields for football, soccer, softball, field hockey, etc.

This has been an inconvenience, and quite frankly unequal access, and hardship has been caused by the fact that WMS fields have been off limits for this long. This remediation is long overdue and am confident that this situation would not have played out for this long had this been the central or eastern part of town. Because of the flat and wide topography of the current field a state of the art field that everyone in Greenwich can use & be proud of can very well be accomplished sooner rather than later.

The WMS field after remediation will also significantly improve multi-sport field access for the entire town of Greenwich--from youth through high school sports--which is much needed.

WMS students have had limited physical education space and students have not been able to hold sports games and practices on its fields for 6 years. This has negatively impacted our children's middle school experience. To reiterate this is unequal access compared to other schools in town.

Children living in the WMS neighborhood have had to shuttle across town to other fields for field hockey, softball, soccer, football practice and games while never having had the opportunity to play these intramural and extracurricular sports close to their home.

In closing I hope you will take our pleas as a community seriously and do what is right for our current and future students.

Respectfully,

Henry and Fatima Tejada

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Prashad, Priya <Priya\_Prashad@bchphysicians.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 8:25 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS field

You don't often get email from priya\_prashad@bchphysicians.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, I like to express my support for the re-soil remediation project for Western middle school. It's very important for children to have a safe place to play sports, run, and exercise, especially in middle school as they begin to become less active than they were when younger. My children will be in middle school in a few years and this is part of our decision about where they will attend school.

Please give careful consideration to supporting this project, thank you, Priya Prashad.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Michelle Colev <mycolev@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 12:25 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff; Gordon Beinstein  
**Subject:** WMS Fields

You don't often get email from mycolev@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Mr. Wilcox!

I am a parent with 2 children currently at Western Middle School. I moved to Greenwich 3 years ago and currently reside in Byram with my family since 2021.

I am reaching out to you as I join the rest of the WMS community in its voice to support our middle school and our community in the hopes of finally resolving the issue of WMS's fields. Although I will not have any other children that will go through WMS (my twin 7th graders are the last to go through middle school), I firmly believe that this problem has gone on for too long and must be resolved once and for all immediately.

Therefore, I resonate with our beloved WMS, Mr. Beinstein and the rest of the WMS community in the following:

1. That it has been 6 years that WMS has not been without field access, without any sports at all on the fields, therefore, physical education space has been extremely limited.
2. The children participating in sports have been "shipped" all over town to play.
3. Not having outdoor fields at WMS has negatively impacted the kids' middle school experience due to unequal access to the fields compared to other schools in town.

Again, although we only have 8th grade left at WMS, my family is still part of the WMS community (and always will be); therefore, I am looking forward to a resolution so that WMS can finally have a safe, state of the art field for the school and for the town, which will significantly improve field access for the entire town, youth through high school for multiple sports. Finally, having the new fields at WMS will be something that will add to character of this side of town, improve the lives of our children and most importantly, they will be something to be proud of!

Thank you for your attention. Please find a way to get our fields back at WMS!

Sincerely,  
Michelle Condax- parent of two 7th graders at WMS  
cell 304-685-9670

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Isabel Carrera <isacarrera.197@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:02 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Isabel carrera I love 🍷 ( western middle school) I love 🍷🍷

You don't often get email from isacarrera.197@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, good afternoon, dear Mr. Jeff Wilcox, I am writing to ask you to please support us with financial aid to repair the field at the Western Middle School, which is necessary so that the children can enjoy outdoor physical education and For this to be possible, we need your support. Please take into account that we have been asking for this help for 6 years. Please say that you can do it.

Thank you very much

Have wonderful and beautiful day

Sincerely yours

Isabel carrera



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Ira Frimere <ira@soilconnect.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:12 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Re: Western Middle School - field remediation project

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jeff,

In hearing more about the WMS remediation project which I wholly support I also wanted to point out that Soil Connect's eRegulatory product: <https://www.soilconnect.com/eregulatory/> could help to ensure all removed contaminated fill ends up in the approved destinations with digital manifest tracking.

Thank you,  
Ira

On Dec 18, 2022, at 11:54 AM, Ira Frimere <ira@soilconnect.com> wrote:

Hello Jeff,

As a parent in a family with a 6th grader at Western Middle School and as community members, we strongly support any projects that can quickly and safely re-open the fields.

As it's been several years since the fields have been open and as the need for available safe fields grows in our community, there's never been a more needed time to get this project completed.

In addition to our personal support, as an employee of Soil Connect ([www.soilconnect.com](http://www.soilconnect.com)) if there's anything my company can assist with related to bulk dirt brokering, transportation and contaminated fill handling, please let me know or contact [info@soilconnect.com](mailto:info@soilconnect.com) directly.

thank you,

Ira Frimere  
914.413.4035

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Bill James <wbjames07@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 4:49 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** gordon\_beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Re: Western Middle School Field Remediation

[You don't often get email from wbjames07@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/egDPCPNWN5H92N9KfzeTLA?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Mr. Wilcox,

My name is Bill James. My wife and I have two children at Parkway School. Our son and daughter will attend Western Middle School in a few years time.

I want to take this opportunity to express my support for the proposed remediation of the fields at Western Middle School (WMS) per the submitted plan. I am a firm believer that physical activity plays an integral part in the education of our children. I believe the students of WMS as well as those who live near the school need to have access to the fields where they can safely play and enjoy their time outside.

It is my hope that this project will continue to move forward so that the fields at WMS may once again be enjoyed by students and neighbors alike.

Sincerely,

Bill James  
(203) 331-6289

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** diegosanchez@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:31 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** dcavaliers@yahoo.com; gordon\_beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** RE: Western Middle School remediation field support

You don't often get email from diegosanchez@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Wilcox,

My name is Diego Sanchez, and I'm a resident of Greenwich and a parent of two children that attended Western Middle school. My children were affected by the closure of the fields, and I feel they missed an important part of their educational and behavioral development by not having access to their school fields for school social events, physical education classes, etc. The Western Middle school administration and teachers worked hard to provide physical education to the children, and they did a great job, but it is not the same as having the proper facilities at their school.

In the past, the Greenwich community also used the fields for physical activities. With the closure of them, the larger community was also affected. I ask the state and its representatives to immediately act on the remediation of the fields. Six years is a very long time to plan, and it is time to tear down the fence and fix the issue.

Thank you

Diego Sanchez

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Christina Volkwein <cvolkwein@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 4:09 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** rtmgreenwich@simplelists.com; Fred DeCaro III; janet.stonemcguigan@gmail.com; Lauren Rabin; nisha.arora@greenwichct.org; William Drake; laura.erickson@greenwichct.org; karen.fassuliotis@greenwichct.org; harry.fisher@greenwichct.org; Miriam Kreuzer; leslie.moriarty@greenwichct.org; Dan Ozizmir; jeff.ramer@greenwichct.org; stephen.selbst@greenwichct.org; Leslie Tarkington; david.weisbrod@greenwichct.org; Kimberly Fiorello; Beth MacGillivray; George Hritz; Susan Schieffelin  
**Subject:** Regarding Western Middle School (Greenwich) Soil Remediation

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

I write as a 30-year resident of Greenwich, CT and a current member of the Greenwich RTM. The paragraph below (red) is taken from our First Selectman's recent newsletter, encouraging residents to contact you with views on the CT DEEP Remediation Project.

**I would like to state my suggestion that *draining the swamp* in Greenwich, Hartford, and Washington D.C. would be the best pathway to curing the PCB contamination problems in our town.**

Anyone with a high school education in science and a decent amount of common sense can figure out that no one is or ever has been at risk from trace amounts of PCBs ten feet deep in the soil around our schools. That is, if one even believes "the science" that tells us we have this problem. From Wikipedia on a one-minute search: "In general, people are exposed to PCBs overwhelmingly through food, much less so by breathing contaminated air, and least by skin contact."

The soil remediation scam that local, state, and federal governments are running with this nonsense is raping our community and others of 10's of millions of tax dollars which will likely approach \$100 million in Greenwich alone (between GHS and WMS) by the time you are finished, if you ever will be. Rather than spending millions more at Western Middle School I hope that someone in Greenwich or Hartford with true integrity will hire a great investigative journalist to expose this criminal shakedown of our citizens--I estimate that would only cost in the neighborhood of less than \$100K. A bargain!

I would further suggest to you that anyone without *eyes wide shut* can see this, and increasingly so. Perhaps the result of your further studies and the community discussion tonight will result in a fresh conclusion that any contamination of the soil is naturally resolved when sunshine and rain degrade and wash away PCBs and any other pollutants. And with the 100% absence of any documented cases or even claims of harm, which I have never seen in the press here during 30 years of residency, I hope you will decide to abandon this path of corruption upon which your contractors are embarked.

Best regards,  
Christina Volkwein  
Greenwich RTM D2

**Western Middle School fields**

As the new year begins, the Board of Selectmen is focused on the long-overdue remediation of Western Middle School's playing fields. The state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and Connecticut Environmental Protection Agency is holding an in-person and online public hearing on Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. at Western Middle School and people can also send their views to CT DEEP's Remediation Project Manager Jeffrey Wilcox at [jeff.wilcox@ct.gov](mailto:jeff.wilcox@ct.gov).

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Dina Urso <dinaurso327@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:28 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Remediation of Fields at Western Middle School, Greenwich

You don't often get email from dinaurso327@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Mr, Wilcox,

I am writing (hopefully in a timely manner!) to voice my full support for the project at WMS. I am a parent in the district and a PTA co-president at one of the neighboring middle schools in town. I have known many families whose children, however, have attended or currently attend WMS over the years and cannot believe how long this project has taken to get to this point.

WMS students and families should have access to their fields just as every other student in our school system should. The reasons are countless and I am sure you have heard and read them all countless times in recent weeks so I won't belabor them here; please know that parents from across town feel strongly and support the remediation of these fields just as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dina Urso

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** brigid freyer <brigidfreyer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 5:29 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields

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Jeff,

I am a parent a three Western Middle School graduates. Two of my children did not have access to fields during their entire time at WMS. As a working parent it was very difficult to accommodate participation in after school activities that took place all over town in lieu of locally. Many children lost and continue to lose the opportunity to participate as a result.

In addition we have an ongoing issue in this country with childhood obesity. Having no access to fields for recreation does not support a healthy lifestyle.

We would appreciate your urgent prioritization of the Western Middle School fields.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brigid Freyer

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** diegosanchez@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:23 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** dcavaliers@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Western Middle School remediation field support

You don't often get email from diegosanchez@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Wilcox,

My name is Diego Sanchez, and I'm a resident of Greenwich and a parent of two children that attended Western Middle school. My children were affected by the closure of the fields, and I feel they missed an important part of their educational and behavioral development by not having access to their school fields for school social events, physical education classes, etc. The Western Middle school administration and teachers worked hard to provide physical education to the children, and they did a great job, but it is not the same as having the proper facilities at their school.

In the past, the Greenwich community also used the fields for physical activities. With the closure of them, the larger community was also affected. I ask the state and its representatives to immediately act on the remediation of the fields. Six years is a very long time to plan, and it is time to tear down the fence and fix the issue.

Thank you

Diego Sanchez



## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Sarah Kovacs <sshils@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 4:40 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS field remediation

You don't often get email from sshils@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Wilcox,

I am writing as a WMS parent and Greenwich resident. The field for WMS must be fixed!

WMS has not had field access for 6 years. Students have been through western and are off to college in the time it has taken to get this issue resolved.

It has been well studied that kids need to be outside for their physical and mental health. Having limited field access is very detrimental to both.

As this issue has dragged on for so long, the cost just keeps increasing. Let's just spend the money now and get it done.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Kovacs  
Mom to 6th grader Sam Kovacs

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Philip Theriault <ptheriault@dacollins.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:15 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Public meeting

You don't often get email from ptheriault@dacollins.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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When will the Zoom meeting begin?

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

## Justin Hall

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**From:** susanrud@optonline.net  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2023 2:17 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Greenwich Central Middle School

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Mr. Wilcox,

I'm following up, as promised in my message I just left on your phone, with this email.

My question pertains to the Greenwich Western Middle School field(s) remediation (RAM prepared by Langan CT, Inc). Does DEEP and/or the EPA require the top layer be artificial turf? Or, was this a locally decided piece of the plan?

I think it's wonderful that the children and community will soon be able to enjoy activities on the WMS fields. My serious concern focuses on the decision to incorporate artificial turf.

Thank you,



Susan Rudolph  
3 Ponderosa Drive  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
203 869 6549

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Laura Erickson <lerick67@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2023 10:57 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** Laura Erickson  
**Subject:** In support of Western MS Soils Remediation

You don't often get email from lerick67@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

Thanks to you and the entire team working on the WMS project.

I am writing to express my strong support for the remedial action plan to be implemented as soon as possible. I serve on the BET, the Town's Finance Board, but I am writing as a community member and as a parent who spent time on the now closed fields with my oldest son when he played baseball in the Cal Ripken league.

In August 2016, I was the Chair of the Board of Education when testing confirmed the presence of certain contaminants on the middle school fields. Our interim school Superintendent, Dr. Sal Corda, consulted with Town leaders and department heads and made the rapid fire decision that the fields should be closed in the best interests of safety for our kids and the community at large. This decision was made and executed literally in the week just before the start of the school year. Principal Gordon Beinstein and his team, along with Parks & Rec, came together and worked it out so the students had a PE and after school sports programs.

The Board at the time was wrestling with suboptimal fields at Hamilton Ave. School and the William St. field being out of commission due to the new New Lebanon school project so it was particularly vexing to have the fields at Western MS also be impacted.

Our town has demonstrated the capacity to execute projects of this magnitude. We did so at the site of the former Cos Cob power plant and we're doing so currently in a multi-year phased project at Greenwich High School.

I believe this critical project, after 6 plus years and countless rounds of testing and discussion, needs to move forward. The community has been patient but the students and the community deserve to have their playing fields restored in a safe and expeditious manner.

Regards,  
Laura Erickson

## Justin Hall

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**From:** susanrud@optonline.net  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 4:09 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Input on the Greenwich Western Middle School Remedial Action Plan (RAP)  
**Attachments:** 15 Rationales for using natural grass.pdf

You don't often get email from susanrud@optonline.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I am submitting my input (See attached: 15 Rationales for using natural grass, not artificial turf on the Greenwich Western Middle School Fields) regarding the RAP as recommended.

It makes no sense, and is anathema that the WMS field plans detail the process for removing or ameliorating toxic soil and then choosing to finish the process by including a top layer of **toxic** plastic grass!

Sincerely,  
Susan Rudolph  
3 Ponderosa Drive  
Greenwich, CT 06830

## 15 RATIONALES FOR USING **NATURAL GRASS, NOT ARTIFICIAL TURF** ON THE GREENWICH WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELDS

Outdoor activities are crucial for everyone, especially children. Time outside not only helps physical well-being, but also improves emotional and intellectual health. Scientists and educators state outdoor play directly impacts a child's stamina along with gross and fine motor skills. That is why I support plans to clean up the Greenwich Western Middle School athletic fields. However, I am opposed to topping the remediated areas with artificial turf.

### **Environmental impact:**

1. The most obvious environmental problem with artificial grass is it's rooted in the biggest climate nemesis of all: fossil fuel. Synthetic turf is made from a stew of petroleum-based components, making it nearly impossible to recycle. Typically, worn out AT is disposed of by sending it to landfills or burning. This leads to toxic leachates and pollution. There are no regulations at the federal levels on turf disposal.
2. Microplastics are created during AT production, usage and via degradation of the artificial grass blades and are not biodegradable. Researchers have done the most work on microplastic risks to marine organisms, and now they are exploring effects in human tissue. Recent studies detecting microplastic pollution in human blood show infants and children are most highly vulnerable.
3. AT creates heat islands, causing detrimental effects on both human health and the natural environment. It increases land surface temperatures by 40% or more and hardens soil thus increasing stormwater runoff.
4. Usage and maintenance practices cause the plastic grass blades to fray. As a result, fibers are transferred into the air and water. Additionally, reports reflect the necessity of replacing on a continual basis infill that has migrated into water and surrounding areas.

### **PFAS, lead, and other chemicals:**

5. The blades and backing of artificial turf are made with PFAS, called "forever chemicals" and are linked to cancer, birth defects, and other serious health problems. Children are considered more vulnerable to exposure because they are smaller and their bodies are still developing.
6. As for alternative infill (sometimes called plant-based infill or PBIs), there is a lack of transparency. Researchers point out the growing methodology and possible chemical treatment in prior use is undisclosed, misleading or grossly exaggerated. No long-term study on the effects of children inhaling PBIs has ever been conducted.
7. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warns that the petroleum-based "plastic grass" made with nylon or some other materials contains lead.

## Health and personal injuries:

8. The high temperature of AT on warm days can heat up to 40-70 times hotter than the surrounding air and leads to skin blisters and burns, dehydration, and heat stroke.
9. MRSA, an infection that doesn't respond to antibiotics, can happen after skin is scraped or cut. Synthetic turf is more abrasive than natural turf grass, and as a result, breaks in the skin are more common, creating a pathway for infection.
10. Reports show players on AT face a 32 percent higher rate of non-contact knee injuries and a 69 percent higher rate of non-contact foot or ankle injuries on turf than on grass.

## The cost myth:

11. Taxpayers have been led to believe artificial turf fields are cheaper than natural grass due to lower expenses for upkeep. But non-partisan studies have shown the exact opposite. Natural grass field costs are typically less than AT over its useful lifetime due to huge costs to install and maintain them followed by the expense of continually replacing migrated infill, and then the high cost of disposal of the worn-out turf.
12. The ability to recycle used artificial turf is a marketing ploy. Less than 8% of plastic turf is recycled. Because of chemical damage that occurs with each reuse, plastic can be recycled once or twice at most.

## Advantage of natural grass:

13. installed and maintained natural grass remains viable for at least twice as long as AT. Natural grass sequesters carbon, increases oxygen and keeps the surroundings safe and cool. It effectively captures airborne pollutants, smoke particles, and dust, pulling them out of the air.
14. While AT is impermeable requiring product and labor to clean mucus, spit, sweat, blood, bird and animal droppings on what should be a regular basis, natural grass is self-sanitizing.
15. Real grass serves as a carbon sink (absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it releases). The soil it grows in contains bio-diverse communities of organisms that are essential for clean water and air. Nitrogen-fixing bacteria and other live micro-organisms help soil break down harmful contaminants and serve as an essential ecosystem for a healthy environment.

It makes no sense, and is anathema that the WMS field plans detail the process for removing and managing **toxic** soil and then choosing to finish the process by including a top layer of **toxic** plastic grass!

**As a community, how much risk to our children's health are we willing to tolerate in the name of field time and cutting costs?**

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Lucy von Brachel <lucyvbrtm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2023 7:37 PM  
**To:** Christina Volkwein  
**Cc:** rtmgreenwich@simplelists.com; Fred DeCaro III; janet.stonemcguigan@gmail.com; Lauren Rabin; nisha.arora@greenwichct.org; William Drake; laura.erickson@greenwichct.org; karen.fassuliotis@greenwichct.org; harry.fisher@greenwichct.org; Miriam Kreuzer; leslie.moriarty@greenwichct.org; Dan Ozizmir; jeff.ramer@greenwichct.org; stephen.selbst@greenwichct.org; Leslie Tarkington; david.weisbrod@greenwichct.org; Kimberly Fiorello; George McClintock; George Hritz; Susan Schieffelin; Gordon Beinstein; Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Re: Regarding Western Middle School (Greenwich) Soil Remediation

You don't often get email from lucyvbrtm@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I urge all RTM members to review the [Remedial Action Plan \(RAP\)](#), which includes the testing results of every soil sample at various depths, and other materials that are linked through the [GPS fact sheet](#). If you weren't able to make it to last night's meeting, [here is the video](#).

To add some context and to correct some misinformation shared in the email below, the testing of soil samples from Western Middle School found PCBs, Lead, Chlordane, Arsenic, and DDT at depths of ONE INCH or more, with many samples above thresholds at depths between 3 in. and 3 ft. Some found toxins at levels exceeding TSCA thresholds for hazardous waste in shallow samples. The school opened in 1960 and unfortunately 60+ years of sunshine and rain have not been effective at degrading and washing away these toxins. Because exposure is predominately through food, we don't actually want these PCBs to wash away to the Sound or to our nearby community gardens where they will become part of our food supply.

I am troubled by the argument that there is a 100% absence of any documented cases or claims of harm. There are many different kinds of PCBs, pesticides and contaminants and they vary in how they cause harm, where and how long they hang around, etc. In addition to cancer, PCB exposure can damage immune, reproductive, nervous, and endocrine systems. The toxicity of these chemicals has been determined through decades of scientific study. I, for one, do not require additional proof in the form of sick or dead Greenwich residents to feel confident that remediating contaminated soil on playing fields at a school is the right thing to do.

I hope that my other colleagues on the RTM will join me in supporting this project and submit comments to Jeff Wilcox ([jeff.wilcox@ct.gov](mailto:jeff.wilcox@ct.gov)), DEEP's Remediation Project Manager who will be taking public comment until the 17th.

Regards,

Lucy von Brachel



On Jan 11, 2023, at 4:09 PM, Christina Volkwein (via RTMGreenwich list)

<[RTMGreenwich@simplelists.com](mailto:RTMGreenwich@simplelists.com)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

I write as a 30-year resident of Greenwich, CT and a current member of the Greenwich RTM. The paragraph below (red) is taken from our First Selectman's recent newsletter, encouraging residents to contact you with views on the CT DEEP Remediation Project.

**I would like to state my suggestion that *draining the swamp* in Greenwich, Hartford, and Washington D.C. would be the best pathway to curing the PCB contamination problems in our town.**

Anyone with a high school education in science and a decent amount of common sense can figure out that no one is or ever has been at risk from trace amounts of PCBs ten feet deep in the soil around our schools. That is, if one even believes "the science" that tells us we have this problem. From Wikipedia on a one-minute search: "In general, people are exposed to PCBs overwhelmingly through food, much less so by breathing contaminated air, and least by skin contact."

The soil remediation scam that local, state, and federal governments are running with this nonsense is raping our community and others of 10's of millions of tax dollars which will likely approach \$100 million in Greenwich alone (between GHS and WMS) by the time you are finished, if you ever will be. Rather than spending millions more at Western Middle School I hope that someone in Greenwich or Hartford with true integrity will hire a great investigative journalist to expose this criminal shakedown of our citizens--I estimate that would only cost in the neighborhood of less than \$100K. A bargain!

I would further suggest to you that anyone without *eyes wide shut* can see this, and increasingly so. Perhaps the result of your further studies and the community discussion tonight will result in a fresh conclusion that any contamination of the soil is naturally resolved when sunshine and rain degrade and wash away PCBs and any other pollutants. And with the 100% absence of any documented cases or even claims of harm, which I have never seen in the press here during 30 years of residency, I hope you will decide to abandon this path of corruption upon which your contractors are embarked.

Best regards,  
Christina Volkwein  
Greenwich RTM D2

### **Western Middle School fields**

As the new year begins, the Board of Selectmen is focused on the long-overdue remediation of Western Middle School's playing fields. The state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and Connecticut Environmental Protection Agency is holding an in-person and online public hearing on Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. at Western Middle School and people can also send their views to CT DEEP's Remediation Project Manager Jeffrey Wilcox at [jeff.wilcox@ct.gov](mailto:jeff.wilcox@ct.gov).

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Bob Russell <violvern@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2023 9:48 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Soil remediation project

You don't often get email from violvern@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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As the grandfather of a child at Western Middle School, I just want to express my support for the Soil remediation project at her school. She enjoys athletics, and needs safe, operational fields.

Thanks for your consideration, sincerely,  
Robert Russell  
56 Riversville Rd  
Greenwich CT 06831

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** 8skylark <8skylark@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2023 10:51 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Support for Western Middle School fields in Greenwich

[You don't often get email from 8skylark@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/W4dwCkRXROiARXgRT2QBWC?domain=aka.ms> ]

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Jeff,

As a neighbor to Western Middle School (WMS) fields as well as a mom of a graduating student and one that is entering WMS in Sept I heartily support the remediation project.

I would especially support a plan to expedite the work so that the fields can be up and running at the start of the 2023-24 school year in September

Nicole O'Connor  
Resident

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Kramer, Gregory <Gregory.Kramer@greenwichct.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field and Buffer Remediation RAP

You don't often get email from gregory.kramer@greenwichct.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Mr. Wilcox,

It was very nice to meet with you last night and thank you for taking the time to host the hearing.

I was delighted to hear all of the public input and certainly understand how important the need for playable field space is for the Town of Greenwich; particularly for the western area of Greenwich. The sense of optimism and progress could be felt throughout the auditorium room.

My concerns are the amount of trees that are planned to be removed surrounding the fields and abutting other properties. With the tree removals there will be negative ecological impacts to human health, the environment, significant loss of tree canopy and wildlife corridors.

Through some research it was discovered that the western section of Greenwich has the least amount of tree canopy and is the most densely populated. When this fact was discovered, The Greenwich Tree Conservancy, with the Parks Department and Conservation Department's support, applied for the Connecticut Urban Forest Council grant to assist in the replanting of trees in order to regain tree canopy.

The grant funding was awarded and tree planting had commenced the spring of 2022. The tree loss at Western Middle School will likely be over one hundred and will negate the amount of trees that were planted. In actuality, the loss will exceed the planted amount.

I hope this project can be review holistically, with a keen eye to saving trees if possible, and to replanting native trees, shrubs and perennials that will provide all the positive ecological benefits and campus beautification. Far too long landscaping has been seen as an afterthought, when in fact for this project it is an opportunity to highlight how working together, the end product offers so much to the community. In a sense an outdoor classroom. Teachers can take students out on campus and talk about the entire restoration process and how the newer plants will support various ecological needs.

Sporting needs and ecological needs can go hand and hand, and my feeling is this project can highlight both.

This is achievable and there is a great team in place, we just have to take a moment collectively, think creatively and apply what is known to be best for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my thoughts on this very important project.

Sincerely;

Greg  
Dr. Gregory Kramer  
Town of Greenwich  
Superintendent of Parks and Trees and Tree Warden  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
gregory.kramer@greenwichct.org

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** greenwichtreeconservancy@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:18 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Fields Remediation

You don't often get email from greenwichtreeconservancy@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.



Thank you for offering the opportunity to comment on the project of remediation of the playing fields at Western Middle School (WMS) in Greenwich, CT. The Greenwich Tree Conservancy is a 1000 strong non-profit organization with the mission to preserve and enhance the tree canopy of Greenwich for the benefit of all residents. Tree canopy in Connecticut gives our towns and cities a sense of place, and yet our forests and trees are under increasing assault. Extensive tree cutting practices result in increased noise, air pollution, flooding, pesticide use and in many areas a decrease in property values.

The playing fields at Western Middle School (WMS) have been closed since September 2016 and now finally the end is in sight with remediation beginning this summer. The Tree Conservancy is in full support of this remediation. At the same time, it must be noted that this school is in an area of town with little tree canopy. An area with this level of canopy is defined as Environmental Justice as residents are unable to enjoy the benefits tree canopy provides in other parts of towns. CTDEEP's definition states where the community "bears a disproportionate share of the risks and consequences of environmental pollution." *CTDEEP's Environmental Equity Policy, 1992*. Indiscriminate clear-cutting is deforestation. With over 100 mature trees surrounding the fields slated for removal this is in effect deforestation, even more disturbing given its proximity to I-95, rail corridor and Route 1.

We write to ask you to work thoughtfully and closely with the town to save as many trees as possible. Based on the contaminate mapping, there appear to be areas where little or no contamination has been found, specifically in the existing wooded areas.

At a time when there is widespread acknowledgement of the importance of trees in combating the ill effects of a changing climate, the removal of valuable woodlands should not be allowed without indisputable data proving the necessity. Loss in such a densely populated area will undoubtedly result in unforeseen consequences for nearby residents and particularly unfair to the many school children and their families who will be using the adjacent fields.

A plan to judiciously tag trees for removal using low-impact guidelines while sparing as many mature specimen trees as possible, will result in a healthier neighborhood for all who live, work and play there. It is also critical to replant as soon as possible with larger caliber native trees to allow these areas to restore this

environmentally challenged area as soon as possible. In the past, replanting on school properties has not been done in a timely manner. Please do not let that happen here.

Dr. Gregory Kramer, Town Tree Warden, has spoken with Patrick Haskell of AECOM about this project. In addition, Dr. Kramer has engaged Davey Tree to do an analysis of the trees and will be able to incorporate this data into the decision-making process. Dr. Kramer's expertise is a great asset and GTC is confident his planning will provide the ecological benefits this community deserves. We ask and urge DEEP to work with Dr. Kramer to meet the goals of remediation and reforestation at Western Middle School for the health of its surrounding community.

JoAnn Messina  
Executive Director  
Greenwich Tree Conservancy  
PO Box 4215  
Greenwich, CT 06831  
[greenwichtreeconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:greenwichtreeconservancy@gmail.com)  
[www.greenwichtreeconservancy.org](http://www.greenwichtreeconservancy.org)

*"To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, to live as a people, we must have trees."*  
~Theodore Roosevelt

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Susan Elliott-Bocassi <susanelliottbocassi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 4:06 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Field RAP

You don't often get email from susanelliottbocassi@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I was disappointed to be out of town on January 11<sup>th</sup>. I am emailing to share my support for the WMS fields improvement plan. As the parent of an incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grader and with a second child to follow in the coming years, it is extremely important to me that the field issue be resolved. Physical education is just as important to our children's growth as book education. With limited physical education space, we are limiting our children! I want my children to have an equal middle school experience to their peers when they enter into GHS. Our schools are something we should be proud of in Greenwich, not embarrassed by.

Please support the remediation action plan put forth to support not only WMS students but cross-school youth and our town overall.

Thank you,

Susan Elliott-Bocassi

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** Drake, William <William.Drake@greenwichct.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2023 2:29 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS statement

You don't often get email from william.drake@greenwichct.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

The Town of Greenwich stands united with our Board of Selectmen behind the effort to remediate Western Middle School's playing fields.

Students at Western have been denied the chance to use their own playing fields for far too long. Western's community has waited six years for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to take action and the time is now for this overdue remediation.

Western Middle School is a Title I school and is also a feeder middle school for two of the Town of Greenwich's Title I elementary schools. It is not fair or right that Western's children have not been able to use their fields. Kids have gone through the entirety of their time in middle school, which are critical years, without once being able to step on the grass and enjoy themselves like other students have been able to do at their schools.

Our citizens and our Board of Selectmen are seeking a remediation directive that will appropriately protect our children's health from toxic soil. We do not want to expose our children to environmental risk, but outdoor activity is also essential to their health and well-being.

We should not have to make a choice between the two. Please take action now to remediate these fields.

Thanks,  
Sincerely,  
Bill Drake

Member, Board of Estimate and Taxation  
Chairman, Investment Advisory and Human Resources Committees  
Chairman, Rink User Committee for Design and Planning



## Justin Hall

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**From:** Lauren Russell <laurenfenice@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 12:36 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Additional comments

[You don't often get email from laurenfenice@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/9iKrC82K2BfWAP81fnFKkS?domain=aka.ms> ]

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Hello Mr. Wilcox,

I'd already reached out via email last month. However, I had to leave last week's meeting about Western's fields prior to the floor being opened to comments, and wanted to share the notes I'd prepared to read there with you.

Please see below. Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,  
Lauren

Good evening. My name is Lauren Russell. I have two children who are current and future Western Middle School students. I am here to express my full support of the school field's soil remediation, reinvigoration and utilization, highlight some underlying benefits that the fields would offer and offer my gratitude for those who have been so dedicated to this endeavor.

In recent years, Greenwich and the region has been a U.S. epicenter of the global pandemic. This particular part of Greenwich has been hit unusually hard because we have more students below the federal poverty level than any other middle school in Greenwich. Since the onset of COVID-19, this district's top priority was understandably to keep our children and community safe. The pandemic brought understandable chaos: changes were instituted with little notice as new data factored into safety protocols. Our field, as we know, went unused during this entire time.

Due to our socioeconomic profile at Western, which does not reflect most schools in Greenwich, our students and their academic performance was hit unusually hard by the pandemic. COVID adaptation brought isolation and interruptions in our children's education that have had significant unintended consequences. I've spoken to many other parents and common changes as we "return to normal" include anxieties, fears around personal space, difficulties not experienced before in navigating social issues with their peers, increased overall fragility and sensitivity and struggling with self-esteem.

The idea of a new field shines like a beacon of light. Athletics and recreational opportunities would support our children. Sports mirrors life in so many ways: it's filled with adversity and competition; it demands mental toughness, teamwork, and continual improvement; and it's packed with many inspirational stories. And a remediated field would offer our students opportunities that include, but far surpass solely athletic endeavors.

The idea of fresh turfs - fresh starts - offer a new paradigm for our students in the form of an even field in which teammates supporting each other is paramount; on the fields, individuals' social currency increases based on model behavior. I predict that it would be a paradigm shift to many students to understand that the values our school and

society prize - on and off the fields - would include respect accountability, honesty, empathy, determination , teamwork and commitment.

I know I am not alone in facing these uncharted stressors for our children, who are at critical developmental ages that will forever shape their understanding of how the world works. I find a renewed sense of hope in the reintroduction of athletics and recreational field opportunities. More than ever before, the reimagination of these fields will expand learning opportunities beyond the confines of the classroom and provide a safe, enjoyable environment. For many, the lessons held by the potential of the fields will change their lives by providing opportunities for students to choose positive channels to engage with their peers.

The pandemic-centric years affected students, parents, teachers and staff through transitions in and out of classroom-based learning and prioritizing necessary safety measures over all else. NOW is the time that our community must take stock of the balance our children need to recalibrate the well-rounded education offered to Greenwich students. Our children's perception of their self-worth, potential and ability to thrive in areas outside of the academic sphere are in need of the opportunities these fields could be more than ever before.

A school should have balance between the safety of a cradle and the freedom of a wide open field. It saddens me greatly that our school has lacked the latter—a literal field—for a shocking six years. I wholeheartedly endorse this field remediation endeavor. I have high hopes that these fields will be the future backdrop of school spirit, peer comradery, and a center of mental and physical strength that will also facilitate a healthier, more transparent foundation for social structures and values. I cannot wait to cheer on Greenwich students as they enjoy their renewed fields.

Thank you to Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Greenwich School District and Board of Education, the PTA and all others who have come tonight in support of the field remediation. I appreciate all of the effort and resources that have been dedicated to this project and thank you for your time tonight!

Sent from my iPhone

## Justin Hall

---

**From:** DJ Doyle <[rdoylejr@richardscorp.com](mailto:rdoylejr@richardscorp.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 3:36 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** Greenwich High School

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Hi Jeff how are you?

I just ran across this Greenwich soils project and was curious who the actual contractor is doing the work. Would you know that?

RICHARDS CORPORATION

Richard M. Doyle  
President

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**"The leaders who work most effectively, it seems to me, never says 'I'. And that's not because they have trained themselves not to say 'I.' They don't think 'I.' They think 'we'; they think 'team.' They understand their job is to make the team function. They accept responsibility and don't sidestep it, but 'we' gets the credit.... This is what creates trust, what enables you to get the task done." - Peter Drucker**

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Phyllis & Marvin Kawabata <phyllismarvinschool@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 2:30 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Cc:** gordon\_beinstein@greenwich.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Western Middle School Field Remediation

[You don't often get email from phyllismarvinschool@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/9iKrC82K2BfWAP81fnFKkS?domain=aka.ms> ]

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Hi Mr. Wilcox,

Hope 2023 is off to a great start for you! Our son is currently an 8th grader at Western Middle School. We also have a younger daughter at Parkway Elementary who will be attending Western in less than three years. We are relatively new to Western and Greenwich - we moved here Fall 2021 from Manhattan. When we heard about how long this process has taken, we were shocked and disappointed. We chose to move to this area specifically for the schools, facilities, and resources. Our son and his schoolmates have been denied access to a proper field to use for school activities and sports. His football teams have had to look all over town for space to practice - even going across state lines to use Rye Brook's school field. It is too late for our son and his schoolmates (and the many other students from previous years) but please do everything in your power so that our daughter and her schoolmates will have access to a proper field - a very basic facility that every student needs. Thank you.

Best,  
Phyllis Pei and Marvin Kawabata  
168 Bedford Road

## Justin Hall

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**From:** Jennette Leal <jennetteleal@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:49 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jeff  
**Subject:** WMS Field / Soil Remediation

[You don't often get email from jennetteleal@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/9iKrC82K2BfWAP81fnFKkS?domain=aka.ms> ]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr Wilcox,

I'm a parent of a Western Middle School 8th grader. We are actually districted to Eastern Middle School, but applied to Western's excellent magnet program and were accepted when my son entered 6th grade in the fall of 2020.

My now-8th grader has never (and will never) be able to play on the WMS fields before he graduates. He has not had gym class, after school intramural sports or lunch break on the fields that surround his school. When the kids have a middle school team sport that requires a field, they are bused to an alternate location.

It is more important than ever for our kids have access to fresh air and places to be active, both as part of their physical education as well as at lunchtime, after school activities and sports. Time spent outdoors and physical activity have long been linked to improved mental health as well as increased focus at school. For too many years, our kids have not had the use and benefit of the fields surrounding Western Middle School. It is a resource that we really need, but going unused.

People tend to think about Greenwich as monolithically affluent, but across our town there is actually quite a bit of economic stratification and diversity. In general, the farther west you go, the less affluent it becomes. Our students represent an incredibly diverse group of people, but unlike the east side of town, our school typically qualifies about 50% of our kids for free and reduced lunches. These diverse qualities are a real strength of Western Middle School and a wonderful part of living in Greenwich. Living on the east side of town and attending school on the west side of town has opened my eyes to the economic realities faced by many families at Western Middles School. I suspect that if a school on the east side of town went several years without the use of their playing fields, there would have been a heck of a lot of noise made to accelerate the remediation of said fields. Not having the use of outdoor fields as our other two middle schools do is a matter of equity.

I hope that the kids at Western Middle don't have to wait much longer to play school sports and have gym class on their own school grounds. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about this email or Western Middle School. I hope you've received many like this in support of moving forward with the remediation ASAP.

Thank you,  
Jennette Leal  
Parent of 8th grader at Western Middle School, Greenwich  
415-328-6683 (cell)

## **ATTACHMENT B**

### **Public Comments Submitted at Public Meeting**

**Commenter:** Fred Camillo

**Contact Information:** 203-622-7710

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Thank you Jonathan. Good evening everybody; Dr. Jones, Mr. Wilcox, officials from CTDEEP, Langan, and AECOM as well as town representatives. I stand in strong support of the remediation plan. It goes without saying that we place great importance on education, we place great importance on public health, but we also place great importance on physical education and activity, and having spent decades and decades on that baseball diamond as a player, coach, and umpire—I won't say how many decades, but a lot of decades—if you had told me many years ago, that these fields will be closed down for six years, and two whole classes would go through Western Middle School without accessing the field and having to be bused all over town, I would have never believed you, so it's not surprising to see all these positive comments and all the passion in support of this. So again, I thank you so much for bringing it to this stage, and know that the town stands 100% ready with you to push this over the go line and across home plate. So thank you very much." – Fred Camillo

**Commenter:** Mike Bocchino

**Contact Information:** mikebocchino34@gmail.com

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Thank you very much, my name is Mike Bocchino. Sometimes the kids call me Mr. Cappuccino, so I give you a little bit of leeway on that. I'm a former State Representative for this district, for this community. I'm also the former chairman of the Neighborhood Association. I served as a PTA President for the elementary school that feeds into here. I know that these people very, very well. I sit on the board currently of Parks and Recreation, so I can tell you. And I've worked with DEEP when I was in Hartford. I know that the process is very long, but this process to get to this point has been ridiculous. These kids... I'm also the father of two kids, both accomplished baseball players, who neither one—my oldest is a senior at high school at Greenwich High; my youngest, is a freshman at Greenwich High School—neither one had the opportunity ever to set foot on the baseball field here at Western, because of all the issues that we've been going through. That's a travesty for my family, for those kids and for every other child that has gone through this system. So this is an imperative moment that we've come to. You guys have done an amazing job; Langan is incredible. We've gotten to the point where we have chosen the safest—and people need to recognize this before they come up and try to accuse us of not being safe—safest remediation process that we can possibly come to agreement upon; one that the EPA acknowledges that this is the safest route for us to go; it will also be one of the quickest ways for us to get these kids back onto the field. The community is a 100% behind this. These people, Gordon Beinstein and his staff and

the faculty, have done an amazing job keeping these kids athletically involved. We are proud to have had state championship football team, golf team, and soccer teams this year. We have yet to see what our rugby team is going to do, and our baseball team and our softball team. But we produce many, many fantastic student athletes, I mean, and not allowing these kids the opportunity to be out there expressing themselves and showing how good they are and working on their craft, is a travesty. So we need to move forward with this exponentially. I know that you guys are going to do the right thing. Give the regulatory approval, move forward with this to the Board of Education. I hope and plead that you lay some pipe down so that we can light this up after we cap it. We are going to have potentially the one of the greatest sports complexes that Greenwich has ever seen. Again, I serve on the board of Parks and Recreation, I'm on the Field Committee. We have a low inventory right now of fields, if we are able to move forward with this and do things properly, our inventory will rise, the kids will have the opportunity to be out there competing, practicing their crafts, which inevitably will help most of those kids get into college. So please, I implore you—move forward with this, give the approval we will support you 100% of the way. Anything that you need just give me a call. Thank you so much.” – Mike Bocchino

**Commenter:** Stephen Meskers

**Contact Information:** Not provided

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Submitted via Zoom question portal

“I want to lend my support to the project as State Representative of the 150th District. While the negotiated process was long and protracted, I think we have a tentative agreement that serves the community well, and I am anxious to get the project underway.” – Stephen Meskers

**Commenter:** David Langhorne

**Contact Information:** d.langhorne@outlook.com

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

“Hi, my name’s David Langhorne. I don't have anything like the credentials of the coach does. But here we go. I've had three children run through this school. My youngest is in eighth grade now. My daughter never saw the fields. My youngest son will never see the fields. My oldest son is now a sophomore in college, got one year out of it, so September 16, I believe, is when we finally got the shutdown process working. I am 100% an advocate of: “Let's go.” And what worries me the most is that when you look at the High School it was supposed to start in September... we're supposed to start in June when the kids are out and end in September, and we're all supposed to be done. It never, ever looks like that. So I'm scared that it's going to take longer than we anticipated. But I'm assuming that if we all get together, it opens up in June—the construction—and by September or October of this year we should be all ready to go. I'm hoping that that's the



outcome. One of the most important things that I've noticed over the time is we've watched this process go through painfully slow, which I don't blame anybody for, because I understand the Government's work slowly, is the kids have suffered the most. All these children are shipped everywhere. Parents not able to do sports with their children because their children had to go to a different destination. They don't have that after-school buses and everything else. That's where the real punishment has come from, not from the guys that are able to go and pick their children off to their sporting events, but the people that don't have that ability to do so; we have a dearth of athletic opportunities for our children here in the field area, whether it be from the littlest all the way through the softball or through soccer all the way through baseball. One final question I would say is: is it possible that we can look at how you lay out those fields as we go forward? Is it possible that perhaps the concrete pathways should be made of a little bit different substance? So if the kids are in their spikes they won't actually run up to a concrete slab and become slippery, such as we see at straza, that might be something worth paying attention to. In the meantime, thank you, and I implore you to get this thing on the road" – David Langhorne

**Commenter:** Lucy von Brachel

**Contact Information:** [lucyvbrton@gmail.com](mailto:lucyvbrton@gmail.com)

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"I am clearly not Lucy. I am her husband, and I am just here to express my gratitude for this, like Mr. Langhorne, and Mike Bocchino and many others here, I'm sure. I had two kids go through this school, never once using the field; also, like many of these other parents, we went through the same thing with new lead, so it's great to see you all here again. Thank you very much for all you're doing. We hope that, you know, this will be remedied in the 144 days I believe they said construction would take. Thank you." – Lucy von Brachel

**Commenter:** Beth Accerbo

**Contact Information:** [bethacerbo@gmail.com](mailto:bethacerbo@gmail.com)

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Hi! Good evening. My name is Beth Accerbo, and I'm a lifelong Greenwich resident. I'm here tonight to show my strong support of the field soil remediation project. I'm a parent of a sixth grader, spouse of a Western alum, and the current PTA co-president. The project has been thoroughly researched and analyzed, and it's long overdue to be completed. Many people stay or move to Greenwich to bring up their children in the Greenwich Public School system. It's an exceptional school system with caring and compassionate teachers and administration. While many in Greenwich can afford private schools, many choose the public school system because of the staff, academics, and even our school buildings. As Greenwich residents, we pride ourselves in our public school system, and

while Western is an exceptional school, we are doing a huge disservice to our kids by not giving them a proper field. The current students have not had a field during their entire middle school, and for most kids they also did not have access to outside play in the few years prior due to COVID. While we are at school for academics, a critical part of school and development is play, in developing social and emotional behavior. We are amid a national mental health crisis with high suicide rates for school age kids. There is way too much technology use in screen time; having access to field is critical to all of our children. Access to sports and fields is a well needed outlet for kids. It not only impacts their mental health, but also transcends into impacting other parts of their lives, such as their academics. The kids need time outside to play, be it physical education or to play sports. Western is a Title One middle school, the only one in Greenwich, with an exceptional program and kids all over town who want to come here. And yet our students have had unequal access to fields and sports. The Western students deserve a school they can be proud of, inside and out; a field where they can easily partake in school sports rather than schlepping across town to other fields. The school where they can focus on their mental and physical health in addition to their education. All the leg work and research has been done. The plans are ready to go. Please do not continue to allow this injustice to occur, and please provide the approval we need to move forward with the overdue remediation to our fields. We need to move forward with this project now, before more students are further impacted. Thank you" – Beth Accerbo

**Commenter:** Grace Natale

**Contact Information:** Not provided

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening. My name is Grace Natale. I have been a Greenwich Public School parent for nine years, and with Beth, I'm co-president of the WMS PTA. I'm here tonight with some of my fellow Wildcats, and I was hoping that anybody in this room that supports the project going forward, if you could, please just show your support by standing so that everybody can see, whether you're speaking tonight or not. Thank you. Approving this remediation project is the first step of what we hope is the last phase of this project. Let's please not delay any longer. Please know that the Western PTA and our families are here to support our district in any way necessary to move this project forward. We appreciate the timely updates that are being shared with our school community. We want to encourage all groups: this community, the BoE, CTDEEP, and federal and local officials, many of whom have been speaking and are in support today. Thank you. To continue to work together in a meaningful transparent, and swift manner. We look forward to significant progress over the coming year. Thank you." – Grace Natale

**Commenter:** Leslie Moriarty  
**Contact Information:** lesliemoriarty@gmail.com  
**Date:** 11 January 2023  
**Location:** WMS Public Hearing  
**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening. I'm Leslie Moriarty. I'm a previous member of the Board of Education, and was on that board when the contamination was found at the High School, so I feel like its deja vu. I'm a current member of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, which is the Finance Board in this town. But tonight I'm speaking as an individual. I'm glad that we're here tonight to present comments on the remedial action plan. I'm sure you have heard, and will continue to hear, a lot of comments about the length of time it took to get to tonight. This time has impacted our students, our families, and our communities. You're hearing a lot of the frustration, but we're ready to move ahead. I appreciate the efforts taken by our staff, the consultants, the State officials, and the Federal officials to address the concerns for public health and safety. Our community has experience with risk-based strategies and addressing these types of contamination risks with the similar methodologies being used at the high school. I'm here tonight to show support for the Remedial Action Plan as proposed, and ask that it be approved for implementation starting this summer, or even earlier. I want to thank again the administration, the consultants Langan and AECOM; thank the DEP and the EPA for their time and attention and support." – Leslie Moriarty

**Commenter:** Dr. Greg Kramer  
**Contact Information:** gkramer@greenwichct.org  
**Date:** 11 January 2023  
**Location:** WMS Public Hearing  
**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Hello! Good evening, everybody. My name is Dr. Greg Kramer. I'm the Tree Warden and Superintendent of Parks and Trees. I just wanted to thank you all for your time and your expertise, and I just wanted to say I look forward to working with you all together. I think we've accomplished a lot in the short amount of time project involving me and I'm looking forward to getting a beautiful landscape in that looks great, functions ecologically, and works well for everybody. So I just wanted to say that. Thank you." – Dr. Greg Kramer

**Commenter:** Karen Hirsh  
**Contact Information:** gkramer@greenwichct.org  
**Date:** 11 January 2023  
**Location:** WMS Public Hearing  
**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening. My name is Karen Hirsch. I'm a current member of the Board of Education and parent of two former Western Middle School students. My oldest is now a sophomore in college, and my younger student is a junior at Greenwich High School. Both are athletes, and while my oldest had access to the fields for one year of his time

as a Western Wildcat, my youngest never had the opportunity to step foot on her home field at Western Middle School. I'm standing here tonight to offer my full support for the recommendations and Remediation Action Plan, put forth by the Greenwich Public Schools for the soil removal and clean-up of the fields at Western Middle School. Our middle school fields are used by the schools for the physical education programs, intramurals, interscholastic teams, and other school events. The same fields are also used by the community for youth and adult athletic needs and other community programs and events. In 2018 Greenwich Parks and Recreation, who manages new teams, Greenwich public school fields, clocked approximately 6,000 hours of use a year on our middle school fields, and I'm sure that the usage is only increased in the past 4 years. In 2020 the town conducted an athletic field study which only highlighted what many of us knew; that Greenwich has an insufficient number of athletic playing fields, and that the existing fields are overused. Having access to Western's long-closed fields would not only benefit the students but the entire town, by giving us access to more field time. That the fields at Western Middle School have been closed to the students in the community for over six years is unfathomable to me. Physical education is part of our required curriculum. And yet, as students at Western Middle School were denied access to their fields, in effect limiting what P.E. options can be offered to them. Additionally, the students at Western have had to travel all over town in order for them to practice or play extracurricular sports. This is not only unequitable, as both of the other middle schools and towns have had access to their fields, but also has a major impact on our students in many other ways. Imagine not having the opportunity to play a championship game and win on your home field, or even host an outdoor school event. This lack of access can also negatively affect the ability to build a sense of community and school spirit, and has also created a disparity for Western Middle School students when they head to Greenwich High School to compete for spots on high school athletic team rosters. So I'm here to stand up for the current and future students of Western Middle School, as well as the community at large, in supporting the Remediation Action Plan, which will help to create a safe, accessible state-of-the-art field for Western Middle School and for town use and which will also significantly improve field access for the community at large. As you can see there's been an incredible amount of work put into this, and tremendous community support for this project to move forward. So I want to close by saying thank you to all of those who have helped us move this project forward and over the years, and at long last the finish line is in sight. Please help us get over that final goal. Thank you." – Karen Hirsh

**Commenter:** Blake Natale

**Contact Information:** Not provided

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening, my name is Blake Natale. I'm an eighth grader at Western Middle School. I have a unique perspective, because this is my third year here, and I've never been able to use the fields. I asked to speak tonight in support of the Remedial Action Plan with WMS Fields that has been submitted to regulators. I want officials and our community to know that I and my graduating class will be one of more than 1,200 students, who attended WMS and who are never able to use the WMS Fields. To put it into context,

these fields were closed on September the first 2016, the year that I started second grade. Five whole cycles of students came to Western and left Western without the fields ever being open to them. I realize that it is very important for all our safety that the environmental remediation process is thoughtful, deliberately done, and includes rounds of testing. However, please note that every year is another year in the life of this town's children who fervently wish to be able to enjoy access to the school's physical education, after-school events and activities, and on weekends for track meets, baseball practice, flag football, softball, lacrosse, and all the other sports that we are lucky to be able to play. I strongly urge the state and the town to act without further delay on this proposed plan for field remediation. Thank you." – Blake Natale

**Commenter:** Francia Alvarez

**Contact Information:** falvarezrtm@gmail.com

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening. My name is Francia Alvarez. I'm on the Greenwich Tree Conservancy, I'm on the RTM, I'm on the Land Use Committee, and tonight I'm speaking as the advocacy chair for the Greenwich Tree Conservancy. The Governor's GC3 Council on Climate Change has a goal to reduce greenhouse gases and gas emissions and restore tree canopy. So every existing tree is important. The Greenwich Tree Conservancy is in support of the field remediation, but we'd also like to see as many trees as possible be saved, based on their ecological benefits that they provide. Many trees were removed at the new Lebanon School and the Greenwich Tree Conservancy does not want to see that again here. Out in the hall, across the way. I had a very nice conversation, optimistic conversation, with Patrick Haskell, and I was wondering if you just might mention briefly how you're going to be working with Dr. Kramer, and working to save as many trees as possible, thank you." – Francia Alvarez

**Commenter:** Katie Yu

**Contact Information:** kathleenul23@gmail.com

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening. My name is Katie Yu, as you said; I am a mother of three children, very active with the PTA since 2010, past and proud Western Middle School PTA President. You know, it's honestly both amazing and appalling that I find myself in this position to speak tonight in advocacy of this long overdue remediation of Western Middle School's field, in Greenwich. I recall speaking with Langan at the time. My oldest son had the bad fortune of entering Western Middle school in 2016, which was the year that the fields closed. I recall advocating for the quick remediation of the fields, and our community was energized and hopeful for a fast remediation that would allow Western students to run and play on the field during recess rather than being relegated to primarily playing on the blacktop every day. As parents we laughed about the irony of living in a town called

Greenwich. My son is now a senior at Greenwich High School, soon to be exiting the public school system, and he has yet to put a toe on this field. My younger son, who was six at the time, is now a sixth grader at Central Middle School. At the time we had magneted Western Middle School, because of its fantastic staff and support systems, but our younger son is an enthusiastic football player, and we didn't want to deprive him of the ability to run and play on the field. I truly grieve for the generations of kids who are unable to access Westerns fields; these fields, which were used by kids across the district, they were one of the largest in Greenwich, and they were used extensively by all members of the community. There's no question that, having no sports at all, limited education space, and being shipped all over town, has that incredibly detrimental effects. Now the BET has pledged to lend its support to funding what is necessary. I hope that I'm talking to a choir tonight, and in my opinion this is absolutely necessary. Tonight, I'd just like to add my support for a safe and quick remediation which will provide a state-of-the-art field for the school and the whole town, significantly improved field access for the entire town and for all sports. Please give the community and our kids back their fields. Thank you." – Katie Yu

**Commenter:** Lee Morgan

**Contact Information:** leem257@aol.com

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening, everybody. I grew up here in town, and I still think it's a great town. My name is Lee Morgan, and my husband, John Black, who is traveling, could not be here tonight. But just a few words from him. He is the president of the BANC Raider football organization as well as a member of the GYFL Board and a coach within the BANC organization, and most importantly, we are parents of a Western Middle School eighth grader and sixth grader. We wholeheartedly and a 100% understand the importance of what needs to be done with the fields at Western. We advocate for the work that we're trying to get approved, and we'll do whatever is needed to support the overall cause. We cannot wait any longer for progress. The right time is now; our children deserve better from us. The youth of our district need needs their space back. They have persevered through difficult times, and for us to delay this project any longer is a disservice to them all. We feel it's necessary to clearly articulate messaging and ask how the community can best navigate the channels to get the fields in working order for both our youth at Western as well as providing safe fields to support the youth programs on the side of town. My husband was at the Board of Ed, meeting right before the pandemic, where fields were addressed for quite some time, and both sides argued their cases. The entire debate and controversy needs to be boiled down to common sense and final action. We need to put aside the noise to serve our youth. If we lead with the children, we can't make a bad decision. Thank you for your time." – Lee Morgan

**Commenter:** Clare Kilgallen

**Contact Information:** lawlerc@aol.com

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening. Thank you for coming to hear us tonight, and thank you for your help and the opportunity to speak. My name is Clare Kilgallen, and I live in Byram a few blocks away. In addition to being a parent, I'm a former PTA President of New Lebanon and Western Middle School PTA Council facilities representative. I'll add to the comments of full support for a swift resolution to the plan, so that this project can go out to bid and begin in spring. There are a few of us who were the class of 2016 entering here. My oldest's first day of sixth grade was the day in August 2016, when the school fields were closed. Since then, by my calculation, I thank Mr. Natale, our student here, but I'll add to that number over: 2,100 students since my son entered, have been impacted. My oldest is now a senior at the High School, and it's sad to see that he's never step foot on Western fields. That's also true of his sophomore brother, and now, my youngest, who is in seventh grade. You don't need to be an athletic team kid to be a kid who wants to play on a field, and I'll note, besides all the other uses mentioned, it's a neighborhood field. I support the remedial alternative two; it addresses the issues, it meets standards, and the project is sensitive to the surrounding Byram community, of which I'm a resident. The project has the overwhelming support of not only the Byram neighborhood, but the entire town. You saw the evidence; the support evidence by the presence of so many, including our elected representatives. Our finance Board has been supportive of all appropriations for this project, and have been standing at the ready to facilitate the necessary funding. My children's experience should not be the experience of any future Western students or the rest of the thousands of children in Byram and our town. Please move forward with all deliberate speed, so that we can begin the work in the spring. Thank you so much." – Clare Kilgallen

**Commenter:** Ryan Fazio

**Contact Information:** ryan@ryanfazio.com

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"My name is Ryan Fazio. I represent Greenwich in the State Senate. More importantly, I'm an alumnus of Western Middle School. My brothers are alumni. My mom was the president of the PTA. The school is very important to me. The fields were very important to me and my classmates, whether they're playing baseball, or at recess, or at PE. So the idea that 1,200 kids have not been able to access them is so maddening and frustrating. I'm very excited to see that we appear to be close to remediating the fields, and I want to echo the support of the community for an expeditious and safe remediation of these fields. I also stand happily ready and willing to support the process from the State legislature in any way possible with the state, local, and Federal governments, and I always have an open door in order to discuss these issues and more, and hope this happens as soon as possible. Thank you, everyone." – Ryan Fazio

**Commenter:** Suzanne Broadbent

**Contact Information:** [suzanne.m.broadbent@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.m.broadbent@gmail.com)

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening. Thank you, everyone, for being here, and all the work that's gone into this already. My name is Suzanne Broadbent, and I'm a lifelong Greenwich Resident, a proud alum of Western Middle School, and a parent of two children at Glenville Elementary School, who will be here in just a couple of short years. One of them will be speaking in just a moment. They are the fourth generation of our family to go through GPS, and you can say that we're pretty committed to the public school system here in town. But right now I do believe we're failing to provide the students at WMS with appropriate recreational space. I grew up just a stone's throw away from the school, and I spent hours not only using the field as part of my middle school years, but before and after that for recreation, athletic games, and, you know, anything you could think of. We would even sled down some of those hills in the back there... probably a little dangerous. But anyway, the athletic fields at WMS belong to this community, and I mean the school community, the local community, and the broader Greenwich community. We need to get this done, and we need to get it done soon. Even if the current proposed schedule goes off without a hitch we'll be looking at, you know, still more students who don't have access to these fields. It really is a shame, considering that some of the students who have attended Western Middle School also did not have the advantage of using the fields at Hamilton Avenue School when they were there. I know that was a different issue, but this is continuing and just underscores the unequal access that some of the students on this side of town have had compared to other schools. For the last 16 years, I've worked in the environmental engineering industry for firms similar to AECOM and Langan, so I have an appreciation for what needs to be done here, and just how complex it can be, but tonight I'm speaking as a parent of students and a member of this community, just underscoring our support for this project. I look forward to seeing this project come to fruition, not only for my children, but for the students who come in the years after that. Thank you." – Suzanne Broadbent

**Commenter:** Elizabeth Broadbent

**Contact Information:** Not provided

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Hello! I'm Elizabeth Broadbent, and I am in fourth grade at Glenville Elementary School. I'm going to Western for middle school in under two years, and I know so many others that are going to Western, including my brother Charlie. Me and some of my friends, including my best friend, love to play softball, and someone in my class loves soccer. So many kids love sports and should be able to play them on the athletic fields, if they choose to. All students should have an appropriate and safe place to play sports, and it would benefit all kids to be able to play on the athletic fields in middle school. As I said before, I am going to Western in less than two years and I would love to have the option to play



on the athletic fields. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here about this issue.” – Elizabeth Broadbent

**Commenter:** Phil Tarantino

**Contact Information:** philtino@yahoo.com

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

“Good evening. That's a tough act to follow. My name is Phil Tarantino. I'm a physical education teacher here at Western Middle School. I've been here for 22 years. I teach with Mr. Jewel, and Mr. Kalinsky. I would first like to start by thanking Dr. Jones and Langan, and Ben Watson, along with Gordon Beinstein, and our administration for the support in trying to get this project done. There has been so many challenges, but in meetings everybody is doing their best to make this happen. And there's various challenges with this that I know that they've definitely put their best foot forward. So just to speak from a perspective of being, like, in the school, and being part of this process. In September of 2016, we're called into to his office, and its like, “Hey, there's some bad news,” Now, with Gordon, that can mean anything. But in this case it was that we had no fields, and he's like, “What are we going to do” and I'm like, “You mean, no fields, like no fields?” and he's like, “We have no fields.” But luckily we're working with Donald Moore in the town. We were able to do Strazza Field, which is across the street. So what we did was, as phys ed teachers, we rode bikes, and the kids ran from our school to Strazza Field, and in a short period, 42 minute periods, we did our best to implement the physical education curriculum, which was obviously super challenging. So at that time they were testing the field and fortunately we were able to get a small portion back, and that was positive, in that we were able to be back on campus, which allowed us to do, you know, like, obviously, more because we're here and it's less transition time. And then COVID hit and so we didn't have the gym. So we lost the gym, and we had like a small portion of the field, so we used the tennis courts. And so the point I'm trying to make is for like seven years now, all it's been is we got to get done for the kids, and kids have been great and resilient; and the staff here meaning my colleagues, and Gordon, the administration, Dr. Jones. It's been support, support, support to get this done and give the kids the best experience they can. What I think, you know might be missed, is, like, our school spirit, like our after-school sports, are huge; meaning we have, like, in a season, we'll have 200 of our kids trying for our sports teams. And what happens with them is we can't practice here. So like in the spring like we—there's 11 to 12 year old kids getting on a bus just to go to practice, and then go to tuffle field again. Donald Moore and Tim Coughin from the town have been great in creating this site for us and our track team sort of practices on like this little patch of grass. But we can't have any home games. So these kids, where you want to talk about like school spirit—and if you ever came to one of our basketball games, for, like our championship, our tournament stuff, it's packed, and the kids can't wait to play in front of these kids, their peers. So it's been so impactful on our kids in so many ways. And it's just time; it's been enough. The kids have been resilient enough, and it's time—this is sort of what we believe. Here is, we take a negative. We gotta turn into a positive. So let's make this feel the best field in Greenwich, the best field

in this town. You could see the support of this community and our kids deserve. Thank you for your time.” – Phil Tarantino

**Commenter:** Laura Mummolo

**Contact Information:** Not provided

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

“Thank you, I'm Laura Mummulo. My daughter goes to school here and she's in sixth grade. We moved here two years ago from New York City. First I want to say, thank you so much for all the dedication and all the details you have thought about to really go into this project. I know this is not an easy project. And so I want to thank everybody who's been involved in this project. Never did I think when I left New York City I was going to move to Greenwich and find a school without fields, but here we are. So that was a bit of a surprise, but I want to tell you that I really support this project. I can't imagine growing up in an old town going to a school playing all the sports that I played and not have a field in the back, like it's just crazy, but I want to tell you that I do fully support this project. So do all these people and so many people online. I beg you to keep this project on track, to be efficient, to look for inefficiencies, to really be committed to what the end goal is, which is getting these children outdoors. These are our COVID babies, they've suffered enough. It's time to get them out. I want to say this, I really hope that we've learned something, and I'm going to challenge everybody in this room, including the people as elected officials. We knew that we dumped really bad things in two locations, and probably several others from our incinerators and many other companies. In the 1950s, '60s, and '70s there weren't laws that were put in place in an effort to protect our children, our ground, our groundwater, but we have laws in place now, and we need to be smarter about the land that we live, the land that we send our children to school, and that starts with everybody contributing to that vision. That vision is so important, and in fact, we got really lucky and so did Greenwich High School get very lucky that we found what was underneath the land, even though we knew it was there. The other thing I want to say is this, we need to put the laws in place, because if we don't, we're just going to continue to be in situations like that, and look what we are all doing to our children, and look at the cost involved to remediate things like this. We have to stop doing this, and we have to put a law in place that says you don't have to scratch the surface and say, 'uh oh, I think something's there,' in an effort to start going digging, we should be testing the soil now in places we already knew we previously dumped in 1950s, '60s, and '70s. Thank you.” - Laura Mummolo

**Commenter:** Donald Mohr

**Contact Information:** [dmohr@greenwichct.org](mailto:dmohr@greenwichct.org)

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening! I represent Greenwich Parks and Recreation. The Greenwich Department of Parks and Recreation Administration and Scott Johnson, chairman of the Board of Parks and Recreation are in full support of the Remedial Action Plan of Western Middle School. This field complex is diverse and has great flexibility to benefit a wide variety of sports and accommodate multiple users at a time. The parking at Western is good, with a large parking lot across the street from the school to supplement onsite parking. The facility is close to I-95 and US Route 1, making it easily accessible by car. Not only would Western be able to resume a full physical education athletics program on campus, the entire Greenwich sports community would benefit greatly as well. Prior to the closure of the fields at Western, Parks and Recreation would schedule about 1,900 hours of community use on the fields in addition to the school use. We anticipate gaining more than 1,900 hours of field time for community use once synthetic fields are in place at Western. The field complex currently has a 90 foot baseball diamond, remediation and synthetic turfing will have numerous benefits. With artificial turf the field would allow Greenwich High School baseball tryouts, practices, and games at varsity and sub-varsity levels. This is helpful as high school baseball begins practice in mid-March when grass fields are rarely available. In addition to having a usable baseball field from mid-March to mid-November the outfield field could be used for other sports. A field hockey field or small size soccer field but easily be painted in the outfield. Field hockey should be played on synthetic turf and the community needs smaller size soccer fields, particularly on turf. The plan for the main field would provide for a variety of uses. This includes a full size multi-sport field, including football, 11 V 11 soccer, boys and girls lacrosse, rugby, and flag football. We plan to include a combination 46-60 softball field and 50-70 baseball field, which would be a huge benefit to Greenwich High School girls' softball for tryouts, practices, and games at all levels in the spring. It would also assist community softball and baseball in this summer. This can provide beneficial practice space to the former number two softball field here. This to provide youth football, flag football, and soccer practice spaces as well. The project will help ease some critical future field space needs. First the construction of a new Central Middle School will create severe problems, not only for central athletics and PE, but also for many other community users who rely on this space. Ongoing and planned field maintenance projects and likely school building renovations will also require additional field space. Any additional field space, especially synthetic turf, will help to ease the overall shortage. Everyone wins, therefore, Parks and Recreation fully supports the Western Middle School fields Remediation Action Plan. Thank you." - Donald Mohr

**Commenter:** Jennifer Young

**Contact Information:** [jyoung0489@gmail.com](mailto:jyoung0489@gmail.com)

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening, and thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Jennifer Young, and I'm the parent of two Western Middle School students. I'm here in full support of the remediation plan and construction of artificial turf. As you know, the Western Middle School community has been without field access for over six years, damaging its sports programs and limited limiting its physical education space. Our kids have been forced from their home fields and bussed all over town to play. This has not only negatively impacted their overall middle school experience, but is unequitable, unfair, and quite frankly discriminatory. We, all of us, in this room on this, at this podium, and on the stage, have a duty to ensure that our community resources are equitably distributed throughout the community, and that schools have similar outdoor amenities. A rounded education specifically includes access to opportunities outside of academics without that access we are hamstringing the development and potential of every student on our campus. During the height of COVID outdoor spaces remained one of the few locations people could social distance safely to maintain favorable health and quality of life; however, due to the permanent closure of its field, students at Western and the surrounding communities were denied the benefits of that outdoor recreation and it's varying health benefits, including mental wellbeing. Following the remediation the design includes the installation of artificial turf. These types of turf are widely used successfully around the world for many sports and at many levels of performance. Moreover, experts in athletic field design believe that grass fields cannot support the high use we expect from our sports programs, and that use would leave our fields in poor condition. Tax dollars will not be wasted on the maintenance of more grass fields and a synthetic turf will prevent the countless, countless, I have kids who play lots of sports in this town, countless rain outs due to poor drainage and maintenance which plagues the majority of our fields in town today. I don't have high hopes that when this is approved, we're going to see this turned around in 144 days, and it's likely that the fields will be completed after both my children have graduated Western, but I nonetheless respectfully urge you to move forward immediately. Greenwich is well behind neighboring communities in terms of the quantity and the quality of our fields. The new field at Western Middle School will ensure that the athletic infrastructure meets the needs of our school and the growing community, and could support multiple sports programs. Our student athletes for generations will be pleased and well served by this new state of the art field that both the school, community, and community at large could be proud to call home. Thank you." - Jennifer Young

**Commenter:** Christine Zibilich

**Contact Information:** [christine.zibilich@gmail.com](mailto:christine.zibilich@gmail.com)

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Hi, good evening. I'm just a mom, I don't represent a board and I haven't written anything. I have three kids and I'm new to the community here. So many wonderful and articulate things have been said about the reasons why we all stand in support of this. I just think it feels a little weird that I have to stand here and say that. I have a 7th grader that's here, I have a 4th grader that will be rising. This is my second school year here in town, I moved here from Hong Kong where I spent 11 years and I'm also a little dumbfounded that we have this situation with the school, I didn't think that it would exist here. I wish you all luck. I support a plan that is safe for the children, and I would like to say that based on previous experience that I don't support remediation happening while those kids are in school. I hope that can be a part of it, these things usually do take longer than their supposed to but for all the reasons so beautifully articulated tonight I do hope things can move forward as quickly as possible." - Christine Zibilich

**Commenter:** Laura Erickson

**Contact Information:** [lerick67@gmail.com](mailto:lerick67@gmail.com)

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening, everyone. I'm Laura Ericson and first I want to thank you for your time and attention that you're spending both this evening and all your efforts to date on this very important issue, as I think you've heard. I am a member of the Board of Education, excuse me a member of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, but I am speaking tonight as a community member, as a mom who's spent a lot of time actually, on those fields, when my oldest son was in Cal Ripken, and I just wanted to lend my voice and strong support of the Remedial Action Plan. In August of 2016 I was actually the chair of the Board of Education when testing confirmed the presence of certain contaminants on these fields. Our interim school superintendent, Doctor Zell Corda, consulted with town leaders and department heads, and made a rapid fire decision that the fields should be closed in the best interest for the safety of the kids and the community at large. The decision was made and executed literally in the week just before the start of school, and I do give credit to Gordon Bernstein and his entire staff for making that happen, and Parks and Rec for making it work. Truly our time is very collaborative, we come together in times of crisis, and it was a crisis. The board at the time was also wrestling with suboptimal fields at Hamilton Avenue School and the William Street Field being out of commission due to the new, New Lebanon School project. So it was particularly vexing to have the fields at Western Middle School also impacted. Our town has demonstrated the capacity to execute projects of this magnitude. We did so at the site of the former Cos Cob power plants and we're doing so currently, in a multi-year phase project at Greenwich High School. I believe this critical project after 6 plus years and countless rounds of testing and discussion needs to move forward. The community has been

patient, thank you. But the students and the community deserve to have their playing fields restored in a safe and expeditious manner. Thank you again.” - Laura Erickson

**Commenter:** Peter Quigley

**Contact Information:** Not provided

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

“I've learned so much tonight. I've written a lot of notes, I'm going to have to play this one by ear. I want to first off thank the Board of Education, all the people and parents that are here tonight, certainly the DEEP and the EPA, and any of the stakeholders that are here. I'm going to point a question to people on the dais here, I want you to look at the community and please hear what they are saying. I've come from four years in a place that the community has been trying to speak to these very issues. Mr. Wilcox and I've had too many emails, he doesn't want to see another email from me, that's ok, you can respond, but the point here is, look at the community. Now you might ask, who am I? I was here in the same auditorium eight years ago for Mr. Bernstein comments. I was here, maybe before Ms. Moriarty, certainly not before Miss Tarkington was here, back in 2007 and 2008, as a member of District 7, who had become a vice chair of the Land Use Committee. I'll tell you who I am in a moment. I fully support this whole program. I only suggest that it might be more than 20 million in the sense that you've got hotspots in this area that may require further digging. It's all about soil testing, and to the young lady who mentioned why the elected people are doing things I've got to tell you. Look at me, I've been doing this for 15 years on the RTM as a member of the First Harbor Commission, trying to clean up sites in this town and in other places, and it is very difficult when you don't get the community to come out and give you that support. I've been asked by a constituent here that came to us in the RTM land use committee eight or nine years ago, her name was Dawn Fortunato, and she ought to get some credit. I don't know how much, she's pretty direct with people, in getting this thing started with us. It wasn't just 6 or 7 years, it's been about 10 or 11 years to get this thing going, so I am very pleased to hear where it is now, here or tonight, so I can eliminate the statements on the political process with what you have to do to get appropriations and funding. Who is Peter Quigley? I'm a 22 year resident, for 15 years I've been on and off the RTM as a vice chair of the Land Use committee. First member of the First Harbor Commission trying to get these. I was a point person on land use for the environmental water management, to start a funding here. Water management and environmental and land use, properly maintaining a historic scale of this town, and working at it for 15 years. Okay, so I'll go on here, I was going to talk about the funding process, which is the most important, but interesting as I came back I'm now in District 3, I'm in Chickahominy, came back last fall. I don't know why I was put on Parks and Recreation Committee, but I'm on the Parks and Recreation, that's why I'm here tonight. I wanted to hear the community coming out, I knew you were going to come out. We've been trying to do this, forget the 7 years, I've probably been here 12 years. The first time in this auditorium was about eight years ago, and in front of Langan. The MISA project, as Ms. Moriarty knows, I was there in 2008 or '09, talking to a guy by the name of Joe Ross. Who was that? A Vice President of AECOM, but he was also the Chairman of the Building Committee for the High School MISA

project. I'll move on to a couple of suggestions and considerations if I can, if you allow me. Those years make it very difficult to do things in 3 minutes, but I'll try to be brief here. The cleanup process, you want to use natural grass, not artificial turf because of the chemicals in the turf. People are sighing about this, this whole project is about the health and the safety of not only the students, but everybody that's on the site, and to any place that has public, won't say congestion, but has public access. You want these sites to be clean, so it might not just be an expense on how quick it's done, you have to be definitely making sure it's done right. Langan's created a beautiful plan here, no question, and I just hope the funding is there if they run into these hotspots. However, to Mr. Fazio, if he's still here, can you raise your hand before I continue? The issue is, I have been in this thing for 15 years, is that the State law needs new regulations to deal with soil testing, and not to residential soil testing, at these public sites. In the case of one place I was in it was actually a brown field and they're dealing with residential, going down 5 inches or even 5 feet, when you have to go down to where this carcinogenic material lies into a certain degree, and that sometimes can be 10, 15, maybe even 20 feet. So to Langan's responsibility is to make sure these hot spots are cleaned up, and to whatever is being capped, it is done as deep and far down as you can do, and honestly, it probably should be the EPA's responsibility. What's going on here in the State of Connecticut? It's that the standards of the Clean Water Act and the Toxic Substance Act of Federal laws, laws that were created because of things called the Love Canal. They are federal laws, the EPA has to come in for oversight to make sure those particular standards are being met, because the State, we don't believe, there is a group of us who don't believe legislation is serious and deep enough to be able to give protection at these public sites. I won't mention the amount of impact it has, you've all indicated, the students, the teachers. How about the teachers that have to be here and the coaches and everybody else, you want to make sure they're on clean soil. I'll leave it at that. I'm glad to see everything's moving along, at least in the funding and the appropriations in front of the RTM. It's a very tedious process in this town, and why it takes as long as it does, and it probably shouldn't, but it does, and things do seem to be moving along there. To AECOM, having lived through these things since 2008 and the MISA project, they have a mixed history of soil testing, as does the DEEP, in my opinion, and I'm just a non-expert, just an opinion of someone who has studied this pretty deeply. I've been there with the Joe Rosss', and the Steve Andersons', and Leslie at the beginning of the MISA project. I'm glad things have moved to a point right now that this is all going to be taken care of, and I do hope it's swiftly, but you have to make sure it's being done right. Also just one suggestion, there is a company called Clean Earth that's a pretty good vendor if you ever need someone to check on putting clean earth back into the soil here. Thank you very much, appreciate it." - Peter Quigley

**Commenter:** Donna Gaudioso

**Contact Information:** Not provided

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Good evening, my name is Donna Gaudioso, I'm from District 9, I'm talking on not on behalf of the district, but myself. I have a few questions, and I think it will help clarify the

process for the people in the audience. Okay, first of all, I want to thank you for the work you've done. I've been following this all along, and I'm so glad we're at a point where we see a resolution in sight but I'd like to explore the timeline because I know we want to get this, I'm assuming for this summer. Okay, so it's going to go out to bid, when do we expect that bid back?"

"The second component is, was this in capital budget? I don't think we had a number on it, correct, at that point? So it hasn't been budgeted in our capital budget yet, correct?"

"The third is, when will we be able to bring it to the BET and the RTM because I am so for this, I want to see this move. So how do I help you get this moved through funding? Will we see it as a special appropriation and when will it hit the BET?"

"So you don't think it will be a separate appropriation?"

"Please go for an interim so we can get this done this summer, I would be happy to vote for it. Thank you." - Donna Gaudioso

**Commenter:** Peter Alexander

**Contact Information:** [pfacrev@9xnail.com](mailto:pfacrev@9xnail.com)

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Hello my name is Peter Alexander, I'm a practicing landscape architect. One of my first projects was the Love Canal as he just mentioned. I specialize in brownfields and so forth. So if this is very exciting, to look forward, you have so much support, that doesn't often happen. The fact that we're talking about these athletic fields I couldn't resist that in 1979 at Love Canal, what had happened was that they were all 55 gallon rooms that were covered over during World War II, and I was the first consultant there, and I met the two women that had caused it because they were at little league of two years, and there was one gal whose son who was in the second year of little league and the second woman's son was in his first year, and second base disappeared. The mother's said, 'What was that?' So they had wheelbarrows brought in, covered it over, and put second base back in. We've come a long way since then, for sure. 5. You mentioned earlier the water table. The hydrostatic pressure, have you measured that? Have you gotten the direction of the runoff, the subsurface runoff, and if it reacts to the hydrostatic pressure of a storm?"

"...Have you been given permission to test downstream, offsite? Have you tested off the site? ..."

"...You might consider sampling offsite in the future. I'm not trying to be an umpire I'm trying to give you suggestions. The other thing I'd like to bring up is I would like to hear, or get some support for voluntary analysis by the people who have been to school here and what the cancer rate is at present. The ones that used the site from the beginning. I think it can be anonymous, it can be very careful, but I think that would be a good statistic in the future. Thank you." – Peter Alexander



**Commenter:** Cliff Fetner  
**Contact Information:** Not provided  
**Date:** 11 January 2023  
**Location:** WMS Public Hearing  
**Type:** Submitted via Zoom question portal

"How was it determined the cost of the 'new' dirt?" – Cliff Fetner

**Commenter:** Joe Kelly  
**Contact Information:** [Joe\\_Kelly@greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:Joe_Kelly@greenwich.k12.ct.us)  
**Date:** 11 January 2023  
**Location:** WMS Public Hearing  
**Type:** Spoken during meeting

"Hello. Well, thank you for that, Joe Kelly, your new Board Chair. I'd like to speak of the power of the 117. A 117 people showed up this evening to defend this position, to talk about how we're in favor of this. The same 117 people showed up 7 years ago, plus many, many more. The same 117 people shut up at multiple Board of ED meetings to defend and to support our decision to move forward on this project. The same 117 people 2 years ago showed up at multiple gatherings, showed up at countless events, were here in support time and time again. The same 117 people and dozens spoke this evening, they gave powerful arguments, and they gave support. This town, so many of them had been there early on, that 117 was more than 117. It was many more than 117, but they just came, and they, after 7 years of this, this marathon, it took a long time, but we had to do what we had to do. The power of those people, the steel of those 117 that are here tonight, that stayed and came again, and again, and again, should not just be taken on their word tonight, but multiply that by the 10 meetings they've already been at, the 20 meetings they've already been at, the gatherings, the support, the conversations they've had with their community, amplify their words tonight, amplify their presence to more than 117. Remember the hundreds that have not shown up tonight because they, well they really kind of gave up, we've asked them to show up time and time again, and they showed up, and they just gave up, but not the 117 that showed up tonight. Thank you. Everyone that showed up tonight. Thank you very much." – Joe Kelly

**Commenter:** Not provided  
**Contact Information:** Not provided  
**Date:** 11 January 2023  
**Location:** WMS Public Hearing  
**Type:** Submitted via Zoom question portal

"Please fix the field now. Thank you parent of WMS 6th grader" – Not provided

**Commenter:** Julie

**Contact Information:** Not provided

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Submitted via Zoom question portal

"Our son will graduate WMS as a magnet student without ever being able to use the fields. Let's not allow this to continue. Our kids and town deserve it. Thanks to all for your continued work on this very needed project." – Julie

**Commenter:** Michele Voigt

**Contact Information:** Not provided

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Submitted via Zoom question portal

"Greenwich Public schools must maintain equitable facilities across the district. WMS has not had field access for 6 years this is unacceptable. I am a parent of two children attending Central Middle School. It is imperative the district move forward with the field remediation process as outlined in tonight's presentation. Another year cannot go by without Greenwich kids playing on their school fields." – Michele Voigt

**Commenter:** Greta Kim

**Contact Information:** Not provided

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Submitted via Zoom question portal

"As a resident of Glenville and the parent to future Western Middle School students I appreciate the thought and effort that went into the field remediation planning. I strongly support the plan and sincerely hope that the project proceeds as quickly as possible." – Greta Kim

**Commenter:** Liz Eckert

**Contact Information:** Not provided

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Submitted via Zoom question portal

"Hi this is Liz Eckert I am member of District 4 RTM (Byram) and Vice Chair of Parks and Rec for the RTM as well as the Vice Chair of the Byram Neighborhood Association. I want to thank everyone involved for their hard work on this project and especially thank the community for their time tonight and making their voices heard. I am strongly in favor of moving forward on this project as expeditiously as possible - this has been on hold far too long. Thank you." – Liz Eckert

**Commenter:** Dawn Fortunato

**Contact Information:** Not provided

**Date:** 11 January 2023

**Location:** WMS Public Hearing

**Type:** Submitted via Zoom question portal

"If the original testing was done by the perimeter of the ground water how could it be clean? ... 1938 the town erected an incinerator. The school was built 1967-1968. That is not accurate and I disagree. Protect our health." – Dawn Fortunato