

Groundbreaking Ceremony 6-27-19

((INTRO)) – Thank you all for being here this evening. What an exciting way to *kick off* summer (no football pun intended).

- Before I get to the specifics, I'd like to share some school news that is not related to today's activities. Thanks to the hard work and support of many, we just concluded our 143rd year of Lasallian Catholic education and the school is in great shape.
 - Enrollment is at capacity.
 - We recently received ANOTHER six-year accreditation.
 - We have outstanding, dedicated teachers who not only prepare our students academically, but they serve as role models in educating the WHOLE student.
 - We continue to lead the region in tuition assistance.
 - And the Class of 2019 is off to colleges and universities in 20 states and two foreign countries. They'll be attending MIT, Stanford, Columbia, NYU, Georgetown, Cal, UCLA, St. Mary's and a host of other great schools.

((TRANSITION))

And today we celebrate our continued progress as an educational leader in Sacramento region and what we believe is a vital component in *Securing the Future* of our great school!

((PROCESS))

- The process to bring us to this point began several years ago.
- In the Fall of 2013 ... while the Cunningham Performing Arts Center was still under construction ... we gathered a group of staff and volunteers to create a 15 to 20-year vision for the campus.
 - I'd like to acknowledge John Jackson, Jr. '68, Brian Huddleston and the team from Jackson Construction ... as well as Gary Gery and the team from PBK Architects for being our partners throughout the visioning and planning processes these past six years.
- That 15 to 20-year vision was ratified by the Board of Trustees in spring 2014.
- In early 2015, we partnered with Lester Consulting Group for a fundraising feasibility study to help us determine how much money we could raise and to help us plan the campaign. We're joined today by Rose Lester.
- We went immediately from the feasibility study to active fundraising. We received our first pledge in Summer 2015 from Sheila Nolan and Willie Nolan '69 and. And Willie agreed to chair the campaign!
- In Fall 2015 CB's staff reviewed the components of the long-term campus vision and determined that our *outdoor athletic facilities* were our greatest priority. I'd like to acknowledge Steve Barsanti '78, Kristen McCarthy, Nancy Smith-Fagan, and June McBride who were a part of that process.
- For the past four years, volunteer fundraising committees have been hard at work on behalf of our students. Nancy Smith-Fagan has led the fundraising efforts ... which have resulted in outstanding generosity from our supporters. Thank you, Nancy! Willie Nolan will share more information on our fundraising efforts in a moment.

- So ... less than six years after we *began* the visioning process. Today we break ground. And EIGHT MONTHS FROM NOW, our student athletes will be playing under the lights of a beautiful new stadium.

((WHAT))

- There are two major components to this project.
 1. Parking lot – Our enrollment growth over the past several years has made parking an increasing challenge. ((Point to back lot)) THAT parking lot has to be eliminated in order for us to build the new stadium. For years, we planned on building a parking lot across the street on MLK. For a number of reasons ... primarily being student safety ... we shifted strategies over the past couple of years. We will NOT be building a parking lot across the street. Last year, we executed a lease with WMC that is a win-win for CB and the church. I'd like to acknowledge June McBride who came up with the idea and made it happen. ((Point to parking lot.)) Our plan is to have a NEW parking lot there ... for 100 cars ... by the time school opens in two months.
 2. The second major component is the new stadium! It will have a beautiful, state-of-the-art artificial turf field, and all weather six-lane track, stands on the south side for 1,200 fans, a press box, scoreboard ... and LIGHTS!
 - This is a stadium for ALL sports and PE classes. It's not a *football* stadium that other teams will use.
 - We will continue to play varsity football games at our traditional home field, Hughes Stadium, for the foreseeable future. The *new* stadium will be home to freshmen football games and varsity and JV football practices.
 - But when the *lacrosse* teams are on the field for games and practices, this will be a *lacrosse* stadium.
 - And when our *soccer* teams are on the field, it's a soccer stadium. The field will be wide enough to accommodate soccer. And the lights and artificial turf enable us to properly support our women's and men's soccer teams now that soccer is a winter sport for both men and women.
 - And we look forward to FINALLY seeing our phenomenal *track and field* athletes train on modern surfaces.
- In addition to these two *major* components ... improved parking and a new stadium ... this project will also deliver new dugouts for softball, new batting cages for baseball, improvements to the JV baseball field, and a welcoming entrance and a plaza.

((WHY))

- We're not building these facilities to become a sports power. We're building these facilities b/c we believe athletics are *an important component of a well-rounded high school experience*. Our mission is to form young women and young men who are persons of character who are prepared to change the world. Sports teach important skills such as determination, teamwork, and perseverance. If we FOCUS on teaching these important life skills, we believe a POSITIVE BY-PRODUCT will be a robust athletic program ... with LOTS of league and section championships.

((CONCLUSION))

Our work is not done. We have enjoyed tremendous fundraising success to date, and we are well on our way to meeting the financial goal to pay for this project. We will continue to seek support from our alumni, parents, and friends ... confident that we will reach the *construction* finish line and the *fundraising* finish line at the same time. It is our hope that we have a RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY in January where we can announce that ALL of the funds needed to pay for this project have been secured.

Thank you.

((TRANSITION TO LENA MIKACICH '22))

We have a group of student athletes here today representing the many sports that will use this new facility. ((Ask students to stand and be recognized.)) We will now hear from one of them, Ms. Lena Mikacich '22 speaking on behalf of her fellow student athletes. For those of you "older" alumni, Lena is the granddaughter of Pete Mikacich '52.

((other athletes))

1. Rafael Fernandez '20 (track and field)
2. Daniel Buckner '20 (soccer)
3. Lily Witry '20 (lacrosse)
4. Joshua Tarver '21 (lacrosse)
5. Lena Mikacich '22 (lacrosse)
6. Lars Jensen '20 (soccer)
7. Columba Effiong '22 (track and field)
8. Anthony Richardson '20 (rugby)
9. Tommy Milton '21 (football, rugby)









