

**GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Greenwich, CT**

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For Immediate Release

**Greenwich High School Bleachers Closed Effective Immediately**

Greenwich, CT – Monday, April 15, 2019 – Superintendent of Schools Ralph Mayo has announced that the Greenwich High School Cardinal Field home side bleachers are closed effective immediately pending repair to bring them up to current code and/or replacement as part of the Cardinal Field development project.

Mr. Mayo said, “We realize this is an inconvenience for upcoming athletic and ceremonial events, however, we will not compromise the safety of our staff, students, families or visitors to our schools. The high school is working on alternative plans for graduation and athletic events and will issue details as soon as they are available.”

Replacement of the approximately 50 year old Cardinal Field bleachers is a priority project for the Greenwich Public Schools 2019-2020 capital budget pending RTM action on the budget at the May 13 meeting.

Additional and recent concerns about the bleachers prompted the District to contract with engineers to conduct an inspection. The Town Building Department also conducted an inspection of the GHS bleachers. Findings indicate that while the bleachers had some remedial work and temporary shoring installed in 2016, both the District’s engineer and the Town Building Department concur that the bleachers need to be brought up to current building codes. Specifically, at the time the bleachers were built, it appears they were built to a standard of 60 pounds per square foot. Currently, code requires that the structure hold 100 pounds per square foot. The District is researching options for short-term repair and timelines for replacement - if the capital project is approved.

The Cardinal Field development project began with an initial feasibility study conducted in 2017-2018, calling for replacement of the aging bleachers, among other facility and grounds accessibility, safety and use improvements.

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