



ALIQUIPPA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Peter M. Carbone, Acting *Superintendent of Schools*

ALIQUIPPA SCHOOL DISTRICT STADIUM CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

On June 15, 2016, the Board of School Directors of the Aliquippa School District established the “Aliquippa School District Stadium Capital Reserve Fund” (the “Stadium Fund”) to be used only for expenditures for the maintenance, repair, reconstruction or replacement of the Carl A. Aschman Memorial Stadium.

The School District welcomes and will accept monetary contributions of any amount for deposit to the Stadium Fund.

The check or money order for a contribution must be made payable to “Aliquippa School District Stadium Capital Reserve Fund” and mailed or delivered to the Business Office, Aliquippa School District, 100 Harding Avenue, Aliquippa PA 15001.

(Note: If a contributor desires to make a cash contribution, please contact LeeAnn Prodonovich, Board Secretary, at 724-857-7500 Ext. 1105, to make arrangements.)

A contribution to the Stadium Fund is tax deductible. However, the tax deduction may be limited by the contributor’s specific circumstances. A contributor must consult a tax expert to determine how much of the contribution may be tax deductible.

ALIQUIPPA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: June 16, 2016

By:

Peter M. Carbone, Acting Superintendent



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http://www.timesonline.com/news/local_news/aliquippa-school-district-community-group-accepting-donations-to-fix-up/article_dadac068-3e0f-11e6-8af6-1b6a27f4749a.html

Aliquippa School District, community group accepting donations to fix up The Pit

By Katherine Schaeffer kschaeffer@timesonline.com Jun 29, 2016



Kevin Lorenzi/The Times

Aliquippa High School's Carl A. Aschman Stadium, also known as "The Pit."

Buy

ALIQUIPPA -- Aliquippa High School's 79-year-old Carl A. Aschman Memorial Stadium overlooks the city's downtown from its hillside perch just below Aliquippa Junior/Senior High School.

The stadium has served as home to one of the most celebrated football programs in WPIAL history -- one that has produced NFL players like Darrelle Revis, Sean Gilbert and Ty Law.

But the facility itself, affectionately called "The Pit," has seen better days.

The grass field -- one of the last non-turf home fields in Beaver County -- is lumpy from wear. Chunks of rusted rebar poke from crumbling concrete bleachers, and the stadium's paint is faded and flaking.

A partnership between the district and a community group could change that. A group of alumni and residents, which calls itself The Committee for the Renovation of Carl A. Aschman/The Pit Extreme Makeover, came together this past spring to petition the school board for help restoring the stadium to its former glory.

Aliquippa's school board established a special "Stadium Capital Reserve Fund" to manage donations for stadium maintenance, repair, reconstruction and replacement at its June 15 meeting. The district will handle all monetary contributions while the group will manage their own fundraising efforts, Business Manager Debbie Engelman said.

No money will leave the stadium account without community input and board approval, Engelman said.

The committee, spearheaded by 1991 Aliquippa High School alumnus Edreece Nance and city resident Sue Capel, hopes to raise enough money to spruce up the threadbare stadium, with projects including replacing rotten or broken bleachers, rebuilding the stadium's concrete steps, repainting the stands, installing a new roof on the press box, erecting new goal posts and updating the drain line along the field's home side.

Nance, a former Aliquippa High School football player, said the group hopes to eventually raise about \$3.5 million to restore the complex. The goal is to accomplish as much as possible over the summer, but the work will have to be completed as the funds roll in and, realistically, raising money will take time, Nance said. He and Capel say they hope the process will take two years or less.

"This is going to be a marathon," Nance said, adding that ensuring the facility's safety is a top priority.

Nance and Capel say they plan to generate money through a series of fundraisers, including an upcoming hat and T-shirt sale. The merchandise, previewed on the group's Facebook page, titled "Carl A. Aschman/The Pit Extreme Makeover," are on pre-sale now and will be available for purchase at home football games in the fall.

Upcoming fundraisers will include a stadium sponsorship drive where contributors' names will be featured somewhere in the facility according to the amount donated, Capel said.

The group is also working to organize a May 2017 fundraiser with Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver coach and Aliquippa alumnus Richard Mann, Nance said.

The district budgets money for general stadium maintenance in order to keep the facility operating safely, but Aliquippa, which is one of the poorest districts in the state and relies heavily on government funding, doesn't have cash to set aside for a major stadium renovation, Engelman said.

The 2016-17 stadium budget increased from last year to accommodate concession stand improvements and new handicapped-accessible railings, Engelman said. As donations roll in, the district and community will decide how they will be used, she said.

Acting Superintendent Pete Carbone said he looks forward to the partnership as an avenue to foster positive relationships between the district and city community.

"Carl A. Aschman stadium is a rich part of the history of Aliquippa," Carbone said in an email. "With the fiscal challenges of the school district, we just hope the stadium capital fund can make a difference in helping to restore the stadium."

Those wishing to donate should make checks or money orders payable to "Aliquippa School District Stadium Capital Reserve Fund." Contributions can be mailed or delivered to the district's business office located at 100 Harding Ave., Aliquippa, Pa. 15001.

Contributors who would prefer to pay in cash can contact Board Secretary LeeAnn Predonovich at 724-857-7500, ext. 1105.