

**For Immediate Release**

**October 18, 2010**

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## **Community Joins Together to Kick Off Turf Field Fundraising**

Pennington, NJ....On Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, Hopewell Valley Hopewell Valley educators, coaches, sports leagues leaders and committed parents came together to discuss the need for a Turf Field at Hopewell Valley Central High School. The need for this field has been underscored by this summer's weather conditions and the school district need to temporarily close 8 out of its 11 fields. As a result, the project "Turf's Up" was announced.

Turf's Up is the exciting, logical follow-up to the Recreation Foundation project which built natural grass fields in back of Timberlane Middle School. Those "fields of dreams" couldn't completely solve the field shortage, especially when rain or drought takes the natural fields out of play.

This new project will construct an all-weather field. This has been a dream for years, especially since we are one of the few area school districts without a turf field. The dream is becoming real, with plans drawn for a field at Central High School that will be used for field hockey, football, marching band, lacrosse and soccer.

The Hopewell Valley Regional School District Board of Education has unanimously passed a resolution supporting this turf field project sponsored by the Recreation Foundation. "The Hopewell Valley Regional School District values and appreciates the continued support of the Hopewell Valley Recreation Foundation. They have supported the district's needs in the past through their funding of AFT and again they are 'stepping up' to support the district with their multi-sport turf field initiative," said School Superintendent, Dr. Tom Smith.

Although the district is unable to fund this project, the efforts of the Recreation Foundation and the team of committed parents have cast a vision to make this dream a reality. The Foundation has provided \$100,000 of the \$850,000 costs for the first phase – the turf. The next two phases will include raising \$350,000 each for bleachers and eventually lights.

The first fundraising event will be the Recreation Foundation's Fall Ball, an evening of food, music, silent and live auctions. It will be held on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Trenton County Club. In addition, they are also selling raffle tickets for a cash 50/50. For more information, contact Cynthia Wiley at [wiley979899@yahoo.com](mailto:wiley979899@yahoo.com) or Sheryl Stone at 737-7862.

Photo: Receiving the Recreation Foundation's pledge of \$100,000 are (L to R) Dr. Tom Smith, HVRSD Superintendent, Cynthia Wiley, Fall Ball Coordinator and Jon Butler, Recreation Foundation Trustee