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MEDIA RELEASE

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STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROVIDES FOR IMPROVED, MULTI-USE FIELD IN ASHWAUBENON

Ashwaubenon, WI – January 21, 2013 – Less than a year ago, a committee comprised of community members and parents started work on a project to improve Ashwaubenon’s Goelz Field. The project, called JAGfield, is to convert the single-use, natural turf football field into a multi-use, synthetic turf facility. To date, over \$800,000 of the \$1,000,000 needed has been raised, all in the form of private donations. This substantial progress makes it very likely the project will be completed in time for the upcoming 2013-14 school year.

The improved facility will benefit a much higher number and wider variety of student and community groups. Ashwaubenon High School, Parkview Middle School and youth programs expected to benefit from the project include football, marching band, physical education classes, track and field, baseball and softball. The improved facility, which currently hosts other area events such as the Special Olympics, will meet the requirements to host more WIAA tournament events. New lights are also part of the project.

The JAGfield committee has worked hard to solicit the more than \$800,000 raised over the last few months. These private funds have been raised through large corporate and individual donations and the sale of naming rights and logo space. The committee has also applied for a grant through the Green Bay Packers and the NFL. They should know by this spring whether they will be awarded that grant. If not covered by private funds and the possible grant, the school district has dollars budgeted for the new lights in its five-year maintenance plan.

Many Ashwaubenon residents may remember the new multi-use synthetic surface field site and the field between Ashwaubenon High School and Parkview Middle School being a landfill prior to 1964, before any school district facilities were constructed in the vicinity. Because the installation of a synthetic turf surface requires excavation, soil testing has been done. The soil samples tested safely below Wisconsin DNR and EPA standards for contaminants. But some samples contained very low levels of PCBs beneath the turf which acts as a protective barrier and helps eliminate the risk of exposure. To further assure student health and safety, always the school district’s number one priority, the district will continue working with Wisconsin environmental and health officials to test and monitor the soil at the new multi-use synthetic surface field and the field between AHS and Parkview. The DNR has given the district approval to proceed with the new multi-use synthetic surface field project and the district will work with the DNR to continue taking any necessary precautions to ensure these fields remain safe.

The Ashwaubenon School District would like to take this opportunity to thank the donors who have shown such great community support by contributing to this project. They also thank the JAGfield committee members for all

of their hard work. This will be a great improvement to one of Ashwaubenon's centerpiece attractions and community gathering place!

For more information on this project, please visit the website at www.JAGfield.com. You can also contact Brian Hanes, Superintendent of Ashwaubenon Schools, at bhanes@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us or 492-2905 extension 1003.

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