

January 31, 2007

A special public meeting of the Board of Education, Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns, was held on Wednesday, January 31, 2007, at the Washington Irving School, commencing at 7:30PM.

Present: Mimi Godwin, President
Joseph Lillis, Vice President
Sheila Conklin, Trustee
Marc Kirschner, Trustee
Craig Laub, Trustee
Vincent Nadile, Trustee
Paul Rode, Trustee

Roll Call

Also present: Howard W. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Barbarann Tantillo, Assistant Superintendent
Andrew V. LaBella, Business Manager
Matthew Harbut, The Thomas Group
Nelly Valentin, District Clerk

President Godwin called the meeting to order at 7:37PM.

Call to
Order

There was a moment of silent meditation, after which the Pledge to the Flag was given.

Meditation
Pledge

President Godwin announced that tonight's meeting is a public hearing on turf fields. She announced that the Board will listen to all comments that are given and will discuss the information at the next Board of Education meeting on February 8th.

Dr. Smith reported that the District has been working collaboratively with the villages, the recreation and athletics departments and athletic staff in the District. All the needs were looked at and the architects were asked to do a feasibility study and a report was given to the Board in the Fall of 2006.

Turf Fields
Feasibility
Study

Matthew Harbut from the Thomas Group gave a presentation on Turf Fields. Topics included:

- Summary Findings: Sleepy Hollow and Washington Irving are excellent candidates for synthetic turf and there are no major constraints on development.
- Study Approach
 - Site Analysis (Limited space)
 - Future building and expansion will further reduce usable outdoor space
 - No space for additional athletic fields
 - Underground storm water management will be required
 - Determination of project scope
 - Design solutions and recommendations
 - Cost impact
 - Project implementation

- Existing Infrastructure
 - Existing bleachers, paved access and utilities can be reused to save costs
 - Some site amenities need replacing/upgrading
- Determining Scope of Project
 - Type of athletic program and frequency of use
 - Athletic program requirements
 - Sustaining existing sports and recreation
 - Planning for growth and versatility
 - Achieve a quality facility
 - Insuring suitable site development in support of the new athletic facility
- Cost Estimates
 - SH - \$792,763 (synthetic turf only)
Total Construction - \$1,673,000
 - WI – lower field \$864,000 (synthetic turf only)
Total Construction - \$1,547,000
 - WI – upper field alternates - \$63,425 for existing natural turf renovation;
turf only - \$466,490
- Implementation
 - Product selection
 - L/T maintenance and operation
 - Construction factors – phasing/schedule
 - Site permitting and agency review

Summary of public comments:

- Fields are unacceptable for play
- Safety is extremely important
- Pride of school and community is damaged by our fields. Other facilities are far superior to ours.
- 100% support of turf fields
- Broaden scope of project and take care of all fields at once
- Absolute necessity for our children
- Student injuries sustained as a result of poor condition of our fields
- Move ahead with project as quickly as possible
- Look at alternate means of financing, i.e. corporate support, grants, support from developers
- Other schools do not want to play on our fields
- What is current cost of maintaining natural fields
- What is cost of maintaining synthetic turf fields
- Community issue, not just a school board issue
- Another public meeting should be held at Morse
- Cleanliness of turf fields and compaction issues
- Citizens must invest in future of community and children

- Concentrate on Sleepy Hollow High School field
- Lighting system to be used
- Taxpayers should not have to foot the bill
- Consider turf for SH fields and artificial turf for WI fields

Matthew Harbut from the Thomas Group reported that the warranty for turf fields is generally eight years. He also reported that the number of injuries sustained on artificial and turf are about the same, however, injuries are less severe on turf fields.

President Godwin thanked everyone for attending and reiterated that the Board will discuss this issue at the next board of education meeting on February 8th.

CARRIED 7-0

Trustee Conklin moved, seconded by Trustee Nadile, that it be
RESOLVED: That the special meeting of the Board be adjourned.

9:08 PM
Respectfully submitted,

Nelly Valentin
District Clerk