

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Playground/Recreational Facility of the Utilization Committee met in Special Session on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 6:30 PM remotely. Board members present: Mrs. Booth and Mr. Yamartino
Community members present: Mrs. Canning, Mrs. Casillo, Mrs. Dubuc, Mrs. Kahnke and Ms. Malcolm
Administration present: Mrs. Stone, Principal of Memorial Middle School and Mr. Ford, Principal of John Lyman School

Mr. Yamartino called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Comment on prior minutes (committee is non-voting)

A. Special Session Minutes - June 17, 2020

None.

Project Status

A. John Lyman Playground

Mrs. Booth reported that the equipment has been ordered and they are waiting. Mr. Ford thanked Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Dubuc and Mr. Giammatteo for the hard work. They met with the vendor prior to July 4th and settled on the final design. The information was shared with Mrs. Neubig and the purchase order has moved forward. They were told installation would happen before the beginning of school. Mrs. Booth added that the contractor would remove any footings at no additional cost.

B. Memorial Playground

Mrs. Stone reported that the team met virtually and in person and Mr. Giammatteo came out with the same vendor that was used at John Lyman. They have given the vendor feedback on three designs and he has now given them a fourth design. They plan to meet next week. Mrs. Casillo has also had a rep come out as well. All of the plans are under budget. Mrs. Johansen's husband is getting quotes on a gaga pit, which are coming in at under \$1,000. Mrs. Stone has a few concerns about the gaga pit and they need to decide where to put it. Mrs. Canning has reached out to the Boy Scouts and was told that Troop 27 would be interested in helping with buddy benches. They are now in touch with other scout troops about a Go Far path.

Mr. Yamartino asked if the Go Far path needs a specific surface or would mile posts be sufficient. Mrs. Stone felt that it just needed to be a designated path. She would like Go Far at Memorial, but isn't in a

particular rush to do that. Mrs. Stone also mentioned that, as of now, only one class can play outside at a time. Mr. Yamartino volunteered to help set mile marker posts, if needed, and also suggested they could use boulders as mile markers. Mrs. Stone added that she can reach out to Mr. Falcone to see if there are kids that need service hours.

C. Memorial Courts

Mr. Yamartino reported that they have received quotes from a couple of vendors for the tiles and are in the process of reaching out to their references. Mr. Yamartino also spoke to the vendor who just finished resurfacing the high school's tennis courts and he gave them several reasons why they may want asphalt instead of tiles. The vendor felt that the tiles don't play as well with tennis and they accumulate dirt, leaves and pine needles and will be very hard to clean and maintain. They then met at Memorial and he took a look at the facilities there. He also felt that if a child falls on the tiles, they could expect to scrape their knees though Mr. Yamartino acknowledged that kids scrape their knees on most surfaces. The vendor also mentioned that the smooth tiles are slippery when wet. Mr. Yamartino also mentioned that the tiles dry much faster than asphalt does. The vendor quoted on using the existing base, laying 3" of asphalt and compressing that to 2-1/2" and it totaled \$160,000. Of that cost, \$44,000 is for painting the courts and the vendor proposed using a clear coat with white striping. If they go with that option, the total is \$116,000.

Mr. Yamartino also noted that he spoke with people playing tennis at the courts today and they stated that the tiles were the best surface to play tennis on because the ball is livelier. Ms. Malcolm stated that she spoke with Frank Wolak, a Park & Rec committee member, who works at a school that had the tiles. He felt that you could use a blower to remove the dirt and leaves from the surface. She also reached out to the PE teacher community and received a few negative comments. Some felt that the tiles take forever to dry after rain, but Mr. Wolak stated that it really doesn't as long as it's on a surface that drains pretty well. He did say that the base needs to be consistent.

Mr. Yamartino will forward all of the quotes to the committee members and asked them to reach out to anybody who might have experience with it. He would like to schedule a meeting for next week and have the vendors dial in so that the committee can ask questions. Mrs. Booth asked if Mr. Yamartino has ever played on a tile court and he replied that he has not. He does believe the life expectancy of the tile surface is 15 to 20 years and the asphalt surface would be 10 to 15 years. The asphalt would need to be repainted or restriped periodically, but the tile surface would not.

Mrs. Stone mentioned that North Branford just recovered all of their courts and suggested that Ms. Malcolm call the Park & Rec department to see what they used. Mrs. Booth added that there are pickleball courts in Northford. Ms. Malcolm stated that she saw a brand new court in the Bolton area and the woman there said it was easy to install. She will also try to go look at another court.

Mr. Yamartino will forward an article from the Meriden Record Journal about Wallingford just opening up dual-use courts. The pickleball nets are in a locked storage chest and the people that use it most frequently are given the combination. Cheshire just opened up six new pickleball and Durham has three on the way. The article stated that popularity is going through the roof in the 20- to 40-year-old age group.

Mr. Yamartino reviewed that the initial quotes were based directly off his sketch which included a single basketball court, a dedicated tennis court, eight pickleball courts and three or four Squares. Several

people have told him that they would like to see one dual-use court, one dedicated tennis court, four dedicated pickle ball courts plus the basketball court and Four Square. He asked everyone to think about what they would like to see for the layout and they will discuss at next week's meeting. He did mention that asphalt would be an easy choice and that they would most likely get criticism if they choose the tiles.

D. CRHS Courts

Mr. Yamartino reported that the repainting and striping of the courts has been completed and they look absolutely beautiful. He added that he would feel bad if they went with black and white asphalt at Memorial.

New Business

None.

Public Comment

Ms. Malcolm asked what the district will be doing with outdoor classrooms. Mrs. Stone stated that most of the schools are setting a specific place for outdoor learning, but she will be telling her teachers to use a flat spot outside their classroom. While they'd like to get the students outdoors as much as feasible, they also know that that may be difficult to balance. There will be walkie talkies in all of the classrooms. While they do have some picnic tables, most of the kids will have to sit on the ground or bring a chair outside. Dalton Bates is doing his Eagle Scout project and will be installing a gazebo at Memorial.

Ms. Malcolm offered to loan tables from Peckham Park and Mrs. Stone noted that the Durham Fair Association has also offered some picnic tables. Mr. Yamartino added that the public works department of the Town of Durham was asked to bring the tables to the schools and he offered to have Middlefield bring any tables to Memorial. Mr. Ford stated that they have a fair amount of space at Lyman where kids can spread out but having tables would make things even easier. Most of the classrooms at Lyman open up to the outside and there is quite a bit of space. They will also encourage students and staff to be outside as much as possible.

Mr. Yamartino asked if Middlefield had any stadium seats available and Ms. Malcolm stated that they have six bleacher sets that are no more than four seats high and will be getting four more. Mrs. Stone will take a look at them and hopefully they can be used somewhere.

Adjournment

It was agreed to meet again next Thursday at 6:30 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

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Alwaz First