



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION - FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Finance Committee Meeting AT Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Bloomfield Board of Education 1133 Blue Hills Avenue Board Room, 1133 Blue Hills Avenue ,
Bloomfield, CT 06002

1. Call to Order
2. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Minutes - Special Finance Committee Meeting - March 3, 2015 2
M. Williams
3. New Business
 - A. Contract Award - BSC Group (Athletic Field Improvements)
W. Guzman
 - B. Budget Transfers - March 2015
W. Guzman
4. Adjournment



BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS – SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Bloomfield Board of Education
1133 Blue Hills Avenue
Board Room

ATTENDANCE: M. Williams, Chair Present
L. Mara Present
Q. Johnson Present *arrived at 6:12 p.m.*

ALSO PRESENT: J. Thompson W. Casper
D. Harris W. Guzman
M. Walters

1. CALL TO ORDER

M. Williams called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2. A. Approval of Minutes – Finance Committee – February 4, 2015

A motion was made by L. Mara and seconded by M. Williams for the Finance Committee to approve the meeting minutes for February 4, 2015, as presented.

M. Williams Aye
L. Mara Abstained

The motion was passed with a majority vote.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3. A. Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operating Officer welcomed Luke McCoy from BSC Group. He explained that Bloomfield Public Schools submitted an RFQ to provide an analysis of the Bloomfield High School football field, a cost benefit analysis of extending the track and to evaluate the conditions of the retaining wall at the field. This evaluation is a result of the conditions at the football field which are considered unplayable at this time.

L. McCoy stated BSC Group started as a surveying company and has expanded to offer engineering, planning and landscape architecture. The local office for BSC Group is in Glastonbury, CT. Following their site assessment they determined that the high school football field currently has 6-8 inches of top soil and below the surface is hardpan which does not allow for proper drainage. The track shows signs of fading and bubbling on the



surface. The retaining wall, although it has exterior efflorescence due to the improper drainage of the field, has no structural concerns.

With the information regarding the current conditions of the field, BSC Group provided several options for the project. During the creation of these options, BSC Group had several discussions with the Athletic Director to incorporate the needs of the athletic programs. In addition, they considered the budget, facility layout and project schedule.

In regards to the options, the first thing to consider was if the district should use a natural or synthetic turf. If natural turf is selected, the drainage systems will have to be put into place below the surface and then grass seed planted. With this process, the field will be unplayable for at least 2 seasons while the seeds sowed. If converted to synthetic, the field will be usable immediately. Crumb rubber would be used with the synthetic turf. The track has several options to rehabilitate the existing track or to expand and renovate with new asphalt and surface. The retaining wall, if drainage is correct, would have only cosmetic changes.

L. McCoy reviewed each option in detail. Option #1 includes a natural grass field with under field drainage and re-grading of the field. The track will be rehabilitated with an 8-lane straight away and block replacement to the retaining wall (for cosmetic purposes). The estimated price for this would be around \$750,200. Option #2 converts the field to an all-weather synthetic turf surface with under field drainage and re-grading of the field. The track would also be an 8-lane straight away with 6-lane layout and the asphalt would be repaired with resurfacing. The pole vault and high jump however would be moved within the field. The retaining wall would also have cosmetic changes. The cost estimate for option #2 would be approximately \$1.2 million. Option #3 would be the same as #2 with the exception of the track. The track would be expanded to a full 8-lane layout with the track completely re-asphalted and surfaced. The total cost would be projected at \$1.5 million.

L. McCoy went on to discuss the natural turf use versus synthetic turf use. The playing time per year on a natural turf is 300 hours versus 800 hours on a synthetic turf. Also, the district has to consider the possible future mandates on how natural grass can be treated (referencing pesticides and organic materials).

One board member inquired what the athletic director's opinion regarding the best option. Mr. McCoy replied option #2. The timeline for project completion in option #2 would be mid-September. Mr. Casper added that Option #2 does a couple of things: (1) does not delay the playing seasons as we have immediate access, (2) allows for multi-sport usage without downtime, (3) no concerns about future use of pesticides and (4) possibility for rental.

The finance committee inquired about who performs the maintenance and how it will impact the budget. It was responded that the current maintenance is performed by the town's Public Works department. The grooming of a synthetic field is less timely than



the current process of mowing and relining of a natural field. Also, the equipment is included in the cost estimate.

The finance committee addressed a concern over the controversial health issues currently surrounding the use of synthetic turf and rubber. They wanted to know what the BSC's stance on the issue is and what assurances they can offer. L. McCoy responded that BSC stands by the use of synthetic turf and crumb rubber. He stated that there is no concrete data supporting health issues and use of crumb rubber. First, he has not found any current research demonstrating health effects directly related to crumb rubber. Second, there is a documented reduction of injuries on synthetic turf versus natural grass. Mr. McCoy shared a national story covering bacterial microbes being passed through synthetic turf that was discredited when studies showed it was actually being passed athlete to athlete. He added that synthetic turf plays consistently in wet and dry weather.

Mr. McCoy reviewed the grooming process as requested by the committee. The groomer is actually a static brush that is dragged behind a motorized cart.

A motion was made by L. Mara and seconded by Q. Johnson to recommend to the full Board of Education, Option #2 as presented, at the next regular Board of Education meeting.

The motion was passed unanimously.

4. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:02 p.m., a motion was made by L. Mara and seconded by Q. Johnson to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

M. Williams, Chair