

REGION 9 FACILITIES AND FIELDS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2007

Present: Poltrack, Coppinger, Gombos(6:40 pm), Stone
Administration: Fossbender, Calabro, Goodpaster
Media: Redding Pilot
Others: Three members of the public

Mr. Poltrack called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm in Room B109 in Joel Barlow High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the minutes of the February 15, 2007 meeting be approved as submitted. Stone, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION PERTAINING TO RENOVATION, REHABILITATION, AND REUTILIZATION OF FIELDS B AND C

Mr. Calabro & Mr. Czudak provided a letter expressing concerns regarding the long-term care and maintenance of a grass field in area B. Irrigation of fields is the primary problem due to limited storage capacity and delivery systems to that area of the site. Currently water is not provided to that area of the site. In addition, a heavily used field would require frequent reseeding and other care heavily dependent upon a reliable water source.

Mrs. Gombos arrived, 6:40 pm.

A letter from Susan Goldman, Chairman of the Redding Park & Recreation Commission, was distributed. The letter was in response to a request by Director of Athletics Goodpaster regarding use of fields in Redding. The letter noted the field shortage Redding is experiencing and the limited available times for use.

The Committee also received copies of the Redding Conservation Commission correspondence regarding the Joel Barlow High School License #00-41, special Condition #7 re: "no use of herbicides on the project." A copy of the Turf Management Plan submitted by Kaestle Boos was included. The "Plan" was submitted as a part of the license/application package and is to remain in effect permanently.

Mr. Stone suggested that a plan go forward to install artificial turf for a multi-purpose field B and a competition field C that includes a requirement to have sufficient funding in the bank, beyond the initial costs, that could accumulate over a 10 year period (the estimated life of artificial turf) to offset the replacement costs of an artificial turf field (not specific to the field).

Mrs. Gombos cited the importance of natural grass to the esthetic value of the campus especially on the entry driveway. Mr. Stone commented that there is nothing unpleasant about the site of artificial turf fields and may show a dedication to student athletes.

Discussion of the wells on the property followed. The Committee asked the administration to collect the historic information regarding the wells and the issues with new wells during the recent building project. Mr. Calabro reported that the previously well, #2, in the area of Fields B & C, was mandated to be closed due to the proximity to the wastewater treatment facility. During the project, seven wells were drilled and 3 were abandoned due to lack of volume. The other wells, in the vicinity of the back parking lot, are used to provide water to the school and facility. The retention ponds are used for irrigation of Field J and the water cannons for Fields D & E.

Mr. Stone provided a listing of high schools in the DRG, showing number of students, turf fields and seating. Most of the schools have two turf fields and seating for 1,200 to 3,400 students, varying with the size of the student population.

Due to the time and need to convene the Region #9 Board of Education meeting, further discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION PERTAINING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN: FACILITIES

Due to the time and need to convene the Region #9 Board of Education meeting, discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Cieri, Redding: commented that the master plan process to go forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move to adjourn the meeting. Stone, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Huntley Stone

Recorded by Mary Maday