



North Haven Public Schools
North Haven, Connecticut 06473

THE NORTH HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
NHMS Building Project Workshop
5 LINSLEY STREET
NORTH HAVEN, CT 06473

REVISED MINUTES

November 22, 2016

Attendance: Anita Anderson, Randi Petersen, Bryan Bogen, Jennifer Cecarelli, Jennifer Caldwell, Goldie Adele, Matthew Kerzner, Dorothy Logan, Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources, Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

Guests: Gary Johns, Chairman of the NHMS Building Committee and Philip Diana, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, and Steve Blumenthal, Athletic Director, Graham Curtis, DTC, Engineering Consultant, Andrew Dijk, FieldTurf, and Andrew Grillo, Project Manager from Gilbane.

Mrs. Anderson stated that the reason for this workshop is for the Building Committee to give the Board of Education an update on the status of the project, what has been done and what is left to be done, etc.

1. Middle School Building Project/Athletic Fields

Gary Johns stated Phase I is complete, the classrooms are up and running. Phase II (Music, Administrative Offices and Auditorium) is scheduled to be complete on January 17, 2017

Mr. Johns stated that the Site Contractor needs some direction with regards to the fields. In the original Ed Specs it says that all three fields will be synthetic fields however there are some budget constrictions with regards to the fields and Mr. Johns and the Building Committee are looking for some guidance from the Board of Education as to what they would like to do. The Committee would like to get some pricing done on getting turf on one or two fields instead of the three turf fields, and other options that may be available to them.

Mrs. Anderson asked Mr. Blumenthal what his and/or his coaches would prefer either grass or turf. What would be most useful, keep maintenance costs down, etc.? What are the needs of North Haven? Mr. Blumenthal stated that he and his coaches felt that there are far more benefits to the artificial turf as far as injuries and maintenance of the fields. Mrs. Anderson also stated that she spoke with some referees who in their opinion agreed that the turf was a safer alternative to a regular grass field

Mr. Dijk stated that there are so many studies out there in favor of turf fields and in favor of grass fields. He showed the Board of Education the different types of artificial turf there is, the cost of the turf and experiences he has with each of the different types, as well as the warranty on them.

There was discussion regarding the pros and cons regarding artificial turf vs. grass fields. Mr. Dijack showed the Board of Education Members samples of different types of turf and explained the pros and cons of each of them, as well as pricing and technical information regarding the different types of turf available.

The Board Members had many questions regarding the maintenance, cost, wear and tear, life span, health concerns, etc. of artificial turf and what would be a better option for North Haven.

Mrs. Caldwell stated that she was not in favor of any turf fields, as she does not feel that science has ruled out turf causing possible health issues. She is also concerned that the Town will not be able to afford replacing the fields 10-15 years down the road, when they may need to be replaced.

After much discussion, the Board of Education stated that they would suggest going forward with getting pricing to see how much it would cost to possibly do one or two turf fields but agreed they would like to continue, if possible financially to have as many turf fields as possible with one descending opinion by Ms. Caldwell due to concerns with cost of the turn fields and possible health concerns from the use of crumb rubber.

Adjourn: 8 p.m.