

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING FY18 BUDGET
Buker Elementary School Tuesday, January 17, 2017 7:00 PM
Buker Multi-Purpose Room

Present:

Michelle Bailey
Jeanise Bertrand
Deb Evans
Gene Lee
David Polito

Also present:

Michael Harvey, Superintendent
Wenham BOS representatives

- I. Call To Order:** Michelle Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm in the Buker School Multi-Purpose Room.
Town of Wenham Board of Selectmen Chair John Clemenzi called the BOS meeting to order concurrently.
The purpose of this meeting is to hear Gale Associates' presentation on the Turf Field Study and to ask questions regarding it. This meeting is not for the purpose of deliberation on the Turf Field.

II. Presentations by Gale Associates with Results of the Turf Field Study Exhibit B
Shaun Boyd of Gale Associates presented.

Discussion:

- *From Wenham BOS: Has this plan been reviewed by Conservation, Neighborhoods, and others affected—particularly by lighting issues? The lighting technology used is designed to help meet event lighting needs without spilling over into surrounding areas. Meetings are coming up which will allow other stakeholders to voice concerns.*
- *Are costs being divided out according to usage? Yes. Are there “cost escalator estimates” which could help inform us of contingencies? For example, market costs on labor are variable.*
- *Emergency Access? Currently designed for an ambulance. A fire truck could get down there, but turning radius is not provided.*
- *Would there be access for larger equipment to get to the back?*
- *Can individual items (press box, for instance) be removed from the plan as budget requires? Yes.*
- *Regarding usage—At what point would shared usage max out the capacity of the project? Synthetic Turf is not restricted by the need to allow natural grass to recover, but only by scheduling constraints. Town/Rec/School uses at present are in the 200+ events/year. A synthetic turf facility at UMASS Lowell which is comparable to this proposal allows for 750+ events/year.*
- *Typical natural grass maintenance is \$25,000/year. Synthetic turf maintenance averages \$1500 per year, excluding snow removal or re-painting of lines.*
- *How is snow removed? 1) Modified plow 2) Specifically designed snow blower 3) Warm-ups for student teams include final 1” shoveling*

- *Time frame before replacing turf is 10-12 years. UV rays are the greatest stressor on the materials. New generation turf fields are projected for approximately 14 years. Typical high school use would fall within the 12-14 year range.*
- *Replacement costs [9000 square feet costs \$400,000 to \$500,000, with infill collected, stored and reused]— are much less than initial installation.*
- *Re: shared space for soccer/baseball fields—use of different colored turfs helps to differentiate use.*
- *Observation: Maintenance costs would drop by \$20,000 every year, while replacement would increase \$40,000 every 14 years. No interruption in use. Natural grass fields require plant growing time, which restricts use periodically. Natural grass costs less, but there is a usage loss.*
- *Topsoil is removed from site for synthetic fields and replaced with a vertical drainage system and a curb to surround/contain the synthetic turf*
- *Heat index issues: the fields play hotter than natural grass. Evaporative cooling can help to alleviate the heat, which is generally held at 12-18 inches from the surface, after which the temperature matches the ambient air temp. Water on site is necessary for evaporative cooling. Most school based usage is finished before the highest temperatures are reached. [Note— higher heat index is an advantage during the winter, when it assists with melting off accumulated snow.]*

III. Vote to Adjourn

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL
COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADJOURN AT 8:00 PM.**

MOTION by David Polito; SECONDED by Deb Evans

Unanimously approved by 5members present; none opposed, no abstentions

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy R. Bergner
Clerk, H-WRSC Meeting