

ATHLETIC COMPLEX BUILDING COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019 – 5:30 P.M.

J.R. PAYDEN FIELD HOUSE

MINUTES

Chair Keith A. McLiverty called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited. The Athletic Complex Building Committee and the Field House/Baseball Field Committee were called to order at the same time; however, this is not a joint meeting. Also, the agenda items were changed out of sequence in order to have continuity with the Field House agenda.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. McLiverty asked everyone to remain standing to observe a Moment of Silence for Linda Benanto, wife of committee member Jim Benanto, who recently passed away.

Roll Call

Present: Keith A. McLiverty, Rob Hyder, Tom Abel, John Netto, Dennis O'Connell, Ron Sill, Anthony DeFala

Absent: Jim Benanto, Paul Mengold, Ken Marcucio, Sr., Peter Olenoski

Also Present: Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent of Schools
Mark Izzo, Finance Director, Derby Public Schools
Ed Arum, Arum Associates
Eric Roise, Kaestle Boos Associates (KBA)
Bob Ward, Reg. Sales Manager, AstroTurf Corporation
Ted Estwan, Bruce Sill, George Kurtyka, Joann Harris, Jeanine Netto,
George French, Field House and Baseball Field Committee

PUBLIC PORTION

Dr. Conway asked if anyone wished to address the committee.

Janice Marcucio, 34 Chatfield Street, Derby, CT

Ms. Marcucio said when there is a practice, cars are in the parking lot and often they are left running and their headlights are on. She said the lights shine right into her yard and house and asked if the committees could look into installing a barrier to block the light. Mr. McLiverty and Dr. Conway said they would look into this.

There were no other requests to speak during the public portion

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kurtyka (Field House Cmte.) with a second by Mr. DeFala (Field House Cmte.) to close the public portion. **Motion carried.**

ASTROTURF CORPORATION – APPLICATION #1 - \$512,121.25 - DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

Mr. McLiverty explained that Payment Application #1 is just for the turf field work – it is not for the track. He said AstroTurf has the punchlist items and the payment is for the turf, less retainage owed for the turf and no track.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Netto with a second by Mr. Hyder to authorize Patty Finn to submit the paperwork for the payment for Application #1 from AstroTurf Corporation in the amount of \$512,121.25. **Motion carried.**

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FIRST HOME GAME

The coin toss for the first game was discussed. An idea was presented to have the oldest living football player, baseball player, and cheerleader along with the Mayor and Coaches do the coin toss. The Captains of the football, baseball, and soccer teams and the Captain of the Cheerleaders would also be involved. All thought this was a good idea.

ASTROTURF CORPORATION – DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

Dr. Conway introduced Bob Ward from the AstroTurf Corporation and noted that Bob Wilson, also from AstroTurf, could not attend the meeting this evening but can be reached via phone should there be any questions for him.

Bob Ward, Regional Sales Manager for AstroTurf Corporation in New England, commented on how spectacular the entire project looks – it truly is magnificent. Mr. Ward informed the committees that he knows there has been questions regarding cleats and the fields. He said for baseball molded cleats are fine for all practices and metal cleats are fine for games with some caveats. He said for the pitcher digging at the mound can't happen if wearing metal cleats. Mr. Ward said they could tear all the way to the backing, and he would advise the use of metal cleats only under supervision.

Dr. Conway asked if he services other schools that just don't allow for metal cleats. Mr. Ward said yes there are quite a few. He told the committees that the schools that allow for metal cleats they're continuously replacing or making repairs to the turf. Mr. McLiverty said he feels if there are caveats and concerns we should just discuss banning metal cleats altogether. Mr. Ward said he would highly recommend it. Mr. Hyder stated that a baseball cleat doesn't have an extra spike in the toe. Mr. Ward said it really comes down to a coaching issue noting that it really doesn't give an advantage to dig in. Mr. Mengold said he would be in favor of just banning the metal cleats stating that a playing surface such as ours you can "stop on a dime." Mr. Abel said he thought we already had signage that states "No Metal Cleats." Mr. Netto said we do. Mr. McLiverty suggested just making a motion so we will have it on record as voted on.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Abel with a second by Mr. Sill to ban all metal cleats. **Motion carried.**

Grooming the field was briefly discussed. Mr. Ward said they don't like it to be groomed until at least 100 hours. He said you never want to get it down to the backing. Mr. McLiverty asked where the extra sand is being stored. Mr. Roise said it should be on the property somewhere. Mr. Marcucio asked if the warming track is the same as the outfield. Mr. Ward said it is a little different ratio – closer to the infield. Mr. DeFala questioned if we have a definitive maintenance schedule. Mr. McLiverty said he would get everyone a copy of the Maintenance Manual. Dr. Conway said training is currently scheduled for September 9th. Mr. DeFala stated that the maintenance schedule should be posted after training. Mr. Arum asked Mr. Ward how many times AstroTurf will come back to ensure the turf is ok. Mr. Ward said they usually come once a year. He said if there are any problems they are just a phone call away. Mr. Netto asked about the use of football sleds. Mr. Ward stated that new football sleds are fine - as they age they rust and will bleed through the turf and stain. It was noted that we can put down stainless steel runners.

Mr. McLiverty asked how long it would be before we would need to re-skin. Mr. Ward said there is currently an eight-year warranty. Mr. McLiverty asked about the cost to re-skin. Mr. Ward said you would be looking at \$400,000 to \$500,000. Mr. McLiverty asked about the track. Mr. Ward said he doesn't have that figure. Mr. McLiverty told the committee that we will have to approach BOAT (Board of Apportionment and Taxation) to start putting money away for this item.

The question of snow removal was discussed. Mr. Ward said snow blowers would be optimal. If you were to use a vehicle he suggests that PVC piping is installed to keep the plow a couple of inches up so it's never fully on the track. Mr. McLiverty asked if skins were purchased for the catcher/batter for practices noting that the maintenance manual recommends a mat due to wear. Mr. Ward said there's a special rubber mat that you can purchase. Mr. Netto said they have a removeable mound for baseball not softball.

Mr. Estwan (Field House Cmte.) suggested that we ban pickup trucks on all the fields noting that the weight of the vehicles could cause damage.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. Hyder to ban all vehicles except for maintenance vehicles on the fields. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Kurtyka (Field House Cmte.) stated that Mr. Estwan made a good point about the weight of the vehicles and questioned emergency vehicles accessing the fields. Mr. Ward said in a case of an emergency an ambulance is going to go on the field and he feels that no one should have a problem with that. Mr. DeFala asked what type of maintenance vehicle would be suitable to go on the fields. Mr. McLiverty said the track would be able to hold the weight, the fields wouldn't. Mr. Roise said he would have AstroTurf supply us with a weight figure.

Mr. Bradshaw informed the committees that Storms did a walk around to see options for emergency purposes. Mr. Estwan said he has no problems at all with an emergency vehicle accessing the field. His concern is them accessing the field to turn around. Mr. Ward said the emergency vehicle could always be kept outside the gate. Mr.

McLivery asked the committees if anyone had any questions, concerns regarding the access of vehicles on the fields.

There was a discussion regarding whether the field is designated as a landing spot for Life Star. Mr. Netto said he believes it is the designated spot. Dr. Conway said he believes at the very start of this project it was moved to the right of the field to the Middle School site.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Netto with a second by Mr. Sill to have the recording secretary issue a letter to the Office of Emergency Management that emergency helicopters are not to land on either of the fields. **Motion carried.**

Mr. McLivery asked the committee if there were any further questions. None were raised.

Mr. Ward thanked everyone for the opportunity to have worked on this project. He said it is a paramount facility and they will definitely be using it for their marketing. Mr. McLivery thanked Mr. Ward for all their hard work and stated that out of all the contractors on this project they were by far the best.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. McLivery to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Patty Finn
Recording Secretary

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE ATHLETIC COMPLEX BUILDING COMMITTEE AT THEIR NEXT MEETING.