

Facilities Meeting Thursday, March 6, 2014 – District Service Center

Topic – Turf Field & Retention Basin at Quakertown Elementary

In Attendance: Bob Riegel, Zane Stauffer, Kelly Harper, George Moore, Stephen Ripper, Justin from Boucher & James, Norm Long, Sylvia Kalazs, George Banas, Brian Kishbaugh, Paul Stepanoff, Bill Harner, Ed Scholl, Brandon Roth, Jess Roth, Jim Roth Sr., Melissa Sell, Ruthanne Barndt, Jan Detweiler, Jay Detweiler, Cathy Covalleski, Jill Healy, Alexandria Johnson, Sarah Henry, Brock Parker

Meeting began at 6:00 promptly.

George Moore started off the meeting explaining the turf field installation as well as the plans for the water retention pond. He provided a rendering of both the Artificial Turf and the retention pond from an aerial view with the Turf field and retention pond photo shopped in.

Parent Melissa Sell expressed her concern about the Quakertown Elementary space not being useable and is very uncomfortable with staffing logistics of taking students to the turf field, crossing the street and since there are no restroom facilities bringing kids back across the street.

Parent Jess Roth emailed the board questions they have about this process. School Board President said questions would be addressed here at tonight's meeting.

Stephen Rippers comments:

- Explained the process to keep proper maintenance of the basin.
- There will be sod or grass above the retention area.
- The Basin will fill with water; the field will take time to dry out just as many other grass areas after rain fall.

Mrs. Sell wanted to know if there will be money set aside to keep up with the maintenance as time goes on. She expressed her concern with EPA research of a wet basin next to a school a playground. Concerns with having staff available on the playground, as well as, staff to take children across the street to the turf field.

Mr. Roth Sr. stated that QCSD engineer stated this may not work. We could have a wet basin. This was stated in the December Quakertown Borough Planning Meeting.

Ed Scholl stated that was prior to the 18 inch dig.

George Moore stated that the borough engineer is now okay with the plans

Brandon Roth stated that in the borough report they had dug down 42 inches and hit the water table. Next dug down to 52 inches and hit the water table. He also stated that he does want the turf field to happen. Born & raised in Quakertown, went to QCSD. Mr. Roth Jr. is concerned over the long haul that the retention pond design will not function. What guarantee do QE parents have if this fails?

Stephen Ripper read the agency results to the room.

Paul Stepanoff stated that we will not send students out on the basin if it is wet. The basin will drain by gravity and may take time to dry out.

Parent Kathy asked if there is any other existing elementary playground that has a basin on it.

Mr. Ripper continued to read from the engineer's letter.

Mr. Roth Sr. worries about making assumptions and has an infiltration concern.

Mr. Ripper continued to read the engineer's statement.

The Parent Group expressed worry that in a few years there will be no money to fix this if it fails.

Mr. Roth Sr. stated that historically the field has been unusable when wet, worried that field & basin may not be available.

Bob Riegel stated QCSD uses the Alumni Field only 42 times a year. This is much less than many other school districts use their stadiums. Most use it over 500 times a year.

Mr. Roth Jr. was concerned about insurance premiums going up with students crossing the street during school day.

Paul Stepanoff stated that students will be supervised while crossing the street to play on the turf field.

Parent Group – the community uses QE playground during non-school hours.

Paul Stepanoff – Children will only go across the street when the basin is unavailable.

Stephen Ripper pointed out areas behind QE that would be available during wet times to play.

Parent Group – concerned that QE is losing open space and that there will be nowhere for kids to run. There can potentially be 150 students out at recess.

Mr. Roth Jr. – QE students will be losing 50% of play space and green space.

Brian Kishbaugh – his children have gone through Tohickon Valley, one still in attendance. TV play area is a swamp as well as a small play area. He wishes his kids had the opportunity to play on the turf field like QE students will.

QE Parent wanted to know why the district is taking away what we have.

District Engineer spoke and said this plan should work. He will review and give his opinion. Basin will probably drain correctly. Let parents know that there is a dual use field/retention basin in Newtown SD.

Mr. Roth Sr. – what if this doesn't work?

Mrs. Barndt – our #1 priority is the best interest of QE residence and students. She has spoken to the board previously about her concerns: mosquitos, chemical treatments etc. Mrs. Barndt has children who play sports including football and will be using the turf field. We are a community and should be listened to. Mrs. Barndt read her previous comments from school board meetings to the group.
Gary Landes wanted to know what all options were. Increase taxes?

Bob Riegel - 1 mill of tax would be a \$28 increase in taxes to residents. To put the underground drainage system in it would cost another \$400,000 or approximately 1 mil.

Mr. Roth Sr. wanted to know if another bid could be put out with the tank underneath ground.

Gary Landes again asked for other options.

Ed Scholl stated that the rate of flow wasn't realistic and that the borough has looked into alternatives.

Mr. Roth Jr. stated QE parents want the field to happen but would like to see the bid with the underground drainage & basin included. It would probably cost 20% more but would like to see the bids side by side for the community to review.

Paul Stepanoff stated that bids have come in higher and going out again not fiduciary sound. Many families can't afford a tax hike. The Board must listen to entire community. It is a very difficult balance as a board member and we cannot agree to re-bid. If we delay the bid price could go up substantially higher. There is also a construction worry of not getting this done and the price going up. Requested that more parents please come to the board meetings.

Mr. Roth Jr. stated that there is no public knowledge to parents. Parent groups are not addressed.

Parent Group – No topics, no notes, no board minutes on basin at QE. School Board members did not all know about detention pond. Ms. Serge was told there was a possibility of a detention pond being placed on QE grounds. We feel as though there is a communication problem.

Dr. Harner would like all Board Reports placed on the website for public review.

Mr. Roth would also like to see Committee Meetings made public. This would help with last minute concerns.

Paul Stepanoff stated public bid was on board minutes. On 4/11/13 board minutes stated go ahead with plans; 5/3/13 bid was rejected.

Stephen Ripper said he will make sure the policy is brought up at the school board meeting to keep the community aware.

Mr. Roth Sr. said he would like committee reports to be available to the public as well.

Gary Landes stated that he wants parents more informed. He feels as though the district is over engineering to make this work. Mr. Landes stated that his family is vested in the community. He brings his family over to QE playground and wants concerns satisfied.

Parent group – the only reason they knew about this was they witnessed the drilling and questioned what was going on.

Paul Stepanoff – March 13, 2014 is the date the board will be approving the bid. He asked our engineer if he would be able to review by 3/13/14 deadline? Mr. Stepanoff gave authority for this review to be done. He asked Mr. Ripper & Mr. Landes if they were okay with this and they both agreed yes. They will have to seek 3 more board members to agree to pay for additional engineering review.

Parent Group – this is overwhelming to them. They do want the turf field but not at the expense of QE children losing their playground field. They wish they had more time to investigate.

Mrs. Barndt – concerned over health issues with the synthetic turf field. Could someone research MRSA, Brush Burns with the turf fields? Concerned over the spiked fence, mosquitoes & chemical treatments to the basin area and dual use fields.

Dr. Harner asked what is estimated date of completion and George Moore stated July 3, 2014. Dr. Harner asked when is this bid good until. George Moore answered 60 days.

Dr. Harner said this committee report/minutes will be online within 24 hours.

Engineer said he will need all storm water reports.

Parent Group thanked board & committee members for allowing them to speak and for listening to their concerns.

Mr. Stepanoff thanked the parent group for attending.

This portion of the meeting ended at 7:20 PM, 3/6/14

Meeting minutes taken by Terry San Angelo

George Moore went over the Bids results for Artificial Turf, Stadium Fencing, and Landscaping. The winning bid was from Grace Industries, Inc. as follows:

Artificial Turf	\$1,141,300
Stadium Fencing	\$ 144,700
Landscaping	\$ 63,100

Norm Long from Turner Construction talked about progress on the High School Renovation Project. He talked about phase 1 completion in August and December of 2014 being on time. The Administration and Guidance areas should be done early (May or June) enabling us to move in early. He talked about a Rain screen mockup being put up so people can see what the outside will eventually look like. He also brought up an Asbestos Change Order that is in the works.

Bob Riegel presented Construction Finance Reports showing how much we borrowed-to-date, how much we spent-to-date, and how much is currently available. Another Report detailed line items of what we spent.

There was discussion about whether we wanted to do phase 2 Paving Projects this summer at Milford Middle School (in the back) and district-wide pothole repair. The district was directed to work with Boucher & James, our district engineers to develop specifications.

Bob Riegel talked about ordering Furniture and other Equipment for the areas that will be complete in August, 2014. Steve Ripper wanted us to purchase from companies that are from Pennsylvania as much as possible.

Finally, Kelly Harper discussed the boiler problems we are having at the High School and how we are going to have to deal with issues for the next three years until the Geothermal system comes online.