

**DECEMBER 2, 2019
WILMETTE, IL
SPECIAL MEETING**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, December 2, 2019, at Highcrest Middle School, 569 Hunter Road, Wilmette, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with President Lisa Schneider-Fabes presiding.

Members Present:	Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Jon Cesaretti, Frank Panzica, Amy Poehling, Erin Stone
Members Absent:	Mark Steen, Ellen Sternweiler
Administrators Present:	Kari Cremascoli, Ellen Crispino, Tony DeMonte, Heather Glowacki, Katie Lee, Kristin Swanson, Kelly Jackson, Susie Carlson, Linda Moric
Others:	Stan Stankiewicz, Joe Papanicholas of Nicholas and Associates, Colby Lewis of STR Architects, Village of Wilmette Board President Bob Bielinski, Engineering & Public Works representatives Bridgette Berger-Raish and Dan Mannis, Assistant Village Manager Mike Braiman, Darren Olson of Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd. (CBBEL), Matt Moffitt of Baxter and Woodman, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Schneider-Fabes read an announcement requesting everyone be respectful of each other, only speak when called upon, and refrain from distracting behaviors such as such as loud conversations, cheering, clapping, or booing.

STORMWATER PROJECT PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP AND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

District 39 Superintendent Dr. Kari Cremascoli and Village Board President Bob Bielinski thanked everyone for attending to discuss the Village stormwater project scheduled for spring of 2020 through April 2021 within the Community Playfields behind Highcrest Middle School. District 39 and the Village representatives planned this meeting to discuss the scope, timeline, planning, impact and safety concerns related to the project and its proximity to the school district as well as to further consider a potential Intergovernmental Agreement for easements, access and cooperation related to the project.

In follow-up to the Board of Education's Committee of the Whole Meeting in October when the Village's stormwater project in the Community Playfields was presented and discussed in detail with the Board of Education, staff from the Village of Wilmette and District 39 met in November to discuss more specifics of the project and its potential impact on and partnership with the school district. The Village plans to go out to bid by mid-December and begin work in April. Ms. Berger-Raisch stated the Village requested temporary construction easement for early and late access through the Highcrest parking lot with the goal of completing the major portions of stormwater installation by start of school.

Mr. Olson recapped the presentation detailing the scope of the project. Feedback provided by the school district included a myriad of topics such as safety, easement access, impact on school arrival and dismissal, fencing, construction limitations, field access, bicycle access, and dust control. He stated the 6' fencing surrounding the site would have black-out fabric to limit visual screening. Bike path access would remain open during spring but closed during summer until the area was safe to

reopen. The Village has planned to use Birchwood Lane as an alternate contingency route in the fall to ensure project completion, limit easement access through the school parking lot after August 15, and minimize disturbance during school times.

Mr. Moffitt explained the details of construction noting early access would take place from April 6th through the last day of school. Contractors would access through the Highcrest driveway except during drop off and pick-up times. The village would also notify the school if construction would take place after hours. A spotter would be provided to protect traffic and maintain safety. He noted early access would include 2-4 pieces of heavy construction equipment and deliveries would occur after school hours and/or on weekends.

Board members had questions regarding funding/costs of the project, the requested easement, the specific phases of construction, safety and security related to the project and its proximity to the school, protection of the District's underground fiber, field access, bike path usage, safe routes to school and crossing guards at intersections, parking lot impact and restoration, school signage, stormwater volume detention, building vibration, noise issues as school windows would be open due to lack of air conditioning, dust control, if fencing would be adequate to deter entry, and depth of the stormwater hole. President Fabes noted losing use of the playfields for one year directly affects instructional programming especially for physical education classes, extra-curricular sports and various school events. She noted this would also affect park district sports programming. Ms. Berger-Raish said a safe zone could be created for outdoor classes by pulling back fencing and creating a safe entry with a spotter and could also provide a portable toilet nearby. Principal Jackson noted this area was also the designated emergency relocation site in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Cesaretti suggested moving the project to the center of the field. Ms. Berger-Raish explained the park district chose the location as it was the least used playfield and also a very poorly drained space that floods frequently. Mr. Olson explained water comes from the south and east and moving the location of the site would be very expensive as they would have to hydraulically remove excess water from a distance. Mr. Bielinski stated moving the vault was not an option due to confines of the park district and schematics of cottonwood trees which the park district wishes to protect.

Discussion ensued regarding the definition of substantial completion related to the July 15th decision point, possible replacement of parking lot lights, use of local access roads, safety and security issues, impact on school programming, easement specifications, notifying area residents, assuring the timeline goals and contingency plans with commitments that these would be carefully planned for. These specifics will be detailed within the intergovernmental agreement. Mr. Moffitt noted similar projects were completed on time in Glenview, Wilmette, and Northbrook. Mr. Braiman stated the village will offer an early completion incentive to meet the projected deadline. Mr. Bielinski stated communication would go out to residents once construction plans were confirmed. Ms. Berger-Raish stated the communication would be published shortly regarding the phases of construction and use of local roads. She also noted a similar stormwater project at West Park included a deeper storage tank that had all pieces poured in place rather than precast and the project took place over the winter. The village used the same incentives and controls and the project was completed on time.

Mr. Moffitt continued to explain the heavy phase of the project that would occur during summer months. He stated use of Birchwood would be known and decided upon by no later than July 15th allowing time to restore the school parking lot and driveway to original or better condition before the start of school. Mr. Moffitt explained Phase 3 reverts to the same access as Phase 1 with minimal vehicle and materials traffic to finalize grading, trap installations, and placement of sod.

Discussion ensued regarding safety, students' bike and walking paths, and safe routes to schools. Board members questioned the number of manholes to be installed and possible safety hazards. Board members asked about the use of temporary air conditioning to minimize noise and dust.

Mr. DeMonte noted the school district's fiber line was installed about 10 years ago and runs through the community playfields at Highcrest and the junior high. He noted the fiber runs all network traffic

through the Mikaelian Education Center and provides for communication and security matters. He stated if the fiber was damaged, the District would lose internet, phone lines, communication between HVAC, security systems, and the maintenance center. The District relies on internet for communication, 1:1 environments including iPads and other devices, communication with parents, and curricular activities. Mr. DeMonte checked into Comcast and AT&T about setting up a secondary connection but both would not commit to anything less than a three-year agreement. He noted the phone line had been damaged during the Locust Road construction and the AT&T emergency crew came and fixed it. As the District owns the fiber there would be no emergency crew for repairs which could run \$30K and up. He stated there is a tower on the junior high and if another was set up at Highcrest, the District would have two access points that could provide a temporary backup with adequate speeds, not high speeds, using special antennae. He noted the estimated cost would be \$18K-\$20K. Mr. DeMonte stated this could be completed prior to construction and when the project is completed the system could be converted to become wireless access for clubs, physical education, and other outdoor activities. Mr. Braiman stated the village would recommend approval of \$20K allowance and District 39 could select the vendor to install the system.

Dr. Cremascoli presented a list of questions, most of which were addressed during previous discussion. She asked if any unforeseen occurrences impacted the school district, would the village be willing to go to mediation to amicably resolve the issue. Mr. Bielinski stated mediation wouldn't work as it would take three months to initiate and the project would be completed by that time. Discussion ensued regarding resolutions to any situations that might arise. All agreed to find alternative solutions.

District 39 requested the village notify the school district regarding any unplanned access. Board members requested communication with residents be conducted for community support, especially as relates to the probable use of Birchwood Road for access in the fall. Members also discussed emergency protocols, security of the site, and if background checks would be conducted on the construction crew. Dr. Cremascoli asked about liability insurance. Mr. Braiman noted any liability would be covered through the village and the contractor.

Mr. Lewis and Mr. Papanicholas asked about capacity of the storm water retention trap and how the storage might be shared. Ms. Berger-Raish stated it would be the park district's decision on how that would be allocated.

The group discussed the needs and details of the final Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), acknowledging that it will take additional time to legally document all that has been discussed. Ms. Berger-Raish said that a draft of the IGA would be released next week and submitted to the school district for legal counsel review. Understanding that it will take some time for this agreement to be fully reviewed and finalized prior to acceptance, Mr. Braiman requested that the Board of Education consider a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU would assist the Village in moving forward with planning in anticipation that all aspects of a mutually agreed upon IGA can be finalized early 2020. The option of an MOU was discussed and the Board indicated a willingness to consider this. Dr. Cremascoli suggested the draft MOU document be reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on December 9th. If reasonable and acceptable by the Board of Education, the MOU could then be considered for approval at the December 16th Board of Education meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Being no further business, Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by, Ms. Stone, to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Education at 9:20 p.m. by **General Consent**.

President

Secretary