

Facilities committee meeting 3-1-23 Notes

I. Call to Order 9:02 am

II. Roll Call

Tali Faris-Hylen

Elizabeth Lyons

Billy Hastings

Mike Stahlmann

III. Approval of Agenda approved by Lyons seconded by Faris-Hylen

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2023 approved by Lyons seconded by Faris-Hylen^[SEP]

V. Public Comment

Karin Polischuk - concerned about playground. Told in November a bid was going out. Glencairn has not had adequate playgrounds since 2014. District hadn't made it suitable. Staff spent time purchasing playhouses, building flooring, etc to put things there. Very little equipment for the kids. School then told items needed to be removed.

Wanted something to move forward last meeting- January. Equipment continues to degrade (since 2019). Now 2023, playground is in much worse condition now than beginning of year. Heard there are moves to do something.

Principal contacted to see what was going on after last meeting. Stated nobody was consulted on this. Staff members have put together equipment after school and would give input on things that are appropriate. They need things available for kids over 3rd grade. No appropriate ladder for kids to use.

Believes things are in progress. Asking that a bit of urgency given to this matter.

Also drainage pond- principals of elementary schools didn't know they were going in. Outdoor classroom and retention pond has eaten up free space and caused problems with playground drainage. No plants in it and there is standing water therefore a safety hazard. Entire playground is muddy and gross. Also an empty wood chip pit of mud. 50-70% of playground is unusable because it is covered in mud. Kids are coming in covered in mud because of this.

Angela Sperecher- parent of 2nd and 4th grader at Whitehills.

Similar concerns to Karin. Niece has mobility limitations that opened her eyes to see how not

accessible these playgrounds are to younger and kids with mobility issues. Concerned about WH playground as Karin is concerned with Glencairn.

Equipment is not accessible. No ramps for slides, no space for creative play. Real issues for kids with mobility.

Weather has made half playground unusable so kids are limited to blacktop. This can cause behavioral issues in classroom when they don't get enough space to run and burn energy.

Muddy conditions are also an upkeep issue. i.e. Woodchips get dug out under swings so littler kids can't even use them. Swings are also very loud and can be distracting for all kids (specifically those with special needs.)

She had previously reached out in November and received no response.

Was looking at a playground audit because she was looking for this. Need to send her this. She is resending email to address.

Look at this as a diversity/inclusion initiative. Elementary schools get left out on a lot of the conversations at the board level. Let's devote more resources here. Said - Let's work with ELEF and other parents on this (husband is head of ELEF).

Amanda Epolito- Daughter K at Donley. Can not access some of the playground equipment- she is smaller and often uses a wheelchair. Can't use this on woodchips and now requires an aid at recess to have support to access equipment that is so large. This has affected her socially unable to play with peers.

Amanda worked with principal who agreed there are issues. Can we look into ramps to go over woodchips. Things that can be done to make it easier. i.e. Kids with walkers that have braces etc, just can't move among the woodchips.

Not a lot of imaginative structures- would love to see more of these things purchased for kids of younger ages.

VI. Agenda Topics/Action Items

- Handicap doors/accessibility in District

Per Billy- got here January 9. Heard of these issues. In prior position in Haslett they had push button doors. He found "The Door Pro" to do a district audit in Haslett and gave a price to get all those doors working correctly. This man came out last week and went to every handicapped door throughout entire district. He gave estimate and within a week will have total price. Previously, Billy had this person come once a year to do an audit. Will update on pricing at next meeting and action steps.

- Recent power outage at Marble

Had a couple problems there due to HVAC unit shorting out and has been fixed.

- Custodial/Maintenance staffing update

Happy to say only position they have to fill is an on-call 4-hour custodian.

- Purchase of mower

Hustler mower purchased. Have an 8-foot cutting deck. Prior they were paying an outside company to mow the high school. Now we are going to do this ourselves. This will be about a 2 year payback for this mower but it was already in our budget. Billy thinks it's important for us to have control over cutting the grass vs. a contractor. He can ensure this can be done when it is needed.

- Playground update

Lorraine working with GMB Architect to get a bid for the playground at Glencairn.

Billy will address woodchip issues at elementary schools.

Billy to look into handicap matting to put under all swings.

Will look into squeaking things.

Grass and planting and retaining ponds were probably not planted in time enough to take. It was required to have established plants in there (per contract). They will get ahold of them to let them know nothing grew. New person in grounds department is going to focus on this to get grass grown in areas there are not. They are going to plant early Summer.

If they can't get ponds to drain, they will make it work.

Worked with sod at Red Cedar, Marble and Green. They did this on high traffic areas around the building.

Care and maintenance of equipment is under facilities. Selecting of equipment and placing of this is usually parent groups/principals/Rich.

- Lighting project for the auditorium - approved on Monday.

VII. Announcements

VIII. Adjournment - 9:30 am.