

Adzick Field - Facility Study
September 14, 2016

Summary

In May 2016, the Board approved a motion to rename Field 7, the CHS baseball field, Adzick Field. At that time, the Board directed administration to conduct a facility study to review current field conditions and develop options for improving/renovating Adzick Field. Brian Davis of Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company (turf consultants) and art Bond of Bond Architects worked with District staff to complete the Facility Study and will present the analysis and options that they developed to the Board of Education.

Description of Agenda Item

Initial review of the Facility Study that was conducted to evaluate options for improvements and renovations to Adzick Field (formerly Field 7). Board Policy FB “Facilities Planning” provides the Board of Education with the authority to make the necessary provisions to carry out the goals and objectives of the school district through careful facilities planning.

Background Information

In May 2016, the Board approve a motion to rename Field 7, the CHS baseball field, to Adzick Field. At that time, the Board directed administration to conduct a facility study to review current field conditions and develop options for improving/renovating Adzick Field. Simultaneously, a group of CHS alumni began working with the Clayton Education Foundation to develop a fundraising plan and conduct a capital campaign to help defray the District’s cost of renovating/improving Adzick Field. Fontbonne University would also be a likely partner in the project.

Current Conditions

The current condition and heavy usage of Adzick Field necessitate that some course of action be taken to address field conditions. Current issues that impact the performance of the field and the ability to adequately meet current usage requirements include:

- Improper grades/poor drainage
- Compacted soils (exacerbates poor drainage issue)
- Inefficient/broken irrigation system
- Overuse/lack of rest
- Field layout that supports single sport only
- Bullpen locations that limit player safety/protection
- Too many years of temporary (short-term) fixes/repairs

Potential Solutions

Four options are described within the scope of the report:

1. Status Quo (no change to current maintenance/usage)
2. Major Repairs and Limited Renovation (addresses some issues identified above but does not solve for all; would postpone need for significant work)
3. Full Turf Replacement – Natural Turf (Total replacement with grass turf addresses all issues, but limits multi-sport use of field and requires reduction in usage in order to maintain proper field conditions and performance.)
4. Full Turf Replacement – Synthetic Turf (addresses all issues, increases usage time and provides the opportunity to develop a premiere multi-sport complex)

Title IX Considerations

Title IX is the federal law that requires comparable facilities for comparable programs, in this case boys baseball and girls softball. Any improvements to athletic facilities made by the School District of Clayton have potential Title IX considerations. This rings true for all of the options considered in this report except maintaining the status quo and option four. Options two and three would require the District to investigate what, if any, Title IX accommodations would need to be considered if either option were implemented. Option four allows the renovated field to function as a performance and practice field for both boys baseball and girls softball with the added bonus of being able to include girls field hockey.

Report Conclusion

While maintaining the status quo or implementing limited repairs/renovations are options, neither is a long-term solution as the condition and performance of the field will continue to be an ongoing issue. To provide a viable, long-term solution for the field, the best option is to undertake a complete renovation and replacement of the existing turf. While a natural grass, “sand cap” would represent a significant improvement over current playing conditions, it also prohibits multi-sport use of the field and, should the District adhere to best practice for hours of use, would necessitate a reduction in the overall use of the field. A synthetic turf solution, on the other hand, will maximize flexibility, usage and performance of the field, create a lower ongoing annual cost to the District (as compared to option three) and comply with Title IX requirements by also providing new field facilities for girls softball. Undertaking significant improvements to Adzick Field also provides the opportunity to add components to the field (pressbox, storage, improved lighting, etc.) that will allow it to become one of the premiere multi-sport complexes in the Metro area.

Recommendation

That the Board of Education provide input and direction on the options developed to improve Adzick Field in the Facility Study.

Motion

None. Item is for information and discussion only.

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