

BOARD BRIEF

Date: February 7, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Dr. Alicia J. Hart, Director of Educational Facilities
Mr. Michael J. Humphreys, Instructional Specialist for Health, Physical Education and Family Life

THROUGH: Mrs. Mignon Anthony, Chief Operating Officer
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Update on Multi-Court Playing Surfaces (Mini-Pitches) and Community Engagement Efforts

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 2: Family and Community Engagement
Goal 4: Facilities and the Learning Environment
Goal 5: Health and Wellness

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 5: Strategic Plan

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Communications and Customer Service for External Stakeholders
Physical Education/Fitness

SUMMARY:

As a follow-up to the November 25, 2019 School Board meeting, this brief provides an update on the Multi-Court Playing Surfaces (Mini-Pitches). ACPS has completed a number of outreach efforts; the details and results of the engagement efforts (along with a current update on spending plans) are highlighted below:

James K. Polk Elementary School

- ***Engagement Efforts***

In March 2019, the initial project idea was shared with the PTA. An update on project status was provided to the PTA in April 2019; additionally, a parent representative was selected to be included in project development. A formal project kick-off meeting was held in May 2019; the Principal, PTA representative, Educational Facilities staff and project managers were in attendance. Updates were provided to the community later that month; community feedback included a request to review the proposal of adding lights to the mini-pitch site. In August 2019, the Principal informed the PTA Board that the light proposal was not moving forward. More

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than 300 families attended the two additional community meetings that were held at the end of August 2019. The last formal engagement effort occurred in September 2019, prior to the installation of the mini-pitch.

- **Spending Plans**

The US Soccer Foundation (USSF) donated \$14,000 to James K. Polk. The below spending plans were developed following school-based engagement with PTA and community members:

- Resurfacing and painting of blacktop
 - Adding kickball diamond, four square, hop scotch and possible sensory course
- Four new basketball hoops
 - Includes two lower hoops on blue top
- Two-four pieces of new equipment for playground
 - Dependent on additional funds raised in PTA effort

John Adams Elementary School

- **Engagement Efforts**

PTA engagement began in June 2019. Parents were provided an update on the project status in September 2019. In January 2020, parents voted to spend the \$7,000 donation on safety wrapping and padding.

- **Spending Plans**

The US Soccer Foundation (USSF) donated \$7,000 to John Adams. The below spending plans were developed following school-based engagement with PTA and community members:

- Safety wrapping and padding existing structure

Signage

ACPS received a standard signage design from the US Soccer Foundation (USSF). The design included the logo of the funding partner (Target) for USSF, as well as other details that was determined to be extraneous. Therefore, ACPS did not agree with this design and submitted recommended changes to USSF, to include removal of the logo and other modifications to their verbiage. ACPS wanted to ensure that the signage highlighted the program and not serve as advertisement for an entity. All submitted requests were approved by USSF and are currently with Target for review.

BACKGROUND:

Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA) and The US Soccer Foundation (USSF) approached ACPS in December 2018 for an exciting opportunity that the USSF is promoting nationally through the “Safe Places to Play” initiative. The goal of Safe Places to Play is to provide a safe place for children and adults to play soccer through the placement of customized, hard-court surfaces that are well suited to both organized soccer programs and pick-up games. As the demand increases in regards to the usage of ACPS soccer facilities and the number of youth involved in the various programs, these courts will help with providing needed places to play. After approaching ACPS through the Office of School, Business and Community Partnerships, USSF worked with the ACPS Operations Department, as well as the Instructional Specialist for Health/Physical Education and Family Life Education, to work with principals to identify potential sites. Selections were based upon the suitability of the site, the infrastructure in place, and the school leadership’s willingness to communicate with its stakeholders about the proposed mini-pitches. The USSF Safe Places to Play Grant, a community-funded capital project as defined by School Board Policy FB and Regulation FB-R, included the installation of small, ready-to-use soccer courts by August 2019 with USSF partner-funding to be identified during 3 the process. ACPS signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the sites in February 2019 and a USSF grant agreement in June 2019.

It was determined that James K. Polk and John Adams Elementary Schools provided the most suitable sites for the structures with anticipated high levels of student and community demand. The

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administration and staff at both sites were involved during the process throughout. However comprehensive community engagement was delayed while technical specifics for the installations were negotiated between USSF and ACPS from March through June 2019.

Aggressive schedules by USSF and its funders required ACPS to move quickly to remain eligible for the grant funding. The mini-pitch multi-use courts were substantially completed for use in August 2019. The estimated value of the grant was \$180,000.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the update on Multi-Court Playing Surfaces (Mini-Pitches) and Community Engagement Efforts.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

CONTACT:

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