

Summary Report of the Interactive Public Input Meeting



BWSC facilitated an interactive public meeting on April 27, 2017 to gather input from teachers, parents, parks users, and others on their programming ideas. The meeting was held at the Freedom Middle School Gym. At the meeting, input was gathered from the approximately 40 attendees through several exercises.

Participants provided input through voting on top priorities for future facilities and programming from a predetermined list assembled by the project team. Attendees were given three dot stickers to vote for their top three choices for the two different categories.

Participants were then asked to design their ideal park. This activity involved placing scaled templates of various facilities, such as soccer fields and track, as well as gardens, pavilions, and public art, on a large aerial photo of the schools.



Finally, participants were asked to share any additional thoughts they had on a large sticky note as they left the meeting. Many additional ideas were captured in this area that helped the team to further understand the prioritization.

The comments and information gathered during this public meeting will help the planning team determine community priorities, and it will guide the development of the conceptual plans.



Meeting Input Summary

Facilities

Take Away: Make the facilities easily accessible, flexible, and student oriented.

- 1. Walking trails and sidewalks was the highest-ranked priority for new facilities (18 votes).** At the meeting, both verbal and written input was received that the track needed to be improved and that major investments in sidewalks were needed to connect the facilities at the four schools. Additionally, commentary was received that the cross-country team was at a disadvantage because of inadequate practice facilities. Investments in sidewalks to connect the schools could not only provide the facilities to improve the cross-country program, but also allow for a more efficient sharing of resources among the four schools and connect to Jim Warren Park.
- 2. Multi-purpose fields for sports such as soccer or lacrosse (13 votes) was second.** Attendees at the meeting reported that the facilities at the schools have been “loved to death,” the grass needs to be rehabbed, and nets and other fixtures need to be replaced. Overall, attendees wanted flexibility for the fields to easily accommodate different sports and different age groups.
- 3. Youth Softball/Baseball and Tennis tied for third place (12 votes).** Comments were received in writing and verbally at the meeting that it is a problem for softball to be located off-site. Children with working parents who do not have transportation to other locations cannot participate in the sport, so it would be preferable to have it on-site. Many comments were received about problems with the current baseball field and need for more and improved facilities.
- 4. Following behind were amenities to add to the comfort and usability of the facilities, like a trees and shade structures (7 votes) and a pavilion (6 votes).**

Programming

Take Away: Programs geared toward outdoor learning and nature are as important as team sports.

- 1. Outdoor classrooms (13 votes) was the highest-ranked priority for programming, followed by Nature Interpretive Displays and Summer Day Camps (11 votes).** Concern was expressed in written and verbal comments that there are a high number of children who are possibly unsupervised after school and over summer break, and that there was a need at the school to provide programming.
- 2. Soccer (11 votes) was the highest-ranked team sport, followed by Softball (6 votes) and Baseball (6 votes).** Much of the input at the table exercise focused on improving fields for group athletic sports, and it was noted that these fields are in high demand for those activities.
- 3. Art lessons (6 votes) and garden clubs (6 clubs).** At the table exercise, attendees suggested that students could construct and maintain gardens as service projects, or it could be built into school curriculum.

