



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

970 Madison ▪ Oak Park ▪ Illinois ▪ 60302 ▪ ph: 708.524.3000 ▪ fax: 708.524.3019 ▪ www.op97.org

TO: Albert G. Roberts, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Therese M. O'Neill, Asst. Supt. for Finance & Operations

RE: Turf Fields – Brooks & Julian Middle Schools

DATE: April 28, 2015

As you know, earlier this year, the Park District reached out to District 97 inquiring if we would like to partner with them in installing a turf field at Julian Middle School which they were most willing to fund totally. Given their oversight through the Intergovernmental Agreement for maintenance of fields and a joint assessment of all District fields, both Brooks and Julian were determined to be most in need of repair and upgrade; however, you, as well as the Board, were concerned about the equity issue of addressing one, not both middle schools, simultaneously.

We reached out to Peter Traczyk who then began contacting potential partners (Chicago Edge, AYSO, OP Youth Baseball), and you asked me to cull through our current 2014-15 budget to determine if District 97 might have some one-time unused dollars we possibly could allocate to address both fields, in concert with partnering with the Park District. Jan Arnold, Executive Director of the Park District, further reached out to the principals at “Wild about Wellness” to determine if any interest and/or support, on their part, could be sought for this project. Through the participation of all identified, the full funding of this project was realized.

District 97 initially approved a Memorandum of Understanding at its March 17, 2015 meeting that outlined the components of an Intergovernmental Agreement between District 97 and the Park District in the event total funding could be realized. Since securing all funds for this project, two community meetings were held at each of the two middle schools (April 13 at Brooks and April 15 at Julian) at which time approximately 20 individuals were present at each. Not only did you and Jan first provide a chronology of “how we got to this point” and the scope of the project itself, both principals spoke to the benefits to be derived daily on the part of our students but an individual physical education teacher from both schools also addressed how this improvement would benefit scheduled classes and wellness/play opportunities for our students. Both meetings were positive with some concerns being raised about the need for better communication and maintaining as much natural grass/landscaping components that were possible.

Attached is the proposed Draft Intergovernmental Agreement between District 97 and the Park District and we will be seeking Board approval at the May 5, 2015 meeting. Also attached is the original Memorandum of Understanding and the CAPEX scoring sheet for this project.

