



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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

TO: Members, Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Albert G. Roberts, Superintendent of Schools

RE: MOU between District 97 & Park District–Upgrade of Brooks & Julian Middle School Fields

DATE: March 17, 2015

As you know, Jan Arnold and I have been working to develop an equitable solution for the upgrading of the two middle school fields. Artificial turf would enhance opportunities for daily's physical education classes; and provide more playability for school and community users. The proposal would also bring a fresher overall look to our school property and enhance student safety. The Park District has generously offered \$925,000 toward this upgrade; and as previously shared with the board; the District would allocate \$300,000 with savings anticipated from the 2014-15 Operations & Maintenance Fund. Most of this amount would come from savings from heating costs).

Yesterday, Jan and I met with representatives from various affiliate groups (AYSO, Chicago Edge, and OP Youth Baseball) who are primary users of our fields after 5:00 p.m. daily to discuss the benefits of this project. We are looking for the affiliate groups to narrow the \$250,000 gap in funding this project. We also have a good chance of receiving a Challenge Grant to assist with fund-raising efforts. These affiliate group representatives agreed to inform Jan Arnold of their financial commitment by noon on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. The timing will allow me to provide you with an update at our evening meeting.

Attached is the current Memorandum of Understanding that Jan Arnold has prepared. Both Therese and I have reviewed it and we made a few minor revisions/editions. I am requesting your support of this effort as we continue to work through assurances that we will need to proceed.

Attachment