



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: 15-Oct-12

Agenda #

Staff/Administrator: Jessica Durrant

Superintendent: Dan Huber-Kantola

Type of Item: Informational Action

Please state your proposal briefly and clearly. What do you want the board to know, discuss, or decide?

We want to build a covered outdoor structure that will provide space for students to be outside and be physically active, regardless of the weather. The covered outdoor structure will be added on the south-east side of the campus using the existing wall of the gym building. Working in conjunction with local contractors and TRSD Maintenance Department, the outdoor area will meet and or exceed all building codes and requirements, in addition to access for emergency vehicles. Campus tours have been taken of five other school's covered outdoor environment, thus the end result for Manzanita will be developed with the benefits taken from existing models.

Provide history/background information on your proposal.

When the weather is dreary, students at Manzanita are unable to exercise outside during recess. Currently they stay in the classrooms, typically playing board games and trying to be quiet for the surrounding classrooms. On these days, students do not have any opportunity to get fresh-air or physical exercise and as a result, we see an increase in discipline issues. We have been approached by community members who are interested in making large donations for this project. We would like to contact community organizations, such as Active Club, to help match funds or make their own donation. In addition, we are working on identifying matching grants that are focused on student physical health. We plan on presenting these grant applications to the board prior to submission.

List the advantages of your proposal:

It is recommended that children move at least 60 minutes per day. Since most children get 100% of their physical activity at school, recess is vital for their overall health. Physical activity promotes brain development and memory skills, better sleep, improved self-confidence, higher self-esteem, and long term skills for a healthy lifestyle. Building such a structure will also create community pride and create connections between the PTA, Grants Pass businesses, and school personnel. Students for many years to come will enjoy the benefits from this structure.

List possible disadvantages of your proposal:

During construction of this project, this section of the campus will be unusable by the community and our students. There may be noise during construction, however the site is 100 feet away from the nearest classroom. With any construction project, there are unforeseen costs that develop. Finally, there may be potential unfair criticism of spending this large amount of money, although donated, instead of hiring additional teachers. Part of our publicity campaign will include the fundraising process and how the money was donated.

List possible alternatives that could also offer a solution to your proposal. Why were they not recommended?

The only other solution would be to not fundraise for this project, leaving it with the current status of no exercise during inclement weather.

Superintendent's recommendation(s):

Approve: Yes No