

The Whitefish Bay School District



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Please direct inquiries to:
Marie R. Greco, School Board President
(414) 963-4446

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School Board Settles on Modified Parking Lot Option

Whitefish Bay, WI - - After a one and one half hour public hearing to take input from residents on placement of the Richards School parking lot, the Whitefish Bay School Board unanimously decided on a modified option. The option will provide for parking space for Richards' teachers and preservation of the tennis courts.

The Board used nine criteria to guide their evaluation and decision process. Among the criteria were student safety, efficient and safe flow of traffic on and near the school campus, limiting cost, compliance with Village requirements and being a good neighbor. Student safety topped the list of criteria.

Board President, Marie R. Greco, directed Bray Architects and District administration to request the placement of two handicapped parking spaces on Belle Avenue. Resident Anne Kearney, whose child is transported by wheelchair, asked the Board to consider placing handicapped parking closer to the elevator.

Board Member Michael Mosner suggested modification of one of the options. This option shortens the parking lot by approximately ten spaces. According to President Greco, placing the lot away from the building entrance will ensure student safety.

Although the Richards School tennis courts have been preserved, they have been identified by the School District's insurance company as unsafe for play in their current condition. In compliance with the District's insurance carrier's suggestion, the nets and poles will be taken down once school ends.

Repair of the Richards tennis courts is not within the scope of the approved referendum-related projects, so referendum funds cannot be used for this purpose. Board Members have suggested that if tennis courts are a priority for the community, private funding should be obtained to resurface the courts.

A community member stated that the Richards' PTO had funds set aside for tennis court repair from earlier fundraising efforts.

Director of Business Services, Shawn Yde, says that, "The Richards/Cumberland tennis courts have been on the long-range maintenance plan for a number of years, but the School Board has given priority to other, more pressing needs. The School District does not and has not had any funds earmarked for the repair of the tennis courts."

Yde further asserts that, "PTO funds have never been co-mingled with district funds. The rumor is just that, a rumor."

Bray Architects will take the modified parking lot option and construction plans to a second meeting of the Whitefish Bay Village Architectural Review Board for approval. Once approval is granted, construction will begin in July.

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