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PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Board of Education

SPECIAL MEETING – OPEN SESSION

Tuesday, November 17, 2009
4:00-6:00 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chambers
120 Vista Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611

A G E N D A

At Special Board Meetings, members of the public may only comment on items shown on the agenda (Government Code Section 54954.3(a)). The Board President may restrict the length of time for these comments (Government Code Section 54954.3(b))

- 4:00 p.m. I. CALL TO ORDER
 A. Establishment of Quorum
 B. Call to Order
 C. Pledge of Allegiance
- 4:01 p.m. II. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM
 A. Conduct Public Hearing and Possible Action by Board on Turf Material to be Used to Construct the New Havens Play Field

The public is invited to comment on the turf material that will be used to construct the new Havens Play Field at the corner of Oakland Avenue and Bonita Avenue. The field is part of the Becker Design for the new Havens Elementary School.

The intent of the Becker Design was to create play space for use by K-5 children, with a soft surface rather than black top, that is appropriate for an elementary school setting but that also serves as a community resource. The field, as designed, will include two small soccer fields for "Under 8" and "Under 10" play constructed with synthetic turf. The City of Piedmont has agreed to partially fund the field as **currently** designed.

The rationale for including synthetic turf in the Becker Design included the following: There has been a trend in Piedmont toward the installation of synthetic turf fields because of limitations associated with grass fields: mud; the need to let grass rest after rain; and maintenance issues. Synthetic turf offers advantages over grass: all-weather use for the school and the community; decreased maintenance; no pesticides or fertilizers are required; limited use (conservation) of water; and use of recycled materials (crumb rubber infill is made from recycled tires). Both

the Witter Field and Beach field are synthetic turf with crumb rubber infill.

After completion of the Becker Design, members of the community raised questions and concerns about the use of synthetic turf in general and crumb rubber infill in particular. The health concerns include excessive heat of the field material and the potential for turf burn, injuries and staph infections. The environmental concerns include the possibility that crumb rubber or other potentially toxic material may be ingested, inhaled, washed into the storm water system by field run-off, or leached into surrounding soil.

Alternatives to crumb rubber infill include infill made with cork and coconut husks, or infill made with plastic pellets. An alternative to the use of synthetic turf is natural grass.

Please note that this hearing is to consider turf material only. The Board of Education, with input from the City's Recreation Commission, will separately consider the appropriate hours of use and use restrictions for the new play field.

Background information on synthetic turf and natural grass (along with vendor responses to a Board-approved questionnaire regarding synthetic turf) can be found at the District's website: <http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/news/havens-play-field-turf-meeting> and with the Board agenda for November 17, 2009

6:00 p.m. III. ADJOURNMENT

Next *Regular* Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, December 9, 2009
7:00 p.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, 120 Vista Avenue, Piedmont

Please be advised that any communication sent to the Board of Education is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and can be viewed by the public, unless it is of a confidential issue covered under the Brown Act.

Board Agenda Material
(in compliance with Senate Bill 343)

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The schedule of time for agenda issues is approximate