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SUNNINGDALE'S DREAMACRES – portable classroom options

To:
Nick Maandag
Facility Services Department
Halton Board of Education

Hi Nick,

April 25, 2007

This e-mail is in response to your e-mail of April 13, 2007.

Thank you for letting Sunningdale's Dreamacres Committee provide input in regards to the two options provided for placement of up to six portables, namely

- a) located just off the blacktop (where the current sunflower and vegetable gardens are located), or
- b) located in the area of the mini-soccer field west of the gym

We understand that the introduction of portables is not desired by anyone, and that no matter where the portables are placed, as much as 6000 square feet of play area will be eliminated.

As a committee, we have made the following observations:

Option A (on the sunflower and vegetable garden area):	Option B (on part of the mini-soccer field west of the gym):
EMERGENCY EVACUATION - IMPEDING STUDENT SAFETY There will be excessive crowding on the blacktop during an emergency evacuation with portables placed on the sunflower and vegetable garden area, especially during winter months (see below), impeding student safety.	EMERGENCY EVACUATION - STUDENT SAFETY MAINTAINED In the event of an emergency evacuation, all current procedures can be followed with ease, maintaining current student safety levels.
WINTER MAINTENANCE - IMPEDING STUDENT SAFETY Placing the portables in the garden area will remove a significant snow storage area, increasing the snow storage volume in key play and student movement areas, impeding student safety.	WINTER MAINTENANCE - STUDENT SAFETY MAINTAINED Current snow storage areas remain, maintaining current student safety levels.
ACCESS, ENTRY AND DISMISSAL – EXCESSIVE OVERCROWDING With the portables placed on the gardens, primary and junior students entering and exiting the school building, entering and exiting the portables, arriving and leaving by car, as well as	ACCESS, ENTRY AND DISMISSAL - STUDENT MOVEMENT MAINTAINED Current student movement patterns remain, maintaining current student safety levels.

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<p>entering and exiting of bus students, will all converge on the blacktop area creating excessive crowding and congestion.</p>	
<p>LOCKDOWN In the event of lockdown all procedures can be safely followed.</p>	<p>LOCKDOWN In the event of lockdown all procedures can be safely followed.</p>
<p>REDUCED SUPERVISORY SIGHTLINES = INCREASED DEMAND FOR SUPERVISION With the introduction of portables, sightlines to play areas surrounding the portables will be eliminated because the portables would block the sightlines from one play area to another, increasing the demand for supervision. From a CPTED perspective (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), the issue is primarily about sightlines to children within the play spaces as it pertains to the safety and security of the student, before, during, and after play.</p>	<p>ESTABLISHED SUPERVISORY SIGHTLINES MAINTAINED From a CPTED perspective (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), the issue is primarily about sightlines of children within the play spaces as it pertains to the safety and security of the student, before, during, and after play. By placing the portables in the area of the mini-soccer field, current sightlines to all current play areas are maintained, and hence the safety and security of the student, before, during, and after play.</p>
<p>LOSS OF PROGRAMMING The sunflower and vegetable gardens are a key outdoor classroom area, providing irreplaceable curriculum based programming for all grades. There are no other viable options for relocating the gardens and valuable programming and formal learning will be lost.</p>	<p>PROGRAMMING MAINTAINED The sunflower and vegetable gardens are a key outdoor classroom area, providing irreplaceable curriculum based programming for all grades. By placing the portables in the area of the mini-soccer field, valuable programming and formal learning will be maintained.</p>
<p>LOSS OF PLAY AREA The sunflower and vegetable garden area is one of the major playing areas for the primary grades. The primary pupils are attracted to the gardens because they know that they can be observed from many areas, providing the young pupil with a heightened sense of security. By placing the portables on top of the gardens, the primary students' secure play space will be eliminated.</p>	<p>ADAPTATION OF PLAY AREA The mini-soccer field is used by a cross-section of students, but also by the soccer club. Mini-soccer can still be played by realigning the field (and goal posts) further south, maintaining a viable field for mini-soccer. (Formerly the goal posts were located further south and were moved north at some point). The diversity of play spaces is preserved.</p>
<p>HIGH RUN-OFF = HIGH MOULD SUSCEPTIBILITY FOR PORTABLES Much of the run-off from the school building roof and blacktop is funneled into the garden area. Dreamacres has provided some remedial drainage solutions, but only for the purpose of open-air play space, not for structures covering that space. Placing the portables on top of the <u>wettest area</u> within the Sunningdale school grounds and installing support walkways to and from the portables will severely increase the cumulative moisture content under the portables, providing</p>	<p>LOW RUN-OFF = LOWER MOULD SUSCEPTIBILITY FOR PORTABLES From a mould susceptibility perspective, placing the portables on a part of the mini-soccer field would be healthier choice for students since there will be no run-off from the building or blacktop affecting the portables, greatly reducing mould susceptibility.</p>

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<p>an excellent place for mould to flourish. (a few weeks ago a portable in Toronto was found to have mould)</p>	
<p>LOSS OF 6 TULIP TREES = LOSS OF SHADE The cumulative effect of increased UV exposure compounded by the heat-sink effect of the blacktop on a student’s six-year stay at Sunningdale is a serious health issue. The Province will soon mandate provisions for adequate shade for all students, requiring school boards to comply. The tulip trees are providing critical shade, especially to the blacktop area, and year by year the shade will increase significantly. By eliminating the trees, the shade will disappear, not just while the portables are there, but even for a decade after the temporary portables are removed. Trees take time to grow. We are teaching our children that the evidence is overwhelming and undeniable that Global Warming is taking place and that the Environment is of prime importance as it relates to our survival. The Tulip trees were planted by and belong to the children, and we are teaching them that small changes to our daily routine, such as saving and planting trees, can add up to big differences in helping to stop global warming, and that is “The Inconvenient Truth”!</p>	<p>TREES PRESERVED = SHADE MAINTAINED This option addresses the critical need for adequate shade for all students. The tulip trees are providing critical shade, especially to the blacktop area, and year by year the shade will increase significantly. It also maintains Sunningdale’s proactive position on a healthy playground environment for all students.</p>

Conclusion:

Placing the proposed portables in the area of the mini-soccer field west of the gym will have the least impact on the health, security, safety and education of the Sunningdale students, while preserving the diversity of play spaces.

We thank you for this opportunity.

Sunningdale’s Dreamacres Committee

- Region of Halton - Environmental Leadership Award (1998)
- Halton District School Board - Award of Distinction (for a project of provincial importance, 1999)
- Ontario Association of Landscape Architects - Service To The Environment Award (2001)