

***Oak Park and River Forest High School  
District 200***

*201 North Scoville Avenue • Oak Park, IL 60302-2296*

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Tod Altenburg, Chief Financial Officer  
DATE: November 21, 2013  
RE: Proposed Swimming Pool – Impacts and Considerations

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**BACKGROUND**

This information was presented to the Finance Committee on November 12th at which time all members endorsed bringing this item to the November 21, 2013 Board of Education meeting for approval.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of information on an ongoing basis to keep the Board of Education informed, continue to build knowledge and formulate questions as we progress.

It is important to note that there were four sites considered originally. However, the existing east pool/south gym (weight room) option was eliminated because it would create the most disruption on educational programs along with the greatest financial impact. Additionally, this area was too small for an eight lane pool. It would only allow for a six lane pool. The goal is to have at least an eight lane pool.

A team of internal stakeholders (Clay Reagan, John Stelzer, Nate Rouse, Phil Prale, Robert Zummallen, Karin Sullivan, and Tod Altenburg) has met on three separate occasions to identify impacts and considerations of constructing a new swimming pool on each of three locations, parking garage, baseball field and existing tennis courts. The group has had extensive discussions during our meetings regarding the “opportunity” we have with this project, and the need to ensure that we take a “big picture” approach of all impacts and considerations, so that the final decisions are long-lasting and have positive impacts for all programs and stakeholders. Additionally, Robert Zummallen and Tod Altenburg have begun work with Legat Architects and Henry Bros. Construction regarding the feasibility of construction on each location.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The following list identifies the current thinking of the effects for constructing a swimming pool on the three locations previously identified. Please note that “Relocate” implies undetermined costs for transportation, facility rental, possible construction, supervision, etc.

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### **Parking Garage**

- Need to negotiate with village to purchase parking garage
- Possible loss of freshman locker room during construction
- With east-west orientation of pool, no impact on programming for students
- With north-south orientation, would have some loss of west pool and the 2 North (climbing wall) gym during construction, Change in curriculum and scheduling of PE classes, with significant reduction in aquatics program
- Scheduling impact for community groups that use pools/school and need parking
- Lose entire parking garage (300 parking spots). Some options include
  - Limit student parking permits; provide employees priority
  - Work with village on alternative parking (e.g., ramp at North Blvd and Oak Park Avenue)
  - Access a remote lot and provide a shuttle to school
  - Establish different parking permit numbers for streets closer to the high school
  - Explore use or purchase of Dominick's for additional space
- Events affected by loss of parking during construction (i.e., two years):
  - All school related events, including commencement
  - Farmers market
  - July 4 fireworks
  - D90 and D97 graduations
  - Friends of Oak Park Library Annual Book Fair,
- Closing of alley for entire project. Will need alternative parking for special education buses and vans, athletic and activity buses
- Close Scoville, at least south from Ontario Ave. resulting in neighbors' loss of access to street in front of homes. May need to provide alternative parking.
- Extra staff to monitor street parking during events (or Friday football only?)
- Redirect walking route to PACE stop at Scoville and Lake
- Permanent impacts (assuming no parking garage on top of the pool structure):
  - If north-south orientation, lose some parking permanently but still room to build smaller lot
  - If east-west orientation, lose most parking permanently
- Probably fewest neighbor complaints about disruption at this location

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### **Baseball Field**

- Stadium not affected but everything north of baseball fields affected
  - Relocate\* at least one season of freshman football
  - Relocate at least one season of baseball
  - Relocate at least one season of softball
  - Relocate at least one season of marching band practice
  - Relocate Little Huskies, Windmills, Oak Park Youth Baseball/Softball
  - May need to relocate July 4 fireworks
- During construction, close half of Linden (No closing of mall is possible) with loss of parking and some access to front of homes on Linden Ave.
- Tennis and PE program would be unaffected during construction
- Catwalk needed to connect building and pool
  - Must be two floors up, requires construction of two elevators for compliance
  - Loss of 2 North or 2 South gym during construction (Adventure Ed or Fitness Center)—would have to permanently relocate (possibly to site of former pool)
- Transition issues for 1,250 students taking swimming each year, including loss of instructional minutes due to pool's distance from main building
- Option to relocate tennis courts permanently. A loss for the PE curriculum but might be better for tennis program
- Probably some neighbor complaints about disruption at this location

### **Existing Tennis Courts**

- Need alternative courts for students and community
- Loss of tennis courts for extended period of time
  - Eight sections of PE would have to be relocated for first and fourth quarters, affecting 300 students per quarter
  - Need to create new units to replace tennis curriculum
- Relocate at least one season of freshman football
- Loss of softball fields during construction
  - Relocate at least one season of softball
  - Relocate at least one season of marching band practice
  - Relocate Little Huskies, Windmills, Oak Park Youth Baseball/Softball
  - July 4?
- Need to alter walking patterns on Erie Ave. and south side of tennis courts
- Loss of dock
- Loss of access for food-service deliveries, trash pickup
- Street closings, loss of parking on Linden Ave. and Erie Ave.

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- Transition issues for 1,250 students taking swimming each year, including loss of instructional minutes due to pool's distance from main building
  - No catwalk >>> walking outside in elements, need extra security to monitor entrance/exit all eight periods
  - Catwalk >>> must be two floors up, so would need two elevators—loss of tutoring center, other spaces to build walkway
- Extra faculty to supervise (because of distance instructor has to travel to/from gyms for one class from/to pool for next class)
- Extra SST supervision for both male and female students—at least two swim attendants, two SST all eight periods
- No parking near pool—would be able to host competitive events so actually would need MORE parking, not less
- Effects of rooftop tennis courts:
  - Have to change tennis curriculum
  - Because pool would not fill entire current footprint of tennis courts, could probably get only six courts >>> even if put two on ground, would lose PE because instructor can't simultaneously supervise on the roof and ground—may need to use two-court ground area for parking by pool
  - Playing 30 feet in air make little sense, balls easily hit over fence, lose minutes retrieving, area becomes a wind tunnel with no cover
  - No spectator space
  - Extra costs for court maintenance need a lift for routine tasks)
  - Because of the width of a 25-yard (22-meter) pool, construction costs would be very high.
  - The village may not allow this large a building on the lot line to Erie due to the line-of-site ordinance. We would have to set the building farther back, causing us to lose more green space and possibly permanently lose either softball or baseball fields. After reviewing structural roof capacities based on a 25 yard wide pool it was determined that the additional width of the pool structure would probably not support the second floor weight capacity of tennis court loads without additional column supports. Column supports would limit public visibility for events and possibly reduce the pool size or configuration. The cost of such a structure would also greatly increase.
- Loss of third floor library as quiet space during construction
- Option to relocate tennis courts permanently. A loss for the PE curriculum but might be better for tennis program
- Probably greatest number of neighbor complaints about disruption at this location

*\* "Relocate" implies undetermined costs for transportation, facility rental, possible construction, supervision, etc.*

### **RECOMMENDATION**

### **INFORMATION ONLY**

**TEL:** (708) 383-0700

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