

POLITICS, BUDGETS, AND FIELD MANAGEMENT

Bill Mull and Andy Socie

Trenton High School

Trenton, Michigan

The Trenton Public Schools (Trenton, Michigan) formerly leased property owned by the City of Trenton for the soccer field that was used by the soccer program at Trenton High School. In the year 2000 the City of Trenton elected to expand their recreation complex and add two more ice arenas to the single ice arena they had, and the land that was the Trenton High School Soccer Field became a parking lot.

The Board of Education needed to develop a high quality soccer field to accommodate the soccer program. The Board looked at purchasing land and building a new field, and installing a soccer field at several school locations already owned by the district. The installation of artificial turf to accommodate both the soccer and football programs was evaluated, as well as a comprehensive renovation to existing athletic fields in order to improve them to be able to withstand the rigors of accommodating both soccer and football.

In the end the Board decided to renovate existing athletic fields and adopt a turf management program that was designed to keep the natural grass playing fields in good condition while accommodating multiple athletic events. All of the options considered by the Board were going to cost a significant outlay of cash, there was no easy solution to this problem. This report outlines the process that the Board of Education of the Trenton Public Schools worked through in order to find a new soccer field. The Board created a brand new full-time position of Head Groundskeeper, and as a criteria for the position the individual was required to have a degree in Turf Management.

The presentation will cover the reports that went to the Board of Education, as well as a report on the turf grow-in process and the methods that were used in order to build the new resilient natural turf athletic fields, including sand cap, drainage, fertilization, irrigation, and mowing.

January 14, 2002

12. Recommendation: Soccer Facility

On Monday, August 13, 2001, the administration presented a report to the Board that discussed the potential locations for a soccer facility. The locations included the following:

1. Land adjacent to Arthurs Middle School owned by Ford Motor Company.
2. Anderson Elementary School
3. Hedke Elementary School
4. Taylor Elementary School
5. Former Slocum-Truax School Site
6. Arthurs Middle School Football Field

7. Dr. Robert Murray Athletic Complex

The opinion of the administration at that time was that the land adjacent to Arthurs Middle School that is owned by Ford Motor Company was the best site for the soccer facility. This property allowed for a moveable playing field and a practice field. On November 19, 2001, Mr. Edward Wisner, Ford Motor Company representative, informed the superintendent that it would be at least six months before anything would be determined concerning the property adjacent to Arthurs Middle School. Mr. Wisner stated that the Ford Plant located on the property was considering expansion, that there were flood plain and wetlands concerns, and that the City of Woodhaven also had some ideas as to what the city would like to see done with the property.

The administration continued to examine the other possible locations while waiting for a response from Ford Motor Company. One option examined was the installation of artificial turf on the high school football field. This option proved to be too costly to pursue. Dr. Leapley and Mr. Mull visited five high school facilities, at the end of the fall athletic season, that have the football team and soccer team using the same stadium field. The three high schools in Livonia have a dedicated person and program for turf management for the jointly used stadium fields. These three fields were in very good condition. The other two high school fields, where little was done to help prevent deterioration of the jointly used fields, were in poor condition. The administration also examined the other options, which were our three elementary schools, the middle school, and the property located where the Slocum-Truax school used to be.

The three elementary school sites raised concerns regarding a high school facility that is located on elementary school property. The issue of distance from the high school was a concern for a soccer field located at Taylor Elementary School and the Slocum-Truax property. The Slocum-Truax property also presented the problem of what would happen to the parks and recreation equipment and facilities (baseball diamond, tennis courts, and roller hockey rinks) which are already located there. Besides establishing a new field, fencing, a scoreboard, and seating at any of the above mentioned sites would have to be installed as well as a possible need for additional parking. After taking into consideration the above mentioned concerns, the administration focused on the Dr. Robert Murray Athletic Complex and Arthurs Middle School's football field or a combination of these two facilities as a solution for the soccer field. In November the administration hired Dr. John Rogers III from Michigan State University to do a turf analysis for the high school football field. Dr. Rogers was asked to return in December to do a turf analysis of the middle school football field.

The turf analysis by Dr. Rogers of the high school football field stated that in order for the football team and soccer team to coexist on one field the field would need to be improved. Dr. Rogers gave the following recommendations for improving the high school football field:

1. Strip or remove the present turf and regrade the field, moving the crown back to the middle. Put in a slope of 0.8% (turtleback crown) and take the slope out to the track edge to maximize field width.

2. Install drain tile on 20-30 foot spacing and 6-inch depth (before sand cap), running the length of the field (North-South). Also, install surface drains where the field and the track intersect to help take away surface water.
3. Install a four-row automatic irrigation system; with specific zone control in high wear areas (between the hashmarks, players bench areas, and the goalmouths).
4. Bring in 3-4 inches of a sandy root zone and place over the top of the field (AKA sand cap). The root zone should be 85-90% sand with the remainder silt plus clay.
5. Seed the field with a 85% Kentucky bluegrass/10% perennial ryegrass/5% supina bluegrass mix. Use sports turf suited varieties.
6. Follow the establishment and management guidelines listed in the analysis to grow-in (whether in-house or outsourced).
7. Organize efforts to purchase athletic turf management equipment, including a topdresser, core cultivation machine, over seeder, and tractor-mounted spreader.
8. Bring another staff member on board to assist with the turf management duties. Require formal education in turf management as part of the job qualifications.
9. Hire a qualified sports turf architect to write specifications for this job.

Dr. Rogers states in his report that by following the above recommendations, the Trenton stadium field can host both football and soccer. He also states that everyone should realize that even a well-built field will have its limitations with usage. Dr. Rogers continues by stating that not every game, practice and event in the school can be held on the field. He states that sixty (60) events can take place on the field and going beyond this number will depend on the event, the weather, and the turf manager.

Number of Events Presently on Stadium Field

Football Games	13-15
Football Light Practice (day before game)	13-27
Band Practices	9-18*
Band Competition (12 Bands) and 4 halftimes	<u>4-6*</u>
Total	39-66

Addition of Soccer Games (Boys/Girls Varsity/JV)

Soccer Games (9 home dates each)	<u>36</u>
Total	75-102

*(The band practice is weighted higher in terms of number of events due to the length of the practice, 2.5 hours, and the wear it puts on the field. Dr. Rogers informed the administration that the issue with any band is the amount of time they spend in one place. This is usually from intense practice to get a performance correct.)

The total number of events (75-102 events) exceeds the amount recommended (60 events) by Dr. Rogers. Various options were examined by the administration in terms of how to use the stadium field and remain under the recommended 60 events.

Four programs would dominate the activity on the stadium field: football, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, and the band. The superintendent met with Mr. Czarnecki, Mr. Ciarlo, and Mr. Kurilko separately. The turf report and the option of the four programs sharing the same facility were discussed. All the men understood why the number of events would have to be limited on the stadium field. They all voiced concerns for their programs but wanted to do what was best for the district and all three programs combined. Mr. Czarnecki stated the football program could remove the 13-27 light football practices. Mr. Ciarlo stated the soccer program could play some of the JV contests at another site. Mr. Kurilko stated that he could practice early in the band season on the practice football field because darkness comes much later at that time of year. He stated he would need four practices on the stadium field at the end of the band season due to the lack of lighting. He also stated he would need some type of lighting on the practice football field if the band were to practice there for the entire marching band season. Mr. Kurilko expressed a concern that the condition of the practice football field would dictate if the band would have to practice on the stadium field.

In addition to the input of Mr. Czarnecki, Mr. Ciarlo, and Mr. Kurilko, the administration also considered the following factors:

1. Dr. Rogers, in conversation with the administration, stated that if the turf program were followed the two fields would improve each year. He added, that the fewer the number of events placed on the fields during the initial two years, the better the chance would be of not damaging the fields to the point of making them unacceptable to play on for both football and soccer.
2. The best expenditure of school district funds should be on property that is owned by the district.
3. The recent court decision of moving girls' soccer to the fall would prevent all boys' and girls' varsity and JV soccer games to be played on the stadium field due to excess wear beginning in the fall of 2003-2004.
4. The possible addition of both boys' and girls' freshman soccer will add additional events to be scheduled.
5. The sharing of events and allowing for less wear on both fields is best handled by having two football/soccer facilities.
6. Arthurs Middle School's field already has a fence, parking facilities, seating, and will have a score board installed. A portable speaker system could be provided.

After careful consideration of all the facts, the administration chose an option, which it believes, is responsible in terms of maintaining the best possible playing conditions for all the programs using the facilities. The administration determined that the school district should use both the stadium field and Arthurs Middle School's field as joint football/soccer facilities. This would

allow for less wear on the stadium field and more closely balance the number of events on both fields. This would also prepare Arthurs' field for the possibility of the addition of freshman (boys and girls) soccer games being played there in the upcoming years and prevent excess wear on the stadium field if girls' soccer is moved to the fall. The following schedule would be used for the number of events at each field.

Number of Events for the 2002-2003 Season on the Stadium Field

Football Games	13
Boys' Soccer Games (9 varsity, 1 JV)	10
Girls' Soccer Games (9 varsity, 1 JV)	10
Band Practice (4=7 due to length of practice)	7
Band Competition (12 bands) and 4 Halftime Performances	<u>4-6</u>
Total	44-46

This schedule would allow for possible playoff games and weather conditions, which would increase the number of events charged to each program. Each JV soccer team (boys and girls) would play one game on the stadium field for parent night. Portable lights will be purchased to allow the band to practice on the practice field as much as possible. At the end of each school year the stadium field would be evaluated to determine how many additional events (if any) may be added without causing additional damage to the field.

Number of Events for the 2002-2003 Season on Arthurs' Field

Football Games (7 th and 8 th grade)	6
Boys' JV Soccer Games	8 (+9 freshman)
Girls' JV Soccer Games	<u>8</u> (+9 freshman)
Total	22 40

This schedule would require 8 JV boys' soccer games and 8 JV girls' soccer games to be played at Arthurs Middle School's football field. This would result in a total of 22 events on Arthurs' field. The field at St. Tims would still be used as the practice facility for the soccer teams. The superintendent and Mr. Doyle, athletic director, have examined the upcoming schedules and, with some minor changes, have determined that all events can be scheduled on the two fields without conflict. A major emphasis will be to schedule home soccer games on the stadium field on Mondays. This would allow for the field not to be used on consecutive days if at all possible.

In order to add events, such as soccer games, to Arthurs Middle School football field, Dr. Rogers stated in his turf analysis report that two items needed to be moved or fixed on the field in addition to improving the turf. First, the long jump pit used for track would have to be moved. Second, the surface drain inlets and surrounding areas need to be raised so that they have minimal interference with soccer corner kicks. The crown on the field would have to be reduced from 1.5-2.0 % to 1.0 % gradually by adding more topdressing on the outsides of the field each time it is applied. The additional recommendations needed for Arthurs Middle School to be able to handle 30-40 events are as follows:

1. Install drain tile on 20-30 foot spacing and 6-12 inch depth, running the length of the field (North-South).
2. Run 4-inch main water line from building to field.
3. Install a four-row automatic irrigation system; with specific zone control in high wear areas (between the hashmarks, players bench areas, and goalmouths).
4. In May, begin to core cultivate and topdress the field with sandy material (85-90 % sand with the remainder silt plus clay), paying particular attention to the middle of field to rise slightly and ensure surface water flow.

Projected Costs:

1. Field Construction + Architectural Fees (removal of turf and regrade field, install drain tile, install irrigation system, sand and seed, and fertilizer).	\$ 127,000
2. Equipment (topdresser, core cultivation machine, over seeder, tractor mounted fertilizer spreader)	\$ 65,000
3. Four football/soccer goalposts	\$ 7,325
4. Cost of moving scoreboard from old soccer facility	\$ 2,000
5. Protective Mats	\$ 4,000
6. Install drain tile at Arthurs Middle School (Redo drain inlets.)	\$ 17,000
7. Install 4-inch water-line at Arthurs Middle School	\$ 10,000
8. Install irrigation system at Arthurs Middle School	\$ 15,000
9. Portable light system for practice field and electrical outlets	\$ 1,500
10. Addition of turf specialist (annual recurring cost)	\$ 50,000

The money budgeted for equipment will be useful for two reasons. First, once the stadium field and Arthurs' field have been redone and upgraded in order to keep them in good playing condition for all the programs that need to use them, the fields will need constant maintenance. Second, the equipment can be used to help improve the playing conditions on all the district's playing fields and grounds. Special attention initially would be given to improving the soccer field at St. Tims and the varsity football practice field.

The approximate cost for making both the stadium field and Arthurs Middle School's field both joint football/soccer facilities will be \$248,825.

Recommendation

The administration recommends that both the stadium field and Arthurs Middle School's field become joint football/soccer facilities for the following reasons:

1. The number of events on both fields are better balanced and allows for both fields to have less wear on them in the initial years of growth.
2. The Arthurs' field will be prepared for the boys' and girls' JV soccer games for the fall of 2002-2003 as well as for the fall of 2003-2004 when the recent court decision will move girls' soccer to the fall season.
3. The Arthurs' field will be prepared for the possible addition of freshman (boys and girls) soccer.
4. The addition of playoff games for both football and soccer to the stadium field is possible and still remains well under the 60-event limit.
5. The 22 events scheduled on Arthurs' field are well below the 40-event limit.
6. The Arthurs' facility already has fencing, parking, seating, and will have a scoreboard installed. A portable speaker system could be provided.
7. The expenditure of school district funds will be on property that is owned by the district.

The following requirements would have to be put into effect while the stadium field was being redone and during the first two years of use:

1. The organizers of the Relay For Life would have to be notified that the tents people put up at night during the 24-hour event could not be placed on the infield. The tents would have to be outside the fence surrounding the track adjacent to the bleachers or at the end of the field. This would only be necessary for the first year.
2. The high school commencement for the graduating class of 2002 would have to be held indoors. This was done previously when the district put in the new track.
3. No scrimmages for any athletic team would be scheduled on the stadium field for the first two years.

Therefore, it is recommended that....

The Trenton Board of Education approve that both the Trenton High School stadium field and Arthurs Middle School field become joint football/soccer facilities inclusive of the following events for the 2002-2003 school year on each field:

Trenton High School Stadium Field

Football Games	13
Boys' Soccer Games (9 Varsity, 1 JV)	10
Girls' Soccer Games (9 Varsity, 1 JV)	10
Band Practices (4=7 due to the length of practice)	7
Band Competitions (12) and 4 Halftime Performances	<u>4-6</u>
Total	44-46

Arthurs Middle School Field

Football Games (7 th and 8 th grade)	6
Boys' JV Soccer Games	8
Girls' JV Soccer Games	<u>8</u>
Total	22

It is further recommended that....

The Trenton Board of Education authorize the Administration to retain a qualified field architect to develop bid specifications necessary to rebuild the Trenton High School stadium field and redo Arthurs Middle School field according to the recommendations included in the turf analyses that were received from Dr. John Rogers III of Michigan State University.

January 8, 2002

TO: Dr. Leapley, Superintendent
FROM: Bill Mull, Business Manager
RE: Turf Concerns – THS football stadium

In a conversation with the district's turf consultant, Dr. Rogers recommended that a trained turf specialist be on board no later than June 1, 2002. Field construction procedures are scheduled to occur during April 2002 (weather permitting). After the construction and seeding process, the field will require constant and diligent monitoring in order to ensure that the new root structure takes hold and matures at the rate necessary to be able to accommodate the Fall 2002 athletic season.

Dr. Rogers also stated that the earlier in the construction process that a turf specialist can be on board the better. The turf specialist would be able to witness first hand the construction process and would gain valuable knowledge about the methods and materials that were used to build the field. If the district is unable to hire a turf specialist until the commencement of the new fiscal year that begins July 1, 2002 Dr. Rogers suggested that a local golf course superintendent (or assistant) may be able to be retained on a contractual labor basis in order to monitor the field growth progress in the interim. Decisions may arise that require knowledge in turf management. For example, if there were significant rainfall during a three day period that may partially "wash out" a recent fertilizer application, it would behoove TPS to have an individual with formal training make the call regarding re-fertilizing, and the proper mix/strength. Correct decisions on matters such as these may directly impact the suitability of the newly re-built field for Fall play.

Regarding the purchase of equipment, we discussed three main devices: the vertical aerator, the topdresser, and a rotary fertilizer spreader. The vertical aerator would not be necessary until October 1, 2002 when the season is well underway. The vertical aerator would likely be used for the first time immediately following the end of the Fall athletic season. The topdresser would be necessary throughout the summer months, following the construction period, providing that the district has hired a turf specialist or retained a golf course superintendent to supervise the top dressings that are necessary prior to the Fall athletic season. The same goes for the rotary fertilizer spreader.

The district may opt to write into the bid specs that the landscape contractor is responsible for the overseeding applications to the new turf over the summer. The advantage of this is that the landscape contractor can be held accountable for overseeding and the hiring of a turf specialist and the purchase of certain equipment can be delayed by the district. The disadvantage of this is that the summer overseeding schedule aspect of the landscape contract is not the big cost to the district or revenue to the landscaper, and once the landscaper completes the major construction aspects and is paid accordingly, he is likely to put a higher job priority on projects other than Trenton Public Schools. If he should fall behind in the summer overseeding schedule, it is likely that the district will have reduced leverage or recourse as compared to the construction itself, and

may jeopardize our investment and the likelihood of a successful Fall athletic season to a degree. It is noteworthy to mention that the construction schedule is ambitious to be ready for Fall, and that any glitches in this process could impede the ability for the new root structure to be able to withstand the Fall athletic season.

The landscape contractor will be required to submit a performance bond that remains in effect for one year, so the district would have legal recourse, however in the unlikely case of a performance bond claim, this would indicate that the field is substandard and will therefore jeopardize the success of the Fall athletic season. We may be better off having our own personnel, namely a turf specialist, on board to diligently monitor the field progress during the critical summer months leading up to the Fall athletic season.

January 28, 2002

On January 14, 2002 the School Board unanimously approved a plan to develop the athletic (football) fields at Arthurs Middle School and Trenton High School into fields that will be used jointly for both football and soccer. As part of the approved plan, it was recommended that a dedicated turf specialist be hired to oversee the development and maintenance of the athletic fields. The development of the athletic fields requires a significant monetary investment by the Board. The creation of this position is intended to protect the investment and ensure that the grass athletic fields are properly nurtured utilizing modern turf management methods, so that our teams can play on fields that can consistently withstand the wear and tear resulting from both soccer and football.

In reviewing the organizational chart for custodial and groundskeeping personnel and their associated job duties, it is the opinion of the administration that the best fit and title for the proposed new position is the addition of a Head Groundskeeper. The Head Groundskeeper is proposed to be a non-union supervisory position, and would be a hands-on working supervisor, as are the non-union positions of Head Custodian at Arthurs Middle School and Trenton High School. The Head Groundskeeper would directly supervise the three groundskeepers that are employed by the school district, and would have responsibility for the well being of the athletic fields as well as the other grounds in the school district. The Head Groundskeeper would report directly to the Supervisor of Custodians.

Proposed Job Posting:

PLEASE POST

TRENTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2603 Charlton
Trenton, MI 48183
(734) 692-4513

PLEASE POST

Position: **Head Groundskeeper**

Work Year: 52 weeks Reports to: Supervisor of Custodians

Compensation: \$43,563 - \$ 46,125 plus some overtime. Comprehensive benefits package.

Qualifications:

- 1) Bachelor's degree in turf management or related discipline, and/or equivalent work experience as evaluated by the interview committee
- 2) Experience in turf-related employment, such as seed propagation, mowing, irrigation, and fertilization programs, application of turf chemicals, etc.
- 3) Must possess or be willing to diligently pursue a Michigan Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicator's License
- 4) Demonstrate educational and training experiences that are applicable to the position; degrees, licenses, accreditation, and certifications desired
- 5) Ability to work with design professionals to successfully develop concepts and standards, construction specifications, construction management and project closeout
- 6) Good organizational skills, written and oral communication skills, diligent work habits, and the ability to apply common sense to routine decision making
- 7) Ability to develop effective working relationships with fellow staff persons and the school community; ability to effectively supervise three groundskeepers.
- 8) Ability to perform duties with awareness of all district requirements and Board of Education policies

Partial Duties:

- 1) First assignment: Oversee Spring 2002 athletic fields renovation project. Two school football fields will be re-built (by outside contractor) with a sand cap and re-seeded. Drain tile and automatic irrigation will be installed. Turf grow-in period will be summer of 2002. Fields are to be ready for both soccer/football play September 2002. Head Groundskeeper will implement watering, mowing and fertilization schedule during the grow-in period to properly nurture new turf that will develop. This project is currently in the process of being bid out by the district; bid specifications have already been published.
- 2) Responsible for developing, maintaining, and improving the athletic fields and school grounds in the district. Coordinate and assist with the marking of courts and fields. Implement, supervise, and participate in irrigation, mowing, fertilization, top dressing, aeration, pest control, etc.
- 3) Hire, train, supervise, and evaluate three groundskeepers, and work with them daily.
- 4) Implement maintenance plan for district playground equipment and outside bleachers
- 5) Implement, supervise, and assist with district snow removal. Be able to work overtime and respond to emergencies.
- 6) Ensure all fertilizers and insecticides are inventoried, stored, and documented in compliance with applicable laws

- 7) Assist in budget recommendations, order necessary goods and supplies, develop bid specifications, purchase via competitive bidding, prepare purchase order requisitions and bills for payment

March 25, 2002

On January 14, 2002 the Trenton Board of Education approved a plan to renovate the existing football fields at Trenton High School and Arthurs Middle School in order to use them jointly for both soccer and football. Foresite Design Inc., of Berkley, Michigan was retained to write bid specifications.

The work required at THS is more extensive than that at AMS. The field crown is in better condition at AMS therefore requiring less landscaping overall. The broad project bid specifications are summarized as follows:

THS Athletic Field

- Strip all existing turf, and remove approximately 4,000 yards topsoil (1 foot depth)
- Install drain tile
- Install automatic zone controlled irrigation system
- Install new football goal posts offset from back of end zone to accommodate portable soccer goals
- Install 80% sand cap mix, replacing topsoil that was removed.
- Grade field to a uniform 1% crown, track edge to track edge
- Seed field with athletic turf varieties seed mix
- Fertilize twice over a 2-3 week period
- Complete construction by 5/31/02
- Turn over field to school district personnel for turf grow-in period June-August 2002
- Ready for play September 2002

AMS Athletic Field

- Install drain tile
- Install 4" water line from the school to accommodate automatic irrigation system
- Install automatic zone controlled irrigation system
- Remove existing long jump pit, regrade and seed area
- Install new long jump pit in location removed from playing field
- Add topdressing to low field areas to create a uniform 1% crown
- Seed areas as needed, and fertilize
- Complete construction by 5/31/02
- Turn over field to school district personnel for turf grow-in period June-August 2002
- Ready for play September 2002

The contractor is required to serve in an advisory capacity to school district personnel during the summer grow-in period to ensure that the turf maturation process progresses as expected. The contractor must perform additional on site work as required during the summer grow-in period to adjust the crown to a uniform 1%. The contractor is required to retain a performance bond on

this project for a period of two years following construction completion, to ensure that the new turf has matured properly and will stand up to the rigors of interscholastic athletics.

A public bid opening was conducted on March 11, 2002 for the landscape renovations to the athletic fields. Six bids were received in proper form, with bid security. Bid recap:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
Midwest Landscape, Commerce, MI	\$ 245,514
Sportscape, Youngstown, OH	\$ 263,500
Torre & Bruglio, Pontiac	\$ 315,615
C & H Services, Waterford	\$ 316,000
DeAngelis Landscape, Woodhaven	\$ 405,956
S.W. Franks Construction, Cleveland	\$ 409,700

In addition, a seventh contractor, A-1 Lawn Sprinklers of Southgate, Michigan submitted a price for only the automatic irrigation systems portion of the project. A-1 Lawn Sprinklers submitted a price of \$12,255 for THS, and \$15,690 for AMS. If the prime contractor chooses to sub-contract with A-1 Lawn Sprinklers for the irrigation installation, they have the freedom to do so. The school district will enter into a single contract with the prime contractor for the entire project.

Based on an analysis of the bids, favorable check of references, and a recommendation from the project architect, the administration recommends that the contract be awarded to low bidder Midwest Landscape of Commerce, Michigan. The winning contractor is required to furnish both a 100% payment bond and performance bond so the school district has legal recourse in the unlikely event of a dispute.

Midwest Landscape participated in a post-bid conference interview questionnaire that was prepared by project architect Foresite Design. The purpose of the questionnaire is to ensure that both the architect and the contractor have a clear understanding of what is expected of each

other, and to minimize the potential of omissions or oversights that may have occurred during the bidding process.

Midwest Landscape was the contractor of record for a similar project for Brighton Area Schools. In the year 2000, Brighton Area Schools put out for bid the project of constructing four (4) grass soccer fields. The project architect was Foresite Design. In speaking with Brighton’s Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Mr. Jim Craig, he reported that the work performed by Midwest Landscape was of high quality, and was completed in a timely manner. He recalled no financial disputes with the contractor, and would recommend hiring them again in a competitive bidding process. Mr. Craig also stated that the soccer program is very pleased overall with the new fields that were constructed.

PROJECT BUDGET

Landscape Contract, low bidder Midwest Landscape	\$ 245,514
Construction Contingency, 7.4%	18,186
Architectural Fees	11,200
THS Practice Field Permanent Lighting	22,100
Protective mats	4,000
Portable Soccer Goals (4)	3,000
Cost to relocate soccer scoreboard to AMS	2,000
Maintenance Equipment	<u>65,000</u>
Total Cost to Complete Project:	\$ 371,000

The maintenance equipment needs will be evaluated and bid out separately, once the Head Groundskeeper has been hired by the school district. This individual will have a direct hand in the selection of the equipment. The \$65,000 equipment budget is:

Core Cultivation Unit (Vertical Aerator)	\$ 22,000
Topdresser	10,000
72” mower	20,000
Tractor mounted fertilizer spreader	3,000
Overseeder	<u>10,000</u>
Sub-total Equipment	\$ 65,000

Therefore, it is recommended that . . .

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AWARD THE LANDSCAPING CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$245,514 FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE ATHLETIC FIELDS AT TRENTON HIGH SCHOOL AND ARTHURS MIDDLE SCHOOL TO LOW BIDDER MIDWEST LANDSCAPE OF COMMERCE, MICHIGAN PER THE TERMS OF THEIR BID THAT WAS PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ ON MARCH 11, 2002 AND BID SPECIFICATIONS THAT WERE PREPARED BY PROJECT ARCHTECT FORESITE DESIGN, INC. OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN.

It is further recommended that . . .

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$371,000 IN THE 2001-02 CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND TO FINANCE THE ENTIRE COST OF THE ATHLETIC FIELDS RENOVATION PROJECT.