

To: Board of Education

From: Kyle Hayden, assistant superintendent, business & operations, ext. 4309  
Tony Barron, director, facilities & operations, ext. 1643

Re: Approval for Surface Replacement & Equipment for Ryan Gray Community  
Playground for All Children at Hillcrest Elementary School

Date: January 21, 2016

Background:

The Ryan Gray Playground for All Children is a fully accessible community playground built in 1993 at Hillcrest Elementary School. The playground was named after Ryan Gray, a former Hillcrest student who had disabilities and who was known as one of KU basketball's biggest fans until he passed away in 1990.

Over the years, the district has worked in partnership with the Ryan Gray Playground for All Children Steering Committee and the Hillcrest Parent Teacher Organization to maintain the playground equipment and surfacing. Both of these volunteer groups have played an instrumental role in the upkeep of this playground.

The Ryan Gray playground equipment, surface, and the general landscaping around the playground at Hillcrest are now in need of significant improvements. Lawrence Public Schools administrative staff and committee representatives have a common interest of restoring and enhancing a safe and accessible playground. Conversation about this project began several years ago, but ultimately it was decided to hold off until Hillcrest Elementary building design and construction were complete.

Based upon the existing conditions of the playground, it is being recommended by administration to relocate and reconstruct the playground on the Hillcrest Elementary School site. District staff and representatives from volunteer community groups have worked together with ABCreative to develop an ADA compliant plan that will substantially improve the Ryan Gray Playground for All Children.

Recommendation:

Administration recommends that the district pay for the total cost of the project to provide landscape planning, design, and preparation (including underlayment and proper drainage), and refurbish certain existing playground equipment, to replace the playground surface, and provide shipping and installation of new equipment. The original budget plan identified in the district Capital Improvement Plan was \$300,000. The bid for the project is \$246,776.65. District administration is requesting a 5% contingency to address the unknown issues that could arise during construction.

The Ryan Gray Playground for All Children Committee has agreed to raise money by soliciting individual and corporate contributions and grant funding to help the district pay for new equipment for the Ryan Gray Playground. All donations and grant funding will be deposited into the account managed by the Lawrence Schools Foundation and specified for the Ryan Gray Playground. The district will be reimbursed from this Lawrence Schools Foundation fund as expenses are incurred up to 50% of the project cost or in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

Motion:

"I move the Board of Education approve a purchase contract with ABCreative in an amount not to exceed \$260,000 for the replacement of the surface and equipment for the Ryan Gray Playground. The district will be reimbursed up to 50% of the project cost/or \$150,000 from donation and grant funds raised and by the Ryan Gray Playground for All Children – Hillcrest Elementary School group and deposited with the Lawrence Schools Foundation."