



**Playground Planning Subcommittee  
Notes and Proposals  
February 15, 2024  
7:00pm to 8:10pm**

Marilee Hill provided an introduction to the group as follows:

The School Council would like to thank you for your input in the survey last Fall! Your input has helped to direct our efforts with respect to the upgrades to consider for our outdoor play areas. The results indicated that the majority of parents and students would prefer 'out of the box' ideas for the school to pursue a less expensive, non-traditional approach to upgrade the current play areas.

In the survey, some examples were given to let you know what we were thinking when we said 'out of the box' ideas. These were as follows: a gaga ball pit, games or mazes painted on the existing asphalt, shade structure, etc. It is our opportunity to continue with this process and ask you to put forward any suggestions you and/or your student(s) may have in mind.

Mme Labelle shared information about policies to be followed regarding board input, purchasing guidelines, and reserve funds for long term maintenance.

We had a very productive planning meeting. We have a long list of suggestions for the School Council to consider. Our intent is to categorize the items based on a more immediate implementation and a longer-term implementation. It is important to note that these items can only be implemented once enough funds are available and direction has been given by the School Council.

The intent is that the immediate items will be implemented in this school year, depending on available funds. The subcommittee respectfully asks that any 'immediate implementation' items that cannot be funded through available funds, become the subject of any upcoming fundraising opportunities.

All longer-term items will require an application to the school board for either a site change request or a greening request. Our plan is to apply for all items that were suggested to obtain the comments from the board. Comments from the board will help the subcommittee to determine the budget required so that we can weigh the benefit of any given item with the cost.

We didn't have time at this meeting to review any opportunity for funding through available grants. This is something that this committee will circle back to, once we have comments from the school board.

**Items for immediate implementation are as follows:**

1. Tarmac Painting which will include a selection of the following (Please note that tarmac painting requires approval from the school board): sensory path, French words with images, alphabet, number line, hundreds chart, a pathway for trikes to follow with parking spots labeled with a number or a letter adjacent to the concrete bunker where the trikes are stored, games (e.g., snakes and ladders, chess/checkers or mancala), Four square template(s), a large circle, sports court paint for basketball, soccer, volleyball

Mme Labelle will approach the school board for a list of approved contractors and will submit the alteration request for approval. The timing of the next School council being March 7th will be too early for proposals to be provided. This being the case, with the School Council's approval, the subcommittee will choose the best proposal.

2. Purchase of various balls and spike ball sets (2) to be used at recess. Research will take place by the subcommittee to determine the appropriate quantity of balls and various types of balls that could be purchased. Currently, there are a lot of basketballs. Melissa Pollard will put together the list of items to be purchased prior to the March 7th School Council Meeting. The timing of the next School Council being March 7th will be too early for proposals to be provided. This being the case, with the School Council's approval, the subcommittee will choose the best proposal. Mme Labelle will work with Mme Schaeffer to place orders.

3. Purchase of a portable gaga ball pit. Research done by the subcommittee concludes that the portable pit appears safer and allows for implementation this year, provided that available funds are sufficient or can be raised. The committee will also request a permanent gaga ball pit through the site alteration process provided by the board. Having the portable gaga ball pit will allow us to determine the level of interest amongst students. Storage may become an issue. Derek Lough will provide the best option for a gaga ball pit. Mme Labelle will confirm that the supplier is approved by the board. The timing of the next School Council being March 7th will be too early for proposals to be provided. This being the case, with the School Council's approval, the subcommittee will choose the best proposal.

4. Purchase of a selection of balls for each classroom to use during their daily exercise time. These balls will remain with the class, not to be used at recess. We may include wiffle balls if possible/allowed. Mme Labelle has a company in mind who provide colour coded sets of balls to provide distinction between classes. School Specialty has a Sportime Classroom Ball Pack, Set of 66 balls in 6 colours for \$720 +HST. Please note that we would need 4 sets.



The timing of the next School Council being March 7th will be too early for proposals to be provided. This being the case, with the School Council's approval, the subcommittee will choose the best proposal.

5. Purchase of one parachute for use at daily exercise time and available to any class as requested. Not to be used at recess time. School Specialty has a parachute for \$403.10 +HST.



The timing of the next School Council being March 7th will be too early for proposals to be provided. This being the case, with the School Council's approval, the subcommittee will choose the best proposal.

### **Items for longer-term implementation are as follows:**

1. Permanent gaga ball pit.
2. Shade structures of various types (posts with fabric canopy, sails, more solid metal canopy and/or trees)
3. Retractable awning
4. Small Playhouses (one option by Villa)
5. Sensory tunnel (one option by Jambette)
6. Outdoor classroom (one option by Jambette)
7. Ball diamond
8. Astro Turf area in the yard to allow for play areas free from mud.
9. Asphalt Path from the parking lot (along the south side of the sandbox) to the opening in the fence at Severn Drive. An application to the board has already been made for this item by Mme Labelle.

### **Next steps**

1. The subcommittee will provide more details on the balls to be purchased for use at recesses. We will also determine the best portable gaga ball pit, sets of balls and parachute to purchase.
2. Confirm with the School Council at the March 7th meeting, the total funds available for “immediate implementation” items.
3. As noted under specific items above and due to the timing of upcoming School Council meetings and the intent to implement the “immediate implementation” items this school year, where possible, the subcommittee respectfully requests School Council to consider and provide approval for the “immediate implementation” items. This will allow our committee to assess proposals and determine the best solution without returning to the School Council for authorization.
4. Any “immediate implementation” items that cannot be funded through existing funds will be the subject of upcoming fundraising. Once the subcommittee has the budgets for these items that information will be provided to the School Council for upcoming fundraising.
5. Regarding the “longer-term implementation” items, our subcommittee would like to confirm at the March 7th School Council meeting, the items that the School Council will support in principle. This will give the subcommittee the opportunity to apply to the board for these items. We will obtain comments and proposals, assess both board input and proposals to determine the best solution. We don’t want to take the time to make applications and get proposals for any items that the School Council will not support in principle. The subcommittee will return to the School Council with a summary of the “longer-term implementation” items we will put forward for fundraising at the beginning of the school year next year.

### **Playground Balls and Sand Toys Proposed**

The items below are suggestions and would need to be purchased through board approved suppliers as well as reviewed through OPASSE (Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education).

Kindergarten

7" balls <https://www.mastermindtoys.com/collections/subcat-balls/products/neon-rainbow-playground-ball-7>

Shovels/sand castle.moulds

Dump trucks/diggers etc for sand pit

Muffin tins, pots/pans

Water table and buckets/mud kitchen

Skipping ropes individual and the long group ones

#### **Grades 1-4**

Basketballs 1 per 5-6 children

Soccer balls and volleyballs 2 per class

Gator skin balls 1 per 5 children

Skipping ropes individual and the long group ones

Footballs 1 per 4-6 kids

#### **Grades 5-8**

Lacrosse sets, 5 total?

<https://www.mastermindtoys.com/collections/subcat-sand-water/products/coop-hydro-lacrosse-set-red>

Gaga ball set 1 total

Nerf Howler <https://www.toysrus.ca/en/NERF-Vortex-Howler-Red/C4B29862.html>

Flag Football set (10 players) LJ