



## **Neighborhood Meeting Minutes Squalicum High School Turf Fields Phase 2 Planning Committee Thursday, May 16, 2019**

Bellingham Public Schools mailed postcards to all property owners within 500' of Squalicum High School inviting them to a neighborhood meeting to learn about the Squalicum Turf Fields Phase 2 project and to provide feedback and input. An invitation was also sent to all Squalicum families via School Messenger.

Miguel Perez, Squalicum High School principal, welcomed attendees which included six neighbors and parents as well as committee members.

Ron Cowan, Executive Director of Capital Projects and School Facilities, provided background information for the project including Phase 1 (2013 Bond) and Phase 2 (2018 Bond) field improvements at Squalicum, Bellingham and Sehome High Schools.

Jeff Burke, Project Architect with DA Hogan and Associates provided detailed information about the project including:

- Scope
- Drainage
- Fencing and ball control netting
- Lighting
- Possible future additional Tennis Court

Ron asked the group if they had questions, feedback or suggestions for improvement. Questions, comments and suggestions included:

- Will the batting cages have a roof?
  - No, due to structural considerations.
- Will there be ADA turnaround or parking?
  - Yes, there will be ADA parking near the new soccer field.
- Can another restroom be added closer to the softball field?
  - No, due to location of existing utilities and site topography. The proposed restroom near the softball and baseball field is nearly equidistant between the spectator seating areas.
- How late will the field lights be on?
  - Field lights will not be on continuously, only when needed for an activity. The lights will not be on later than 10 p.m. except for the rare occasion when contests go into extra innings/overtime.
- Appreciate that the new drainage system will be better than the existing situation where water sheets off the fields
- Concerned about increased parking in the adjacent neighborhood when there are games being played on the new fields.

- Suggestion to put a padlock on the gate near Magrath (only when games are being played) so that spectators will park on the Squalicum campus.
- Concerned that the new fence at the top of the hill above the football field/track will take away the ability to watch games from the top of the hill.
  - Suggestion made to install the fence down the hill so that spectators will be able to see over it and it will also work as a deterrent to going down the hill to access the football field/track.
- Will there be shelters for soccer and lacrosse players so they will be out of the rain when not playing?
  - No, due to high cost.
- What is the project schedule?
  - The project will likely start in early July and be finished by December.

Ron thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.