



Playground Standards Ad Hoc Committee

April 13, 2021
3:30-5:00 p.m. via Zoom

Co-Chairs: Curtis Lawyer, Director, Capital Project and Jessica Sankey, Executive Director, Operations

Members Present: Kristi Dominguez, Mylo Allen, Amy Berreth, Micah Smith, Margaret Gude, Ali Bonner, Nic Castona, Rodolfo Riviere, Meredith Gant, Sarah Catudio, Jenny Brice, Cindy Pearson, Jen Mallet, Kristine Wilson, Patty Yunge, Kristi Wyandt-Varela, Gina Austin, Jonathan Schilk, Trevor Aeschliman, Joshua Cloud, Debbie Haney, Brian Smart, Corey Ayers, Angie Ritchey

Purpose and timeline

Jessica and Curtis explained the purpose of this committee is to establish a set of guidelines to assist in the decision-making processes related to the addition, modification and expansion of playgrounds.

Introductions

Nic shared a fun brain development game they do with their students. Members then shared their names and interest in this committee.

Goals & Values

Jessica explained that the goal for this committee is to guide amazing playgrounds at our schools.

Currently under construction: Parkview & Alderwood to open August 2021; Sunnyland under construction 2021/22

The group reviewed documents that inform our share values standards for playgrounds.

- [The Bellingham Promise](#)
- [Policy & Procedure 3440](#)
- CASEL [SEL: What Are the Core Competence Areas and Where are they Promoted? \(casel.org\)](#)

Jessica also added: focus on our students during the school day; afterschool use; broad community use.

Discussion:

The group discussed this question for breakout rooms: What are the values you think are most important in planning playgrounds for our children?

Learning: Playground Elements

Jessica shared that over the course of these meetings, we will discuss:

- Surfacing and playground equipment itself.
 - Accessibility is most important. We must have a level entry to the playground onto the surfacing.
- Size- 2500-3000 square feet for most playgrounds. Pre-k areas are 100-1500 square feet.
- Location and safety/security
- Equipment

Curtis and Trevor shared the pros and cons of materials we currently use as surfaces in current playgrounds as well as more context for playground needs at our schools.

The City of Bellingham presented a slide show of different parks from British Columbia to Tacoma Washington giving examples of different surfaces and how they hold up over time.

Jessica and Curtis asked the group to do the following before our next meeting:

- Visit two playgrounds with two different surfaces OR pick your favorite surface and do a little research about its downsides

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 20 3:30-5:00 via Zoom