

How 1/3 1/3 1/3 funding became \$1.6 million in debt for a sports field

A group of parents who called themselves Gain Ground originally approached the School Board through the Finance/ Facilities Committee, with a plan to turf and light both Memorial and Duchon Fields. Originally they planned to raise all of the money to do this, and they sought District approval to do so.

At about the same time, a group from Glenbard North came forward wanting to turf and relight their football field, and they brought a major dollar commitment from the Carol Stream Park District to speed the process. As this occurred, the Gain Ground members were beginning to find out the full cost of their vision.

In light of the large amount of money needed, the District administration began to formulate ideas about how to assist. The final plan at North came in at about \$1.5 million, with the Park District offering about \$700K and the Boosters an additional \$300K, for a total of \$1.0 million. The administration saw this as a model for other campuses, and the 1/3 1/3 1/3 model was born.

This concept evolved into a formal resolution, passed by a divided Board, which proposed this funding approach for turf installations at the football fields on each campus. So far, Glenbards East and South have not expressed any interest in turf. Discussions continued at West, and as time passed, it became clear that Duchon Field presented major environmental and engineering challenges to the installation of turf. As the reality of these challenges became clear, the administration shifted its focus to Memorial Field.

The size of this field, including both a soccer and softball field, pushed the cost estimate beyond the Glenbard North price tag, up to \$1.65 million. Further complicating the issue was the fact that the GE Park District had no interest or money to participate. Undaunted the administration moved ahead with the plans, on the basis that this was needed as instruction space, and did not require adherence to the 1/3 1/3 1/3 resolution in place for the football venues. They pushed through a new resolution (4 to 3 vote) for this field, authorizing the expenditure of up to \$1.65 million.

As this process unfolded, the administration continued to pressure the Park District to participate, and succeeded in securing a commitment for \$160K, paid over 8 years. In return, the Park District gets substantial use of the field, with their contribution coming largely from Glenbard students participating in summer programs run by the GE Park District.

The School District has received no money as of this time, and has had to issue bonds to cover the portion owed by the Park District. The bid amount for the field came in at \$1.4 million. The addition of around \$200K in interest on the debt will bring the total project cost to \$1.6 million.

Gain Ground did not raise 1/3 of the cost but did raise \$285K, and paid that amount in cash. The Boosters paid an additional \$50K, raising the total cash received to \$335K. The remaining \$1.1 million was supplied by the District in the form of bond debt, to be repaid over the next 8 years.

The repayment schedule coincides with the timing of the field replacement, when the cycle starts again.

The lighting and other "enhancements" for Memorial Field will come to approximately \$1 million. The administration is proposing that \$300,000 come from fund-raising.

The district was forced to cut the school day in 2005/2006 due to insufficient funds for education.