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Press Release

Long Overdue Field Improvements Coming to Crest Memorial School this Fall

In the past few weeks, Crest Memorial School began construction to replace and re-surface the recreation field that is adjacent to New Jersey and Washington Avenues. This was prompted by the concern of the athletic field condition which has been deteriorating over time. Despite short-term fixes that have involved improved drainage, irrigation and seeding, the condition of the field has continued to decline.

Ponding from heavy rains from recent storms, divots from high usage coupled with lack of rainfall during the previous summer months have played a particularly heavy toll on the field. During the 2018-2019 school year both soccer and baseball games had to be canceled with greater frequency than experienced in the past.

The renovation plans will include excavating the surface, replacing the irrigation system, leveling the field and installing new sod. "I can remember ten years ago pushing for this work to be done," said Board of Education Member Jimmy Johnson. "I couldn't be happier to see this finally happening especially without asking taxpayers for any additional monies."

The field renovation will be paid for through the district's capital reserve fund and in part by a preschool expansion aid grant. "The field renovations have been a part of our long-range facilities improvement plan" said Board of Education President Joseph Schiff. "The Board of Education members have been tightening budgets and dedicating any remaining funds at the end of the year to the field renovation. We'll be able to fully fund the improvements without exceeding the two percent spending cap on our annual budget," said Board Secretary and Assistant Business Administrator James Lushok.

The renovation is expected to last until the end of August. Installation of irrigation and the field leveling is expected to be done by mid-September with all sod installation and seeding completed by October. The field will be out of use until Spring 2020 to allow for all improvements to take hold and settle before official use.

"Whether it is during recess or on the playing field after school, our kids have to be safe," said Superintendent David Del Conte. "The condition of the field at the end of this school year just wasn't safe anymore. These field improvements will benefit the whole community and I am happy to see it happening. Whatever the time of the year, the community loves to use this field for all different types of activities and having a safe field is our number one concern to our students and community members."