

## FIELDS UPDATE 3-23-07

We have received several inquiries about the status of our athletic fields and WHEN we will be able to use them. Jonathan Brush, the SAU 70 Director of Facilities, who advised against the removal of snow before we assume ownership from our contractor. Because of the wet fall and late winter snows, the district has not given final approval for the work on the turf field, and Jonathan Brush knows from experience that accepting ownership before the work is fully inspected and fully meets our standards can result in complications and additional costs.

Jonathan Brush reported that at the job meeting on March 20 David White, the contractor, indicated that he has a sizable crew eager to resume work on our fields. The crew would have been here on March 19 had the Nor'easter not hit last Friday. The Turf/Carpet sub-contractor is ready to put the finishing touches on our lower field as soon as the snow is melted from the field. At the March 20 meeting Jonathan Brush asked the contractor if it would be possible to remove the snow from the field immediately. The contractor recommended against that because of the depth of snow at the time of the meeting. He said that clearing the snow at that time posed a few problems citing that there was no place to put such a load without driving repeatedly over the turf to get to the South end. That kind of repeated vehicular travel would damage the level grade of the field, since all the "in-fill" is not in place yet. He was also uncomfortable with the plowing action with the carpet fibers indicating that pushing the snow too aggressively would tear on the fibers and cause unwanted damage. The contractor has men working on the installation of the footings of the bleachers and said that man will keep him informed of the snow depth. He said that as soon as the depth of the snow was shallow enough he would return with the manpower and equipment to clear most of the snow and allow the "sun energy" to quickly melt off the rest. The contractor is planning to schedule the sub-contractor in charge of the "in-fill" material to be available as closely as possible to the date the field is cleared.

The other fields work is scheduled to begin April 2nd. Prep work may begin earlier at Norwich. The complication at the High School is the building construction material, the storage trailers and the job trailers associated with the high school renovation, which is scheduled to conclude in late May. The district's clerk of the works and Construction Management Superintendent have both moved out of their trailers and into the building. The other job storage trailers are being consolidated as much as possible and we are scheduling the movement of the remaining trailers. It appears we may have to sacrifice some precious parking places in order to get the trailers off the fieldwork area so that the work can begin as soon as possible.

Jonathan Brush will be giving the board an update on the fields on March 27. He has a meeting scheduled that morning with the contractor and additional details on the schedule may be forthcoming following that meeting. We'll keep you apprised of any developments. It looks like the weather is FINALLY cooperating!