

Dear Drake Community,

This summer, the Drake football field is due for artificial turf replacement. The TUHSD Board of Trustees will decide at the board meeting on February 28, 2017 what type of infill to use on the turf.

In preparation of this decision, the Drake administration held a series of “Drake Talks” last year and this fall to provide information and a forum for discussion. These “Drake Talks” focused on the topic of the turf field and possible alternatives, including the return to a natural field. During the 2015-16 conversations, a concern was expressed about the current crumb rubber for the environment and perceived health concerns. Simultaneously, the EPA took this topic under advisement and there was hope from Drake for a quick study and recommendation - but to no avail. The EPA has not completed their study nor do they have a timeline of when the study will be completed and published.

Our football field needs to be replaced in summer of 2017, so another “Drake Talk” was hosted in the fall of 2016 to conclude our recommendations to provide the time to prepare for summer installation. At this meeting on October 27, 2016, the group of community / school members agreed that a compromise recommendation would be the “CoolPlay” infill that Tam High School used a year prior for their field replacement. CoolPlay was a rubber and cork combination, with the final layer solely cork.

Since then, information has been provided from FieldTurf, the company who provides field infill options, that the CoolPlay option has changed and no longer uses cork but rather a non-organic mineral product. Currently, there are three FieldTurf options up for consideration:

- 1) Crumb Rubber – this is what we currently have on our fields - \$507,385
- 2) CoolPlay – polymer mix and mineral mix - \$540,755
- 3) Cork – organic alternative infill - \$ 641,801

**We are asking for your input. Please:**

- Review this overview of the options and costs by clicking [here](#).
- Email Chad Stuart, [cstuart@tamdistrict.org](mailto:cstuart@tamdistrict.org) with your input, thoughts and recommendation if you have any.

We will be providing your input to the TUHSD Board of Trustees on February 28, 2017.

Thank you-

Liz Seabury, Principal

Chad Stuart, Assistant Principal