

For: Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees
Date: September 18, 2017
Action: Consent: Consideration and Approval -
Interlocal Agreement with SPARK for
Community Park at Mission West ES
References: Board Policy GNC (Legal)
District Goal 4
Department: Operations

Recommendation

Consideration and possible approval of an interlocal agreement with SPARK Park School Program, a non-profit corporation, to fund the construction of the park facilities at Mission West Elementary School, and authorization for the Board President to execute the agreement.

Summary

The SPARK Park School Program works with schools and neighborhoods to develop community parks on public school grounds. In the past 30 years, SPARK has built more than 200 community parks throughout the Houston/Harris County area. Each park is unique, with its design based on ideas and needs of the school and surrounding neighborhoods. While all of the parks are different, a typical park consists of modular playground equipment, a walking trail, benches, picnic tables, trees, an outdoor classroom, and a public art component. The first SPARK Park completed in FBISD was at Ridgemont Elementary School in 2016.

On September 21, 2016, SPARK received a \$5 million donation from Houston Endowment and Kinder Foundation to increase park equity in the greater Houston region. SPARK is committing a minimum of \$100,000 of the Houston Endowment and Kinder Foundation donation to construct park facilities at Mission West Elementary School. To receive these funds, FBISD must contribute \$5,000 to the project, and the school must commit to a minimum \$5,000 fundraising goal.

Mission West Elementary has raised approximately \$6,000 over a period of four to five years from their Spring Fling carnivals with the funds intended for the construction of a new track. When Spark approached Mission West Elementary, a Spark Park committee formed and asked the community and students to provide input regarding the items they would like to see installed in the new Community Park. The committee reviewed the responses and decided along with the community that it would take more than \$6,000 to construct a track. Based on the community and student input, the Spark Park committee decided to redirect \$5,238 toward the project. The SPARK Park committee worked with the SPARK Park organization's designated architect on the design of the park. The committee consisted of various Mission West Elementary administrators and teachers, who received input from students, and FBISD Design and Construction staff.

The project budget is \$110,284, consisting of \$100,000 from SPARK Park Program funds, \$5,000 from FBISD, and \$5,284 from the Mission West Elementary fundraising efforts.

FBISD put the project out for bid. The Design and Construction Department will manage the construction. The District must agree to keep the park open to the community after school and on weekends. If there is an after school program that uses the park, the District can close the park to the community until that program has ended each day.

If approved, the District has one year to complete the project from the date the SPARK Park School Program countersigns the Interlocal Agreement.

Recommended by:

**Charles E. Dupre
Superintendent of Schools**

Submitted by:

**Oscar Perez
Chief Operations Officer**