

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
Millburn Public Schools

INFORMATION ITEM

April 25, 2011

To: Board of Education Members

From: Ellen E. Mauer, PhD

Subject: Field Rental Request

Dave Dexheimer of the Lake Villa Township Baseball organization has requested the use of the Millburn West fields for free. Currently, our BOE approved a \$10 fee per use for the field space and nothing for custodial costs to the field. Last year, we did not charge for field use at all. I have attached his request for your perusal. It is important to note that while that particular group spends a great deal of money on the maintenance, we would not be spending anything close to that. We would only be paying for mowing the lawn just as we do with all of our fields.

I would suggest that the BOE have a discussion, make a determination, and put the approval or non-approval on the consent agenda for next month.

Dr. Mauer,

I am sending you this email to request the use of the Millburn West baseball diamond for the upcoming season free of charge.

I am requesting the use of the field on M-F and Saturday. Our season begins on April 25th and ends June 18th. This is a total of eight weeks or 48 dates. Assuming that we use all of these dates and we have to pay for the field, that would cost LVTB \$480.00

We have used this field for the past three years and have invested a lot of money and labor to take care of the field area. This includes an early season clean up day where several people clean up the field and prepare the infield area as well as on going maintenance work throughout the season.

Here are some of the costs we have incurred each year over the last three:

Clean up day:

\$800.00 worth of supplies (Field mix to fix field, weed killer, supplies to remove weeds and garbage)

Approx. 4 hours worth of labor.

In Season Maintenance \$400 worth of supplies. (Field Mix for the field, chalk and weed killer.)

Approx 3-4 hours worth of labor each week.

In addition, we have also supplied and paid for a portopotty for the field. The cost for the season is \$320.00

All told we have spent \$1,520.00 each year for the last three years to take care of the field at Millburn West. Like everything else, these costs have increased and we anticipate the costs exceeding \$1,600 for the upcoming year. It has been my personal experience that if the field is not maintained, the grass and weeds will overtake the field and it will not be usable in a very short period of time.

Our league is a non-profit organization with all revenue going back into the league for the kids. While I understand the need to charge to cover janitorial expenses, we do not require any supervision nor does our usage of the field cost the school district any money.

As the season is approaching and fields are limited in this area, we will be working on this field this weekend while this request is being considered.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope we will be able to use the field this season free of charge.

Sincerely,

Dave Dexheimer