



Results of Parent Survey: Home and School Playground Renovations

Google Forms survey was sent to parents via email on Monday April 3, reminder sent on April 8 and closed on April 12, 2017.

Question 1

Would you support the Home and School exploring the use of its fundraising money (mostly likely with other sources of money) to fund a schoolyard improvement?

Total responses: 184

Yes, I would support this exploration:	96.7% (178 respondents)
No, I would not support this exploration:	2.2% (4 respondents)
Not sure:	1.1% (2 respondent)

Question 2

Do you have any thoughts, suggestions or observations relating to adding more play options to the schoolyard?

Total responses: 79
[Responses compiled in Appendix 1, below]

Question 3

Would you be willing to be part of a group that explores this further and comes up with proposals? If so, please fill out the following fields

Total responses: 39
[Responses compiled in Appendix 2, below]

Please enter any special skills that could be helpful to such a group (e.g. fundraising, PR, project management, landscaping)

Total responses: 24

Appendix 1: Do you have any thoughts, suggestions or observations relating to adding more play options to the schoolyard?

Kids seem really happy with the current schoolyard and they have lots of fun playing team-based games
I like that the kids have a blank slate where their imaginations come into play rather than specific equipment that will direct their play.
In theory yes, but depends on the financial state of H&S, i.e. its ability to absorb the costs without adversely affecting other avenues of reinvestment.
I believe kids should play the old fashion, soccer, football, tag, skip rope etc games. I don't think having structures would necessarily be a good use of \$ as I worry it will take away from the free-play space. I feel \$ should be spent on programs to help kids in grades 3 to 6 who have reading and writing difficulties Too many of our Edinburg kids are heading to high school unprepared. Let them run around at recess, forget the structured play, let's promote team/group free-play.
A way to make sure that ice doesn't accumulate to the degree it does in the winter. my child has come home with multiple bruises and I am scared she will come home with worse soon.
Let's look at what schoolyards look like in Scandinavia:-)
No
We have a problem with the grass and irrigation. Needs to be leveled. Zipline. Park for older kids.
there is not much available to the older kids (the little park is geared towards the younger ones) , it would be nice to have something geared towards cycle 2 and 3 as well.
turn the playground into a functioning farm that the kids could maintain, play in and raise veg/animals/etc.
Ideally, whatever is done would be during the summer, so that the kids will be able to enjoy it come the start to the school year.
Two things. 1) Is this something that the school board funds at all? 2) I fully agree more play options would be highly valuable. The small play area seems to be taken by younger kids, leaving the older ones without reasons for moving around a lot. An "hébertisme" type play area with zip line, etc. could be fabulous (I realize there aren't trees!), a little like Nathan Suster Park in CSL.
A portion of the funds should be allocated to purchasing air conditioners for the gym as well as for the class rooms.
More activities/equipment for the older grades.
Play structure for older kids, basket ball nets, landscaping to level the field off, painted asphalt for hopscotch, snakes and ladders, chess, etc
Would value any input from the phys.ed. staff.
I think this would be a great project for home and school.
There needs to be space for the soccer kids, as well as structures and play spaces that get the kids who aren't into soccer moving
It's a great idea! Increasing heart rates and rosy cheeks can only lead to better, stronger minds!
Yes but too many to write, I would be part of group discussions. I've already been to preliminary meetings
More natural play areas with a diversity of landscape
Many schools have a "Buddy Bench" that is decorated by students. The students are told that if they have no one to play with they can sit on the bench, and if students see someone on the bench they should go over and include the child in their game. I think it is a fantastic idea that is inexpensive and easy to do.

a playground for older kids
A minor safety recommendation: Padding for any metal posts (soccer posts, etc.) (in addition to more play options...)
There are so many great possibilities! One way to share ideas could be through a group board on Pinterest. It may take a little effort to set up, but could be worth it... Here is info on how to: https://blog.pinterest.com/en/pin-friends-using-group-boards
I would like to see more equipment and organized programs like Dynamix.
This is a fabulous initiative and I applaud the Home and School for exploring this. It would be great to have an improved school year for our children to enjoy. There is so much that could be done. By repaving the already paved area and painting "board games" like snakes and ladders, hopscotch, champ, etc. Going as far as AstroTurf would be fabulous, but a huge expense of course.
It might be interesting to look at some education literature to explore different options for schoolyard development aside from traditional gross motor play structures in the schoolyard.
It's a great idea.
I would love to see free-play elements (like a hill) added to the schoolyard.
I think there could be more structures for the older children.
Differently themed gardens that the kids help design and take care of. A rock garden, a medicinal herb garden, flower garden, native garden, historical garden etc.
Some covered/canopy structures, for some protection against sun/rain. Creative/imaginary spaces: footpaths, bridges, platforms, etc.
More natural features, & outdoor classroom spaces
More natural features, & outdoor classroom spaces
No
Make the playground more appealing for the older grades
Add a Buddy bench for kids who have no one to play with. There was a story on this on the CBC. Kids encouraged to reach out to those sitting on Buddy bench.
Parachute for either gym class and/ or outdoor play.
improving turf and leveling the ground so that kids can play for a longer season
I think this would be a great project for home and school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Try and create areas with 2 or more usage. Ex: A seating area that is also a labyrinth. A designated area for outdoor BBQ grills for Fall & Spring fairs that can also be used for teachers in a cooking class. A chalk wall on one side with rock climbing on the other. A border/low wall created with different height tree stumps that children can walk across. An art feature created by the children that doubles as a bird feeder... - Consider eco friendly surfaces by using recycled materials. I came across a park in Verdun which had a recycled tire playground under play structures for softer landings. - Consider a few covered areas with tables/chairs. - Create a theater area. - With the goal of promoting imagination, is there a way to bring in nature more thoughtfully instead of it making it look like a typical athletic playground (where only the fastest/strongest survive)? - Be sure also put forth a similar survey direct to the children.
Definitely need improvements, as currently there is nothing there.

<http://www.messanges.fr/Structures-sportives-et-de-loisirs/City-Park-et-jeux-pour-enfants>

More play structures for the older children

Better concrete where there is already (smoother to avoid falls). Perhaps a greater variety of painted lines for different game/sport (basketball, dodgeball, ...). Some benches where there is grass. Keep soccer field. Keep in mind that I don't recall the details of the schoolyard.

Keep it simple. Maintenance issues are the devilish details.

It is my understanding that a number of schools (possibly even some CSDM schools?) are moving towards removing some of the more fixed or "stagnant" play structures (those that are limited in their possibilities for play) and are moving towards more fluid or exploration-encouraging structures or elements, often of more "natural" materials (stumps, ropes, logs, boulders). I believe the Environment Committee has started exploring this. The balls that are brought out at lunch are great, encouraging active play without being overly directive. As long as poison ivy eradication is top of mind, simple design is best!

outdoor skating rink during winter

Green forest - planting natural garden plants, raised beds in school yard near fence, incorporate into science class mr el Hana

A gazebo can be an outdoor class room and can provide shade with big black board that kids can draw freely.

More shade; A structure or activities for older kids

I personally think that the tether ball area should be some how made safer. Both my daughters have been hit in the face once resulting in broken glasses. Better markings for a safe distance.

We need shade since all of the trees along the side have been cut down! The schoolyard is always in full sun!

Different heights of Basketball hoops, smaller size of soccer nets

One or several grassy hills

Ideas: hill, rock garden, running track, meditation zone

More natural play areas (maybe a sloped area for winter activities and some trees and bushes planted), re-do grassy area (very uneven) and reclaim some of the pavement! An outdoor classroom?

Play structure for older kids, a proper basketball court, ball hockey court

If there could be something special for the senior students, since they are no longer able to play on the play structure in the schoolyard.

Several other schools are laying down synthetic grass in the schoolyards

A grass area that the kids can actually play in, some more trees, climbing wall/area, actual basketball nets

I work with the kindergarten kids and have been asking for years for a GOOD supply of sand. The children LOVE to play in sand...many times they revert to playing in the dirt just outside the playground since the sand is basically nonexistent !!

Not sure but looking forward in helping out

I would like to see a jungle gym area that the older kids can use on a regular basis if that's possible.

would be nice to add a buddy bench(s)

nothing specific at this point in time, but perhaps certain items that give the kids a variety of options. I went to school there as a child and all we had was champs squares and a lot of room to run. Anything additional would be greatly appreciated by the kids I'm sure.

Our kids have often expressed their wish that there was a play structure (as younger kids) since the existing is for the Kindergarteners only.

Like some playground have a pavement that's similar to cork so they don't get hurt when they fall and stop ruining their clothes.

Add more plants, a jungle gym, benches, ping pong tables

In general I feel there could be more in the way of equipment and structures for this important unstructured play time

Could we please add a buddy bench? This was previously discussed but I do not know where the idea ended up.

Age specific kinetic challenges.

Expanding part of the park for older kids

great idea since we have an amazing space. Please keep greenspace

More soccer nets, maybe some basketball nets...can there be equipment to lend out?

Big Kid play structures

teach kids to grow their own vegetables, maybe a covered area (shelter) so even on rainy days they can still go outside.

My son is graduating this year but suggests a climbing structure for the older kids (for cycle 2 and cycle 3, perhaps one for each?). Nets on the soccer posts, to catch the ball once kicked in, would also be on his wish list. I would suggest a couple of benches, but, given the students are already sitting most of the day, I would prefer not to give them too much option of additional sitting time; therefore 1-2 benches. If, however, there is to be an outdoor classroom, then there should be seats of some sort (nature-like). Install a (mini?) basketball court, so that students have the option to play a pick up game (currently there are two individual, separate, nets for them to play ball shooting games but not actual bball game). If there is room for a fitness area, an idea would be to install some of the outdoor machines and equipment (cardio and muscular), so that kids have another exercise option. Aside, do keep the champ courts, hopscotch (?), and grassy/field/soccer areas. Add and/or refurbish but do not remove! One final idea is to build a cafeteria (an addition/extension) so that the kids have access to the gym during lunchtime and during bad weather days. This is probably the most costly of ideas, but, it would help tackle the space deficit issue and would allow the current gym to be what it was designed to be (a gym as opposed to an eating area). Does the EMSB have funding for this? Lots of ideas but probably only room for a couple of those ideas!