

# Outdoor Learning Space Proposal - Update

*A Mary Hopkins School Council Sub Committee*

May 2017

## What is it? An Overview



### What's next?

- 1 **Raising sufficient funds** so that we can work with a landscape architect (as required).
- 2 **Applying to grants** as part of a longer-term fundraising plan as well as creating a **long-range fundraising plan**.
- 3 **Continuing to work** with a great group of community members and school staff that are committed to the improvement of our children's outdoor learning space.
- 4 **Interested? Questions?** Please call the school or send an email and you will be contacted by a member of the committee.

This Fall HWDSB released the [HWDSB Outdoor Design Manual](#) to encourage and support schools intending to improve their outdoor space in creating “inspiring, engaging, sustainable and safe areas for student learning and growth” (pg 6).

A committee of parents, the principal and a teacher representative have met to discuss improving the outdoor space at Mary Hopkins. Using the manual as a guide, the first steps have been completed with consultation with HWDSB Facility department. Two concept plans have been created - one with short term goals and a second with long term goals. These are only **concept plans** - their purpose is to inform the Board of our ideas. Designs are not final and will be subject to change. We are hoping to raise funds to hire a Landscape Architect in the fall to help us to plan and design for our long-term goals and finalize the budget. This will help us make sure we are getting the most out of funds raised and most importantly - ensuring all improvements to the playground are safe.



Chalkboard flowers

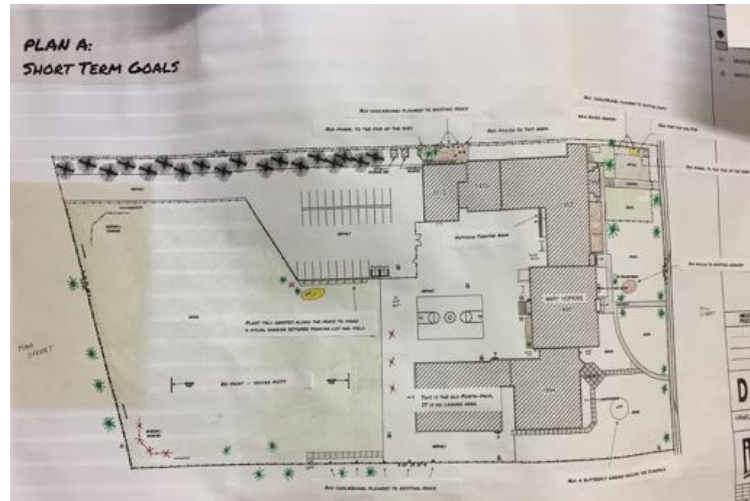


Ideas for additional FDK space

Did you see the display at Open House?  
*If not come and see the Bulletin board by main doors near the office...*



## Concept Plan A - Short Term Goals



### What's the process?

- ☑ Form initial planning and fundraising team
- ☑ Identify goals
  - To have a safe and engaging play area for FDK to grade 5 students
- ☑ Funding (initial)
- ☑ Develop concept plan
  - Short term (quicker, lower cost items)
  - Long term
- ☑ Engage HWDSB Facilities Management
  - They have been involved in the conversation
  - Removal of 2<sup>nd</sup> baseball field, tetherball poles occurring this spring
- ☐ Acquire HWDSB Facilities approval (depending on size of project a Landscape Architect may need to be engaged)
- ☐ Fundraising / Grant application ongoing
- ☐ Move onto a more detailed design
- ☐ Form Implementation and maintenance teams
- ☐ Implementation

#### These include:

- Additional FDK play space beside FDK addition, with mulch
  - Mural on the side of the concrete shed
  - Chalkboard flowers on fence
- Raised garden in FDK pen Mill Street
  - Large covered sandbox
  - Chalkboard flowers on fence
  - Mural on side of shed
- In the large FDK - GR 5 blacktop / field
  - Tall grasses planted to create visual barrier between parking lot and playspace
  - Soccer posts repainted
  - Chalkboard flowers on fence
  - Outdoor theatre area by office steps

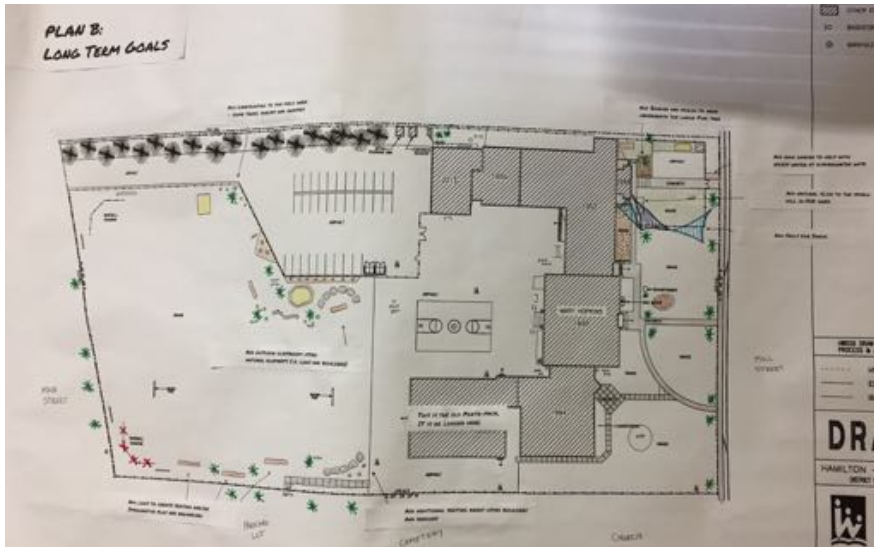


Sample murals





## Concept Plan B - Long Term Goals



### These include:

In the large FDK - GR 5 blacktop / field

Landscape to field area (e.g. trees, shrubs, grasses)

Logs for seating and/or imaginative play and physical play (e.g., climbing, balancing, etc.)

Additional seating areas with boulders or benches

Outdoor classroom seating using natural elements



Sample seating



In FDK area Mill street

- Border and mulch under large tree
- Rain garden to help with excess water at kindergarten gate
- Natural slide to the small hill
- Sails for shade



Sample hillside slides

## How can I be involved?

### 1 Look for upcoming events...

#### Sat June 3<sup>rd</sup> Flower Fest

BBQ, flower sale, face painting and more! In support of the outdoor learning plan

#### Fall - Fuel for Kids

All proceeds from Fall meet the teacher event BBQ going towards Outdoor Learning Space

### 2 Do you have any special skills?

- Or just willing to lend a helping hand?
- Have any contacts?
- Help as little or as much time as you can!

Please call the school or send an email and you will be contacted by a member of the committee.

Special thanks to parents Lindsey Hammond, Angela George, Kelly Taylor and teacher Ashley Black who have started this journey for us. Many other parents have been quick to assist including Chantelle Burbridge (by arranging events at the school for parents) and many, many more! Looking forward to seeing you all at Flower Fest on Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>!