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Officials hope fence will improve security at CR school

By Chris English Staff Writer 15 hrs ago



A planned fence at Maureen M. Welch Elementary School in Northampton should improve security there, Council Rock School District and township officials said.

The fence is in response to concerns expressed by Welch parents about people from the adjacent Northampton Municipal Park coming into or close to the school's playground while students are playing, said Council Rock Operations Director Doug Taylor.

Northampton supervisors Chairman Barry Moore said township police investigated two supposed incidents where people from the park had approached children in the school playground but found neither claim to be credible.

Still, Moore said the fence is a good security measure for the school as long as it doesn't restrict access to a nearby practice field in the park. That field was deeded to the school district but is considered part of the park and is used frequently for soccer and lacrosse practice, he said.

Moore said he believed concerns about the fence restricting access to the field were worked out in a recent meeting between township and school district officials.

But when asked about the matter, Taylor would say only that discussion of the fence had been tabled to an upcoming school board meeting. The date hasn't been set, he added.

This news organization was unsuccessful in attempts to reach Council Rock Superintendent Robert Fraser for comment about the fence.

Current plans are for a black vinyl coated chain link fence five feet high, 1,600 feet long and costing an estimated \$52,000, Taylor said. An alternate plan would reduce the length by half, he added.

Either way, the fence would make it much easier for aides to restrict access to the playground during school days when children are out playing, Taylor said. The fence would not restrict access to the school playground by residents on evenings and weekends, he added.

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