



ASTRO HOCKEY SURFACE

The following is an extract of a letter seeking assistance from a company to realise our dream:

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of the learners of this school and the community on the East Rand, we respectfully ask the Board to kindly consider an appeal for financial assistance, that would lead to the creation of an Astro turf hockey surface in this area.

The committee is requested to take the following into consideration in their deliberations:

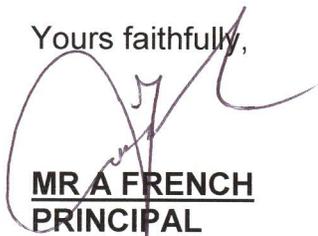
1. The children and adults on the Far East Rand, and in comparison to their brothers and sisters in the major sentra, have very few if any social amenities and/or modern recreation facilities, e.g.
 - Movie theatre (Closest is Brakpan ± 15km from Springs)
 - Ice skating rink (Closest is Kempton Park ± 40 km from Springs)
 - Tartan athletics track (Closest is Germiston ± 35km from Springs)
 - Grass athletics track (Closest is Brakpan ± 15km from Springs)
 - Indoor sport complex (Closest is Boksburg ± 35km from Springs)
 - Astro turf hockey surface (Closest is Bedfordview ± 50km from Springs)
2. While it is felt that the community on the Far East Rand are being disadvantaged; it must be pointed out that Springs is the hub of a "rural" metropol and is surrounded by smaller towns and townships, such as: Delmas, Sundra, Nigel, Welgedacht, Etwatwa, Daveyton, Kwa Thema, Tsakane and Geluksdal. As such, all mentioned sentra will benefit if a facility is placed in a central venue, such as Springs.
3. While building an Astro turf hockey field anywhere in Springs, would be an injection to the youth in the Greater Springs and adjoining sentra, the Board is encouraged to use this school as the ideal site for this activity. The reason being –
 - The school houses a learner population of 770 boys and of which 80% hail from the previously disadvantaged sector.
 - Although the school was erected in 1940 (for the then mining community), yet the facilities are so well cared for, that people believe it to be a new and modern school.
 - The school is fenced-in (2m high); is well lighted; has an electronic security system which is patrolled by a security company; has a system of cameras that record movement on the property and in short, if such an investment is built on the property, it will be secure.
 - Any hockey enthusiast will know that players training on grass cannot compete against those training on Astro. Having said that, this school had four of its 10 teams go through to the final in the hockey league, playing the finals on astro No. 1 team was victorious and for the reason mentioned.
 - In an attempt to give our learners the best and to be competitive with the likes of St Stithians, St Johns, St Benedict, etc. our hockey teams have to travel to Johannesburg on a weekly basis – something that this public school can hardly afford.

- Using public transport to the central hockey sport venue, it being the Johannesburg region, is not only costly and time consuming as well, but more so, it is dangerous.
- The learners residing in the townships, find it difficult to attend such practices, as they cannot get transport home and the result is that the previously disadvantaged learners, are again disadvantaged.
- We are taking the initiative to contact the Provincial and National body governing hockey, and we are beseeching both to give us their hand of friendship and appealing them to assist this school, where they can.
- We are in consultation with the Ekurhuleni municipality and soliciting them that this project is included in the District strategic plan to uplift and transform the sport infrastructure, on the Far East Rand.
- The Gauteng Department of Education is well aware of our intention and has also given us their blessing.
- Furthermore, if the school is successful in its application, it undertakes to maintain said field, so that it can be used by learners at present and those enrolling 20 years from now.
- The school will thus have an open hockey club where not only players from across the Far East Rand can affiliate, but where different schools and clubs can make bookings to play their fixtures.
- Any visit that may be deemed necessary by any committee member, to inspect the grounds/facilities, will be welcomed.

Your kind assistance in making this project a reality, is not only important for the total development of our young gentlemen at school, but is vital to the development of the sport infrastructure on the East Rand.

On behalf of the community on the Far East Rand and specifically the learners at this school, we thank you in eager anticipation.

Yours faithfully,



MR A FRENCH
PRINCIPAL

BA; B.Ed.; M.Ed.; THED



MR G FISHER
CHAIRMAN SGB