

# Daniel Butler Elementary School

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Michael E. McAllister  
Principal

August 2, 2012

Dear Butler Community,

We write to you today to update you on the progress we have made towards a new playground for the students of the Daniel Butler Elementary School.

As we departed in June, we had much to be appreciative of:

- On Tuesday, 5/15 at the annual town meeting, there was a near unanimous vote to allocate \$19,500 towards the new Butler Playground.
- The School department agreed to pay for a surveying company to conduct a site plan, to be paid out of their maintenance funds (rather than having to use money donated for the playground equipment itself).
- On Tuesday, 5/22 at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen Ralph Jones announced his pledge to contribute \$38,000 in additional funds for Phase 2, which essentially concluded our fund-raising efforts for the project.

Although not much of it could be seen from the sidewalk on White Street, the Butler playground continued to be a major project over the summer.

- Andy Rojas (selectman and professional landscape architect) came on board and agreed to oversee the project *pro bono*, drawing on his expertise in the industry.
- John Hollerbach, Certified Playground Installer, developed the layout for the playground equipment. He also ordered all of the equipment in accord with the playground committee's recommendations.
- Richard Nelson, from Colonial Surveying, completed a site survey to determine the most accurate slopes, elevations, etc.
- Al Gala, a Civil Engineer from Gala Simon and Associates, developed a comprehensive drainage plan. He was capably assisted by Jason Anthony, of Anthony Corp.
- Tony DiCologero, Director of Finance for the School Department, oversaw the public bidding process, which will be completed on 8/13.
- Andy Rojas is concurrently working on a Phase II plan (lighting, fencing, landscaping, an outdoor classroom, park benches, etc.)


Of course, all these steps have required time and due diligence; but the goal is to build a playground that will last many years and meet safety and security standards, while providing an attractive and inviting play space. We are nearing the end of the lengthy request-for-proposal process that is required by law and will soon begin the site preparation.

Considering all of the above, our anticipated date for the community build will be after school begins. To rebuild the playground the right way, and not cut corners just for the sake of quick completion, honors the trust and financial commitments of the community. As soon as the site preparation is completed, we will send along details about the community build event.

Respectfully,



Michael E. McAllister



Thomas S. Kingston