



Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation

Breaking Ground for Those with Disabilities

Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation is proud to partner with the Morgan County League of Miracles on the creation of Indiana's first handicapped accessible recreational and sports field. The field, located behind the Madison Township Fire Department on East Landersdale Road, is on property owned by the Mooresville Schools but leased to the League.

A groundbreaking for Phase I of the construction project was held Aug. 9.

“A key focus of Mooresville's strategic plan is partnerships,” said Mooresville School Board President Dr. Bill Roberson. “The schools belong to the community, and as representatives of the community we are partnering with service organizations, businesses and local government for high expectations and opportunities for our kids.”



The property is adjacent to another school property already under construction by Mooresville's Morris J. Cohen Junior Football League to include new youth football fields. Further development of the area will include softball and baseball fields for school use. The League of Miracles area of more than seven acres was obtained from Madison Township by Mooresville Schools in 2012 for the construction of this special field, considered by some as a “field of dreams.”

“Through partnerships with Junior Football League, League of Miracles and Madison Township, we are seeing those dreams come true for our kids-our future,” said Roberson.

The League of Miracles, Inc. is a non-profit that is dedicated to create a fun place for people with special needs and their families to participate in recreational and sporting opportunities. It will feature a special rubberized surface which allows the participation of players with a variety of special needs, including those with mobility challenges. The surface and field format allow play of baseball, basketball, soccer, along with many other sports and camps. It is anticipated to serve children and adults from throughout Morgan County as well as all of Central Indiana, including groups such as Wounded Warriors and Special Olympics.

Phase I of the League of Miracles construction project includes the field, excavation, dugouts, and fencing. Funding for this phase was made possible through the support of numerous corporate and private donors, as well as major donations of \$200,000 and \$150,000 from the Kendrick Foundation and the Mooresville Kiwanis club, respectively.

Funding for Phase II is still being sought, which would add restrooms, a concession stand, and a recreation area.

PHOTO: (from left): Steve Overton, League of Miracles President; Shane Williams, Mooresville Kiwanis President; John Ehrhart, Kendrick Foundation Board Member; Dr. William Roberson, Mooresville School Board President; and Jim Miles, Madison Township Board representative, get ready to break ground on the project.

Mr. Harris stated the Madison Township Sports Complex Agreement has been ongoing for several months now. He then explained an updated drawing the board received. He stated the League of Miracles is going to lease the acreage that surrounds their diamond and buildings which is 3.981 acres that the Building Corporation owns. Madison Township and the Building Corporation will deed us the property as well as the property to the west. Mr. Harris stated we will end up owning a rectangular area of 7.495 acres. In return, we will give Madison Township three portable classrooms we have and the League of Miracles has agreed to pay a portion of the cost, somewhere between \$5,000-\$7,500, for moving them. The League of Miracles believes they will be able to get a better price than the \$26,000 estimate we have for moving the portables. Mr. Harris stated we were originally trying to acquire five acres from Madison Township, but we will acquire 7.495 acres which we will own subject to the 99-year lease of the League of Miracles Diamond. The lease states if the League of Miracles goes out of business, the control of the land comes back to the school corporation. Mr. Harris stated we need to approve getting the 7.495 acres, moving the portables to Madison Township, and approve paying the majority of the cost of moving the portables. Dr. Roberson asked if the lease with the League of Miracles stated no alcohol and if we are going to be protected in the lease. Mr. Harris stated the lease is between the League of Miracles and Madison Township, but once the property is leased, Madison Township will assign the lease to us and we will be the owner. He stated he would study the lease, check with Andrew Greenwood, Attorney for the League of Miracles, and Steve Bushman, Attorney for Madison Township, to make sure it is stated in the lease that no alcohol, tobacco, or firearms will be permitted on the property. Mr. Harris also stated that when we entered in the lease with the Morris Cohen Junior Football League, Exhibit A was not attached to the lease, so he has asked Jeff Banning to prepare a legal description for the east side of the property they are leasing. Mr. Wright stated it was awkward for the board to approve the lease if we do not know what the lease states. Mr. Harris stated there are a lot of details to be worked out and he would forward a copy of the lease to the board tomorrow. Dr. Roberson stated it will be in the future before we have any money to do anything for softball on this property. Mr. Lindsay stated that our team has been working on this since July, 2010; have had a series of meetings that included Steve Harris, Perry King, Chad Briscoe and have been in dialogue with Madison Township and the League of Miracles so it has been a collaborative effort. Mr. Harris stated we want to acquire ownership of the lease which is part of the deal and it is all tied together. He also stated whatever provisions are in the lease, everyone has to abide by the provisions. Dr. Moore stated we are gaining more property, have put next to nothing into this site development, and we do not have budgeted any money to put into the site development. Mr. Lindsay stated the intent of the complex is to benefit the youth of Mooresville. Mr. Swindle made a motion to approve the Madison Township Sports Complex Agreement contingent on the provision that no alcohol or tobacco will be allowed be added to the lease, MCSC will acquire the 7.495 acres from Madison Township, and MCSC will pay the majority of the cost of moving the portables to Madison Township, seconded by Mr. King. Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Harris will communicate the same language to the Morris Cohen Junior Football League. Dr. Roberson stated that Mr. Harris will take care of the details.