

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District
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News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT FROM THE KENMORE-TOWN OF TONAWANDA UFSD REGARDING
ONGOING CROSBY FIELD PROJECT**

As work continues on the Crosby and Kenmore West athletic fields, the Ken-Ton Board of Education is considering the potential implications of an ongoing EPA study to determine the safety of crumb rubber. The Board has initiated a committee process to look at the project timeline and possible outcomes and implications. The Board has not delayed or cancelled construction work and continues to look forward to the timely completion of the project. Ordering the artificial infield material (such as crumb rubber) is one of the later steps in the construction process, and preliminary site work will commence as planned.

It is anticipated that the EPA will release a draft status report in December, which will likely provide some time to explore and discuss this new and invaluable information. This will be information the community never had before, so it could not have been considered when the project was discussed and approved by voters 2 years ago.

The District's most important responsibility is to protect the health and safety of students. Public concern over the safety of crumb rubber has increased in recent years, prompting an increasing number of school districts to choose other infield options for their artificial turf fields. However, at this time, the Board has not drawn any definitive conclusions regarding the safety of crumb rubber.

Families place their trust in the District to ensure the safety of students at all times. Awaiting the study's completion is in keeping with that trust. It is the hope of the Board that the EPA



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study will find that crumb rubber is safe for children and students. If the study comes to different conclusions, the Board will have an opportunity to engage the community in a dialogue on a variety of options. These options may include proceeding as planned or choosing an alternate material.

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