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## Ball fields

Continued from page one

Brennan said. "Now there's no deal. What's going on?"

Town Council liaison to the School Committee Michael Schnack said, "I'm embarrassed" about the current state of the middle school field. He said he looked at the field the previous day, and "it's an absolute disgrace" that the infield is still full of holes. "Someone's going to get hurt," Schnack said.

He said that he would go back to the town administrator the following day to advocate for a speedy resolution to the field maintenance work.

In other business, the School Committee:

- Approved a revised budget that is \$41,742 less than the previously passed spending package due to a reduction in anticipated costs from the Blue Cross health plan. The new budget bottom line is \$10,677,358, which also includes \$78,000 more in the revenue line for anticipated state aid.

- Further discussed the proposed Lawn Avenue School Survey that would ask parents and members of the school community if they want to send junior high school students off the island for their education. The committee has called a special meeting April 21 at 8 a.m. to go over the proposed questions.

- Voted to endorse federal legislation that would give teachers the ability to deduct up to \$400 of classroom expenses, which is up from the current maximum of \$250.

- Voted to endorse a resolution that asks the state legislators to repeal any state laws on special education that exceed or are more restrictive than federal legislation. This initiative was started by the federal IDEA Act of 2004, which asks states to "minimize the number of special education rules, regulations and policies" that local districts are subject to.

"There's not a chance in hell that this will become legislation," Chairwoman Cathy Kaiser said about the resolution, but she added that the School Committee's endorsement was important "to begin the dialogue and ask for accountability."

When asked if the resolution would impact local students, Beth Pinto, the district's special education director, said, "It will depend on the financial situation in each town."

The committee members are waiting to see a complete list of state mandates that exceed federal laws, Kaiser said.

## Jamestown baseball news

Baseball registrations for major and minor league players are now closed. Registrations for rookie league, approximately 7- to 8-year-olds, and instructional league, 5- to 6-year-olds, will continue to be accepted until Friday, April 28. Contact Tony Rafanelli, 423-3953, for more information.

There will be an equipment meeting for all major, minor, and rookie league coaches on Saturday, April 15 at 9 a.m. at the Jamestown ball fields by the concession stand. All managers/coaches should bring their equipment to this meeting for inventory and gap-filling. Those who need equipment should also attend.

The Jamestown Baseball Association would like to thank all managers, coaches, and parents who have helped this past week with tryouts and practices. Special thanks to Steve Heath for co-ordinating outdoor sessions.

Green-up day, for all fields, will be Saturday, April 29, starting at 8:30 a.m. and going until "we get done." All managers, coaches, parents, and players will be needed to help with a variety of activities.

Opening day ceremonies will be held on Saturday morning, May 6.

Players and families should refer to the Jamestown Press for further information on this event as well as news throughout the season.

The Jamestown Baseball Association is asking various civic organizations to consider sponsoring recycling receptacles. Contact Tony Rafanelli, 423-3953, for information. Also, the league is in need of a weatherproof public address system.

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