



June 8, 2020

To: Martha's Vineyard Commission

From: MVRHS Coaching Staff and Athletic Director

Dear Commissioners,

We, the athletic department, wish to thank you for hearing the proposal put forth to you by the MVRHS School Committee regarding the upgrade to our athletic fields. This project has been in process now for several years and it is exciting to see the progress that is now being made. We are in complete support of this project. Due to the high usage of our facilities it is very difficult to maintain the playing fields to a standard that is acceptable for high school athletics. We have also had discussions with our student athletes and they are very excited to think that they may soon be able to play on this facility.

Now that MVRHS is in the Cape and Islands league and play most of our games at schools on the south coast of Massachusetts we have seen, and played on, many excellent facilities. Schools just on the Cape that have synthetic surface fields and tracks include, Nauset, Monomoy, Barnstable, Sandwich, Falmouth and Mass Maritime Academy, where Pope John Paul II plays games. One doesn't have to travel far off Cape to play on similar facilities, Carver, Plymouth North and South, Cohasset, just to name a few. Many of these schools have asked the same questions that are being asked here and they settled on this type of facility. Barnstable is now in the process of adding more synthetic surface fields. However, let us not forget the reason for the start of this project in the first place, our track has outlived its usefulness and with each passing day is degrading and needs to be replaced.

We are hopeful that the Commissioners will look at the science and research the school has put forth to ensure that this facility is not only safe, but also needed. The materials used on the track and infield are 100% recyclable and the infill being used is 100%



organic pine. The addition of the Brock pad under the turf will help reduce the risk of injuries to our athletes.

Attached, please find a petition that we coaches have signed supporting the project. It is our hope that within the next two years we have all our teams playing on, not only a new synthetic surface field and track, but grass fields will now have the opportunity to rest and be in safer and better condition.

Thank you for the time and efforts you are making and we are confident that you will see that this project is right for the island.

Sincerely,

**Mark McCarthy, ATC, CAA**

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Undersigned coaches

Mark McCarthy, Athletic Director  
Andy Nutton, Sailing Coach/Field hockey Vol.  
Gary Simmons, Physical Education Teacher  
Sterling Bishop, Girls Basketball coach  
Chris Greene, Boys Lacrosse coach  
Mike Joyce III, Boys Basketball coach  
Chris Scott, Girls Tennis coach  
Donald Herman, Football coach  
John Wilson, Vol. Boys Lacrosse coach

Becky Nutton, Field Hockey coach  
Marc Rivers, Transportation Director

Tania Laslovich, Athletic Trainer  
Zeke Vought, Football coach  
Jonathan Chatinover, Swimming coach  
Kristen LePine, Field Hockey coach  
Jason Neago, Football coach  
Kelly Bowse, Softball coach  
Riccardo Andrade, Boys Soccer coach  
Rachel L. Schubert, Girls Soccer coach  
Joseph Schroeder, Track/Cross Country coach  
Michael Lavers, Track/Cross Country coach  
Donald Brown, Track coach  
Joel Graves, Track coach