

Joe Schroeder

Mon 10/19/2020 1:48 PM

To: Lucy Moorison

MVC

From: Joseph Schroeder

MVRHS Coach, Track & Field and Cross Country

Members of the commission,

My name is Joseph Schroeder and I am the coach of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) track & field team. I have held this position since 1989. I am writing this letter to support the new athletic facility plan at MVRHS as put forth by Huntress Associates.

In addition to coaching, I also teach at the West Tisbury School and most importantly am the father to 3 former Vineyard student athletes. All three played sports in each season and it is safe to say, they have seen first hand the poor condition of our fields.

More often than not over the past decade, Vineyard track athletes enter their spring season not knowing if they are going to have a place to train, host a home track meet or even have a senior day. Our track surface- and the underlying base- has deteriorated to a point where it is not viable to be repaired. While we continue to train at a facility that is subpar at best and look for ways to replace it, the community has failed to decide on what was going in the middle of the track - until now. Now we have a plan from Huntress that will not only make the community proud but also improves the playability of all our fields.

Athletes who play field sports on the Vineyard continue to be denied the opportunity to compete on a safe surface that can be used by multiple teams in all conditions. It has been well documented that the advantages we gain by having a turf field and a first class track facility are too numerous to count. Huntress and their team have gone above and beyond to make sure that this project will meet or exceed the high standards our community demands and deserves.

I have personally seen many facilities in places just like ours across MA that have benefited their entire community. In fact, many of those are located at schools that are in the Cape and Islands league. It is long overdue that we have an athletic facility that we can be proud of here on the Vineyard. .

The process of getting this current plan for a new athletic facility has been a long and arduous task. I thank all the individuals for putting in countless hours to present the most viable plan that our students, athletes and community members can embrace. Please accept my support without reservation.

Joseph Schroeder

Coach, MVRHS track & Field, Cross Country