

From: Rebecca Nutton

Date: February 7, 2020 at 11:01:24 PM EST

Subject: Fwd: Support for MVRHS Sports fields project

Chairperson Ewell Hopkins,

Executive Director Adam Turner and the OB Planning Board,

My name is Rebecca Nutton and I'm the Varsity Field Hockey coach for MVRHS. I am writing to express my support for the proposed sports fields renovation and installation of a multi-sport Astro turf stadium. I believe the investment in updating our playing surface would greatly improve the quality and potential for athletes who play our sport.

I have played and coached field hockey for over 20 years : athlete and coach at the Division I college level, member of Ipswich Ladies 1st team, England and coach of coed youth squads at an independent boarding school. In that time I have seen the sport, both in the US and internationally, move toward using primarily Astro turf playing surfaces from the youth level up. It is the preferred playing surface for high school and primary surface at all divisions of the college level. Internationally and at the elite level, it is only played on turf. A majority of teams within MV's season schedule play on turf and/or have opportunities to access the surface through off-season and club programs.

Having our own turf field at MVRHS will give us a chance to meet our competitors on a level playing field and will allow our top athletes to better prepare for continuing to play field hockey in college and potentially beyond. If you have never seen field hockey played on grass vs Astro turf, please believe me that the difference is substantial. .. it effects all aspects of the game; from individual stick skills through to advanced team tactics. At the moment, the closest we can come to preparing ourselves for facing competitors who play on astro turf is to hold practice in the indoor gym on a hardwood floor to simulate the speed at which the ball and play moves. It is a poor substitute and a difficult hurdle for our program which aims to move beyond first round post season tournament play in the future. We have such talented and committed athletes on our island and I wish to see them given the same opportunities as athletes who live and compete elsewhere.

From my perspective as a coach, athlete, parent and community member, please consider my full support of the project when considering your response. The success of this proposal would hugely benefit a generation and more of island athletes.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Nutton

MVRHS Varsity Field Hockey Coach

Teacher at Island Children's School