

## Paul Foley

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**From:** Richard Smith [RSmith@mvyps.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 6:16 AM  
**To:** dardyslavin@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Adam Turner; Paul Foley; Rlionette@gmail.com; Mdandrea@mvyps.org; Sdingledy@mvyps.org  
**Subject:** Re: LUPC Follow-up

Dear Dardanella,

The schools have no intention to involve the students in such a manner. The school system will not encourage or cultivate the children's involvement in this process. We feel this would be inappropriate as well. Please contact me if you wish to talk further. Thank you and best of luck to you...

Richie

508-939-1678

Dear Commissioners and MVC staff,

Thank you for last night's thoughtfully run LUPC meeting. We are grateful for the MVC's professionalism and attention to details, both large and small.

While there remains much to investigate and debate regarding the merits of MV@Play's plans, we write today about a particular topic that was raised last night. A Commissioner requested that MVRHS student body be asked for their opinion on synthetic turf. There is no doubt that the proposal will impact MVRHS students, and we know that many do hold opinions on the matter. That said, we feel it is wholly inappropriate to survey students.

The debate over playing surface materials has unfortunately been highly polarizing and contentious. At many times last spring, those of us who expressed concern about synthetic turf were mocked, insulted, and disrespected -- publicly and privately -- by adults and children alike. As adults, we felt this pressure intensely. We can only imagine how it felt to be a high school student, with so many coaches and school leaders taking such an outspoken stand.

Now the issue is coming back to the fore, with the Commissioners taking a close look at the broad range of issues associated with synthetic turf: costs, environmental impacts, toxicity, maintenance, and playability, to name a few. This is not a clear cut decision. It is nuanced, with many details to be considered and challenges to be navigated.

This is most certainly a teachable moment. Our children should be educated about the complexity of these decisions, informed with a broad range of information on all aspects of the proposal, and encouraged to engage in thoughtful, respectful conversation. But they should NOT be pressured by the Commission, their school, or their coaches to take a stand. We, the members of Vineyarders for Grass Fields, respectfully request that the Commission withdraw their request to poll MVRHS' 650 students.

Respectfully,

Dardanella Slavin  
On behalf of Vineyarders for Grass Fields