

From: RICHARD BENNETT
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:48 AM
To: Alex Elvin
Subject: mvrhs fields

Dear MV Commission,

I have just read the responses to my email dated March 4, 2020, and I offer apologies for this late entry into the discussion on the MVRHS athletic fields proposal. I thank Mr. Huntress for his comments, but I maintain that the data the school has submitted for this project is significantly inflated, and suggests a concerted effort on their part to over-emphasize the need for an artificial surface while diminishing or ignoring the potential for a natural grass alternative. The first set of data MVRHS presented to Mr. Huntress late in 2018 (Doc. 1, attached) misrepresented and grossly overstated field usage by including all sports activities on the island as if they were using MVRHS fields. When this was called to the school's attention, they withdrew that document and replaced it with a revised table (Doc. #2, attached), based only on the groups who currently use them. This is the data that is now the basis of the current field proposal. There are several significant changes the school made to the original data, all of which served to add unwarranted uses, as follows:

1. In Document 2 the school added one event per week to every team listed, claiming 6 events a week instead of the 5 per week in the original document. As I explained in my March 4 email, given that each team has on the average one away game per week, in order to participate in 6 events on the MV fields they would need to be playing every day of the week. If Mark McCarthy is determined to say that the high school teams are engaged in practices or games 7 days per week, I will concede my point. But if they are doing so, it represents a change from 5 years ago when I was coaching. It also runs counter to all the best practices standards for student-athletes in high schools and colleges across the country, which call for one day per week for rest and recuperation, and I'm sure the MIAA and the other Cape and Island League members would like to know about it.
2. In Document 2 the school added two weeks of practice to every JV team listed. The original document distinguished between JV and varsity teams, allowing an extra two weeks for the varsity teams in order to account for the possibility of tournament play. The more recent document claims that JV teams continue to play after their regular season ends, even though there is no post-season tournament for them. Using the base of 5 events per week per team, and allowing for the differences between the lengths of the varsity and JV seasons, the total number of events per year for the high school usage comes to 775, not the 950 the school claims.
3. In Document 2 the school added 80 events for Babe Ruth baseball, 5 events for something called "Club Camp", and increased youth lacrosse usage from 12 weeks and 228 events to 16 weeks and 256 events. Regarding baseball, right and center fields of the Babe Ruth field do partially overlap with the JV soccer field, as the school has noted. However, equating outfielders shagging fly balls on a small portion of that field with full usage strikes me as a stretch. Second, based on the information provided on their website (www.mvyouthlacrosse.com), the data on youth lacrosse is way out of line. Eight of their ten teams run for 14 weeks (not 16), while their two youngest teams run for 10 weeks. Furthermore, their two youngest girls teams practice at Oak Bluffs,

not the high school. Their total number of events at MVRHS comes to 216, with all their practices lasting one hour. I don't know the length of the youth football and flag football events, but I'd be surprised if they were greater than 2 hours. I do know that the Metters camp runs 1.5 hour sessions. Assuming that the Club Camp is legitimate, and granting baseball half of the claimed usage (a generous concession), the total non-high school use comes to 370 events, not the 450 claimed by the school. If one compares the total number of field events in Documents 1 and 2, the high school has added more than 250 nonexistent events to their original document, and the total hours listed on p. 35 should be slightly more than 2900, not the 3850 claimed by the school.

4. Finally, while I fully appreciate that there are numerous variables in determining the impact of usage on playing fields and that it's not an exact science, I'm not convinced the formulas provided by Mr. Huntress are particularly helpful. As I've noted in points 1-3, the school has inflated their data by 30%, which strikes me as a significant amount. Moreover, under the guidelines he has provided, a youth lacrosse team of 8 year old kids practicing for one hour has the same impact on the field as a high school varsity team practicing 2.5 hours. This would seem to defy the laws of physics. Using these same guidelines, the youth soccer programs alone at West Tisbury School and Oak Bluffs School would account for more than 900 hours annually. Over the course of the last several years, both these fields have undergone a more intensive maintenance regime - at a standard higher than what Mr. Taus describes in Question #1 - and they are thriving despite levels of usage that by Mr. Huntress' calculations are comparable to those at the high school. The success of these two projects suggest that greater attention to maintenance would go a long way towards solving the school's problem without necessitating installing a more costly (and unrecyclable) artificial field.

Thank you,
Richard Bennett,
Chilmark

MVRHS Field Usage by Sport
2018

High School Sport Usage

Team	Weeks Scheduled	Events/week	Event/annually
V Boys soccer	13	6	78
JV Boys soccer	(13)	6	78
B Girls soccer	13	6	78
JV Girls soccer	(13)	6	78
V Football	14	6	84
JV Football	(14)	6	84
V Boys lacrosse	11	6	66
JV Boys lacrosse	(11)	6	66
V Girls lacrosse	11	6	66
JV Girls lacrosse	(11)	6	66
V Field hockey	13	6	78
JV Field hockey	(13)	6	78
Spring track	10	5	50
		Total	950

Youth Sport Usage Currently at HS

Program	Weeks Scheduled	Events/week	Events/Annually
MV Youth football	8	5	40
MV Youth flag football	6	4	24
Girls & Boys Youth lacrosse	16	16	256
Babe Ruth Baseball	16	5	80
		Total	400

Summer Camps

Program	Events		
Mass Youth Soccer	10		
Club camp	5		
Metter's camp	20		
Field Hockey	5		
Track Camp	5		
Football	5		
Total	50		

HIGH SCHOOL MULTI-SPORT FIELD USE

TEAMS	SCHEDULED WEEKS	EVENTS PER WEEK	EVENTS PER YEAR
MVRHS VARSITY BOYS SOCCER (FALL)	14	5	70
MVRHS JR. VARSITY BOYS SOCCER (FALL)	12	5	60
MVRHS BOY'S FRESHMAN SOCCER (FALL)	12	5	60
MVRHS GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER (FALL)	14	5	70
MVRHS GIRLS JR. VARSITY SOCCER (FALL)	12	5	60
MVRHS VARSITY FOOTBALL (FALL)	14	5.5	77
MVRHS JR. VARSITY FOOTBALL (FALL)	14	5.3	74
MVRHS BOY'S VARSITY SPRING LACROSSE	14	5	70
MVRHS BOY'S JR. VARSITY SPRING LACROSSE	12	5	60
MVRHS GIRL'S VARSITY SPRING LACROSSE	14	5	70
MVRHS GIRL'S VARSITY SPRING LACROSSE	14	5	70
MVRHS GIRL'S VARSITY SPRING LACROSSE	12	5	60
MVRHS VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY (FALL)	14	5.5	77
MVRHS JR. VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY (FALL)	12	5	60
MVRHS GIRL'S VARSITY SPRING TRACK & FIELD	14	5	70
MVRHS BOY'S VARSITY SPRING TRACK & FIELD	14	5	70
MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK & FIELD	6	1	6
MVRHS TOTAL EVENTS PER YEAR FOR MULTI SPORT FIELDS			1014

YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS MULTI-SPORT FIELD USE

PROGRAMS	SCHEDULED WEEKS	EVENTS PER WEEK	EVENTS PER YEAR
MV UNITED RECREATION LEAGUE SPRING SEASON	8	9	72
MV UNITED TRAVEL LEAGUE SPRING SEASON	16	32	512
MV UNITED ISLAND LEAGUE FALL SEASON	8	24	192
MV YOUTH FOOTBALL	8	5	40
YOUTH LACROSSE	12	19	228
YOUTH SPORTS TOTAL EVENTS PER YEAR FOR MULTI-SPORT FIELDS			1044

SUMMER SPORT CAMPS

PROGRAMS	SCHEDULED WEEKS	EVENTS PER WEEK	EVENTS PER YEAR
SOCCER CAMPS	2	16	32
FOOTBALL	2	16	32
LACROSSE	2	16	32
TRACK & FIELD	2	16	32
ESTIMATED SUMMER CAMP EVENTS PER YEAR			128

ADULT & SUMMER SPORTS LEAGUES

PROGRAMS	SCHEDULED WEEKS	EVENTS PER WEEK	EVENTS PER YEAR
MEN'S SUMMER SOCCER LEAGUES	8	8	64
ADULT OVER 40 TEAM	8	2	16
ESTIMATED ADULT & SUMMER SPORTS EVENTS PER YEAR			80

TOTAL EVENTS PER YEAR

2266.2

FIELD REQUIREMENTS

FIELDS	EVENTS	FIELDS REQUIRED
TOTAL NUMBER OF GRASS FIELDS TO HANDLE LOAD	2266.2	9.0648
TOTAL NUMBER OF SYNTHETIC FIELDS TO HANDLE LOAD	2266.2	4.12

GRASS FIELD CALCULATIONS IS BASED ON 250 EVENTS PER YEAR

SYNTHETIC FIELD CALCULATIONS IS BASED ON 550 EVENTS PER YEAR