

From: Samantha Burns
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:00 AM
To: Alex Elvin; planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov
Subject: MVRHS Field Improvement Project

To the Martha's Vineyard Commission and the Oak Bluffs Planning Board;

Hello, my name is Samantha Burns. I am currently the MVRHS Head Varsity Softball Coach. I have headed this program for the last 4 years and have been involved with the JV and Youth Programs for the last 20 years. I commission the Women's Summer League as well as provide private lessons for young boys and girls.

As an athlete and coach, I can say that sports are certainly essential in keeping our youth healthy, engaged and happy. Sports provide an opportunity for kids to be creative, exercise, learn how to succeed and how to fail, be a team player in all aspects of life and gain the self esteem needed in a competitive technological society. Softball in particular provides student athletes a sport they can enjoy for life.

I am writing in support of the MVRHS Track and Field Project, Phase One designed by Huntress Associates. This project is the much needed renovation and rebuild to on our athletic campus to support the athletic programs of the high school. It has been said that the turf field is recyclable and infill consists of organically grown pine mulch, a healthy alternative to crushed rubber.

Currently the fields have enormous wear and tear due to many hours of play both in and off season. Overuse of grass fields greatly impact game play increasing things such as abrasion resistance and ball rebound. Cleats tear up the grass each and everyday, causing soil compaction. Without rest this overuse also causes thinning of the grass and dirt patches throughout the field causing a dangerous uneven surface. One turf field allows for well needed rest of many others resulting in the longevity of excellent play of the grass fields.

Please approve this project and bring a new sense of camaraderie to all Vineyard Athletic Teams, our student athletes deserve it!

Sincerely,
Samantha Burns
MVRHS Head Varsity Softball Coach