

To: Adam Turner
From: Donald Herman
Date: February 3, 2021
Ref: High School Field

First of all, thank you for extending to me the invitation to join the other MVC members at the high school yesterday. It really was eye opening for me.

For better or worse, I can't help but feel that for some, decisions on this matter have already been made up, both to approve or disapprove. I hope all MVC members are able to keep an open-mind and listen to the experts and not the opinions.

There are a couple of comments I heard yesterday that I would like to address. One, was the theory that if the fields base was done properly, the field itself would be good. The only field that I can agree on this way of thinking is the field at the track, our football practice field. Yes, that base was never properly done. It was never meant to be used. I was here when it was created.

The rest of the athletic field facility, however, was done properly back in the development stages. The real issue is a simple one. Can our existing fields continue to handle the load asked of them?

Here is where the experts come in to play. Huntress installs both grass and turf fields. All of their studies have proven that our fields are over-used, abused, and that all grass fields will not work. It is their expert opinion that having even one turf field will alleviate the poor grass conditions we now have.

The New England Patriots, when they built Gillette Stadium, installed a grass playing surface. I'm willing to bet that that entire field was done properly. However, I don't know the exact year, but in the middle of a Patriot season, owner Robert Kraft, had the grass field removed and had a turf field installed.

His reasoning was a simple one. The field they were currently using could not hold up to the use asked of it. This was also around the same time the New England Revolution started playing in Gillette. Robert Kraft is also the owner of that sport team.

The field at Gillette is a turf field today and gets plenty of use. All eight high school Super Bowls are played in Gillette Stadium. Does anyone think this would happen if that field was still natural grass?

My second concern, and I've stated this before, is that the biggest naysayers for installing turf, either never played at MVRHS, never had a child play at MVRHS, or played prior to the mid-90's which is when lacrosse started here.

Once again, the experts in this situation are the high school coaches and their athletes. Every single coach that uses those fields is in favor of turf. I can't say for sure, but I am willing to bet that the overwhelming majority of the athletes are also in favor of playing on turf.

In conclusion, I know this debate has been going on for several years. But while it has, our fields and our athletes are still suffering. The experts suggest installing a turf field. I hope the MVC members will hear and listen to the experts.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Donald Herman