

Matt D'Andrea

I would like to begin by saying thank you to the Commission for a well-organized comprehensive review of our application. The school administration appreciates the willingness to allow all voices from across our Island community to weigh in on this important project.

The school district's primary goal is always the education of our students, along with their physical and emotional well-being. At our high school, Principal Dingley has established a rigorous focus on education and has developed a comprehensive student mental health support system. Her vision for student achievement is preparing our students

for an increasingly complex and challenging world. I am extremely proud of the work that is happening at our high school. Our students move on to some of the best colleges and universities in the nation or transition into a successful trade. The extensive opportunities that we afford our students develop well-rounded citizens who are equipped with the skills necessary to excel in any area of study.

Athletics are an integral part of our educational vision, and this project is a crucial component. The track and field discussion has been ongoing for over five years, and through this process we have learned that a single, synthetic field is critical to our ability to maintain the integrity of the five

natural grass fields, which are so important to player safety. Furthermore, the district has taken every step to ensure that we're using materials that are safe, durable, and environmentally sound. Throughout these forums, we have made our case, cited facts, provided relevant testimony and responded to over 200 questions from the Commissioners. After many years of research and discussion, the school district has concluded that this project is in the best interest of our students and aligns with the overall educational vision for our school district. We now ask for your approval.

Thank you.

At this time, Assistant Superintendent
Richie Smith will speak to the benefits
of this project.