

# letter of support

Michael Magaraci <mmagaraci@mvvps.org>

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To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>;

03/15/2021

To Whom it may concern;

I am writing this letter in support of the new athletic facility proposal at MVRHS. I have been an island resident since 2000. I am currently a Physical Education teacher on the island. I have been coaching in some capacity since 2001 and since then the athletic fields have not improved (minus the HS baseball field, which was privately funded). The fields are in deplorable condition and the maintenance crew at the high school is understaffed and overworked. I have been in support of the new synthetic turf since the conversation began some 8 years ago. We (as an island) were promised much improved playing surfaces by The Field Fund. That promise has not been lived up to. We have been failing our children by not giving them a safe, durable playing surface for their individual teams. A new turf field would allow for this to happen.

In a perfect world we would play on safe, durable grass, this is not a perfect world nor do we have safe, durable playing surfaces. We are doing the youth on island a disservice. At the high school level semi-final games in field hockey and soccer cannot be played on grass, the games MUST be played on turf. If one of our high school teams gets to the semi finals in the state tournament, that team will not have a home game.

There seems to be quite a bit of opposition to the turf fields. Most of the basis for this opposition is based on preference and not factual information. As a parent, if you do not want your child to play on a synthetic surface, then do not let them play. That is a choice to be made by each individual family. I am willing to allow my two children to play on a turf field. If you are one of the people that is not on board with synthetic turf, do not let your children play travel sports as 80% (if not more) of the fields we play on off island are turf.

You have the power to give the island youth the luxury to play on a safe, durable surface for years to come. Why would you not do it?

Respectfully,

Mike Magaraci