

High school field project

Runar Finn Robinson <rrobinson@mvpcs.org>

Thu 1/14/2021 1:23 PM

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

As a member of Plastic Free MV I strongly encourage the MVC commissioners not to move forward with the athletics field project. I believe that it would be very foolish to install a plastic field at the high school. Since we are currently experiencing an ecological collapse due to the overproduction of toxic waste, and massive Co2 emissions, this is not the time to be investing in a giant short lived plastic carpet. Along every step of this field's life it will only add to our global carbon footprint and poison our ecosystem. Contrary to the claims of the synthetic turf industry, recycling now and in the future is an unrealistic hope since the only synthetic turf recycling facility is in Denmark, and it is unsure if there will ever be any in the US. So unless the decaying field is shipped to Denmark, which would probably offset the minor benefits of this effort there is no viable path to recycling. By making this decision we are also risking polluting our single source aquifer, which the highschool sits atop of, with dangerous chemicals such as PFAs. These chemicals can escape the field through runoff and find their way into groundwater, as well as sticking to athletes bodies. It has been shown in lab tests these chemicals can have adverse health effects to humans and animals alike.

As well as being destructive for humans and our environment synthetic turf fields are also 3 times as expensive as a well maintained natural field According to UMass Lowell's Toxics Use Reduction Institute and grass field are higher in quality, with 73% of NFL athletes preferring to play on grass and only 18% preferring plastic, and non contact injuries among athletes are higher on plastic. Well maintained Grass fields also provide healthy drainage, and trap dust and dirt, as well as removing carbon from the air.

If you want to do what's best for MV youth now and in the future, please oppose this absurd project, as synthetic turf is inferior in quality and more expensive, as well as being extremely detrimental to our well being and the planets well being, please make the right choice here, and don't commit us to dealing with a large pile of plastic waste product.

Runar Finn Robinson (age 13)

This email is intended for educational use only and must comply with the Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School's Acceptable Use Policy. Under Massachusetts Law, any email created or received by an employee of the Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School is considered a public record. All email correspondence is subject to the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 66. This email may contain confidential and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review

or distribution by others is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient please contact the sender and delete all copies.