

Field Project MVRHS

Kimberly Biggs <biggster@aol.com>

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To: Oak Bluffs Planning Board <planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov>

To: Chairperson Ewell Hopkins

Oak Bluffs Planning Board

Dear Ewell Hopkins,

My 2 daughters participated in Varsity Track and Field throughout their highschool years. One has since moved on to college, and the other is currently a Junior. Track and Field is a sport she would like to pursue in college. The track at the school is an abomination and an embarrassment. It has caused an unfair disadvantage for the team. It is becoming dangerous and unsafe. My son is a lacrosse player, (now a sophomore) and due to the poor field conditions he has left the MVRHS to attend boarding school where there is no worry of injury and poor playing conditions. My daughter is considering leaving the highschool next year because of the condition of the track as she needs to train for college and is unable to with the current poor conditions at the highschool.

The current fields cannot handle the amount of hours of play happening on our High School fields.

- Don't waste our taxpayer money on more grass when a turf field will help the grass by taking time away from it and allowing it to heal from use.
- Several EXPERTS in athletic field design say our grass fields cannot handle the hours of play which is why they are the way they are!
- One synthetic turf field allows the natural grass fields to rest, absorbing play during growing season and bad weather.
- We want our kids to have safe facilities to support their sports.
- We want the grass fields to be amazing, so therefore we need a turf field!!!
- This will not be a burden to taxpayers. Donors are ready and waiting to help, just like the YMCA, MV Museum and Community Services!

* The synthetic turf field is made from recycled materials and will be recycled when it's done!

- The infill is NOT crumb rubber, its wood mulch from Georgia Pines (grown organically and harvested sustainably), which is very much in keeping with who we are as an island.
- The *same* town who initiated the water bottle ban held a special town meeting and voted to support a synthetic turf field! This field is the definition of multi use! A turf field can handle THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF COMPETITIVE PLAY
- 5 of 6 Towns supported this synthetic turf field

It is a necessity that this project moves forward ASAP so that the athletes of this school have a competitive and safe environment to practice and compete on.

Sincerely

Kimberly Biggs