

Letter Of Support For P1 Of Master Plan - Synthetic Turf Track & Field

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To: elvin@mvcommission.org <elvin@mvcommission.org>; Oak Bluffs Planning Board <planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov>

Dear Chairperson Hopkins, DRI Coordinator Elvin, And Martha's Vineyard Commissioners,

I am writing to you today to offer my support of the Phase One Master Plan for a new synthetic turf field at the MV Regional High School. I have followed the debate about the viability of a synthetic field at the High School and have developed my position of support for the new field according to my strong belief of the science as announced by the experts in their respective findings and reports. Furthermore I believe in trusting our elected and appointed officials and representatives to come up with the best for our students after a dedicated and thorough review of the matter until the contrary is shown.

I am aware of, and have followed over the last several years, the "debate" between the School and the opposition to this very important project. As a parent, who has attempted to approach this issue objectively, I find the Plan to be thorough, comprehensive, and persuasive. What I find impressive is that it is science based.

My support takes into account the following:

- Experts in athletic field design believe that the H.S. fields cannot support the high use we experience with our sports programs and that use leaves our fields in their current poor condition.
- Tax dollars will not be wasted on more grass fields when a synthetic turf field will complement the other grass fields. One synthetic turf field offers a place to use which will give the other grass fields a chance to survive the heavy use and rainy weather and allow them to grow in the growing season. The grass fields will be the very best around where their counterpart is a synthetic turf field.
- The proposed synthetic turf field is a multi use field.
- I find the support of 5 of the 6 Towns to be instructive on the merits of a synthetic turf field.
- The experts report that the synthetic turf field is made from recycled materials and can be recycled after it outlived its use. Additionally the "fill" is not crumb rubber rather it is wood mulch from the "Georgia Pines," grown organically and harvested sustainably.

I respectfully urge each Commissioner to take that hard look at the proposal in front of you and support the synthetic turf field. Our student athletes for generations will be pleased and well served.

Respectfully,

James Q. O'Brien

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