

## MVRHS Huntress Associates Track and Field Phase One

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in FULL SUPPORT of the high school track and field project, phase one designed by Huntress Associates.

I am in full support of the plan which includes:

- \* New eight-lane 400 m running track
- \* Multi-purpose synthetic turf field
- \* Natural grass athletics field renovation
- \* New LED Sports lighting
- \* 1000 seat grandstand
- \* a facility with locker rooms trainers room weight room and public bathrooms
- \* ADA compliant walk ways and complete access

This to me is one of the most important issues and needs to be addressed. This phase one will allow differently - abled students and community members access to a field and track where now they have non. The ability to allow ALL access should be of utmost importance.

As a parent of a MVRHS track student who did not have any meets on the island for one whole year because the track was deemed unsafe, I was in awe, how we as a community let that happen. I must say, I could never see that happening for other sports, the arts, or theatre. Imagine asking our theatre department to go to Falmouth to have their plays. It would be unheard of yet, we did just that for over 50 student athletes. Very few parents saw their children perform at meets that year and it was a great loss.

A plan was decided to fix the track but truly it was just a band aid. It has worked for three years with TIME RUNNING OUT.

As for synthetic fields:

I hear often why do we need them? I have a few thoughts on this question, why?

We at our high school provide students with an excellent education. Many go onto to four year colleges and attend universities such as Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Brown, Penn State, and Stanford. To me it says we are doing an excellent job educating students and providing them with choices. The world is their academic oyster so to speak. We at the high school, have an excellent art program. Our students are attending RISD, Mass Art, NYC university, and jewelry design schools. They are winning Gold, Silver, Bronze and Honorable mentions at the state level for the work they do in the High school. Congrats MVRHS you are fulfilling the needs of our creative students.

We at the high school, have wonderful CTE programs. They are responsible for leading our students into building trades and designs. Some even become EMTs before leaving high school and carry on to nursing degrees. Others find their footing in the maritime world of boats and harbors. Other go onto culinary cuisines and colleges and automotive trades.

We at the high school, have a theatre dept. and music department that have state of the art equipment. The Minnesingers travel around the world and our theatre dept. sends students onto theatre degrees with wonderful portfolios.

I have listed only just a few of our high schools accomplishments as there are many more.

However, As a mom of a Field Hockey player, I have much to say about the inadequacies our campus provides for the young Women.

We lack the ability to send kids off to division one schools, specifically YOUNG WOMEN, to play Field Hockey. Field hockey is now almost exclusively played on turf. We provide so much for our other students but not for the student who needs equal access to a field to fulfil her dream of becoming great, or having the chance at a scholarship like our musician, artist, scientist, and writer.

You have before you a wonderful solution to the many problems that have plagued the high school athletic campus for decades. It is brought before you with the generosity of donations. It resolves the many issues the grass fields have had. It resolves the ADA compliance that is truly needed to give access to our grounds and restrooms. It allows for many grass fields to be maintained. It provides opportunity for our student athletes to SHINE in their respective sports and with hard work and determination, they will have the same opportunity to meet their goals and strive for better schools and scholarships as the rest of our students.

I respectfully ask that you keep an open mind and ultimately approve this project.

Sincerely,

Janet Packer

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10