

Ernie Clark <ernieclark32@comcast.net>

6/9/24

Dover High School Historian Larry David, DHS '71, MIT '75 wrote to me today.

Ernie,

I can only follow the great battle being waged over the funding for the proposed new athletic fields. I am seeing several parallels between the current predicament and what went down 57 years ago with the construction of DHS 3.0.

You will recall the uproar over building DHS 3.0 in the first place. Many in Dover did not think a new high school was warranted, even though 1400 students were crammed into a building originally designed to hold a max of 600. There were no athletic fields. Boys teams practiced and played at Woodman Park, and there were no facilities for girls sports or even girls phys ed.

When DHS 3.0 was nearly finished, a big oops happened—there wasn't enough money to finish the athletic fields (sound familiar?). S. Judson Dunaway stepped up and funded the project, but there was a caveat—St. Thomas was allowed to use the football field, which drove Bill Busching nuts because DHS was stuck with the maintenance for what was immediately an overused field.

No Dunaway is riding to the rescue this time (if I had a few million to spare, I would!). The funding shortage from the original DHS 4.0 plan is the worst historical parallel plaguing the project. The big difference, besides the 50-70X cost required, is that DHS now has to support 5X as many sports programs as it did in 1967, and against opponents who have already willingly spent the millions of dollars to support theirs.

The engineering study is supposed to cost \$150K. 57 years ago Dunaway stepped up with \$100K for the complex. Inflation!

Good luck.

Matthew Fennessy <m.fennessy@dover.k12.nh.us>

6/11, 1:00 PM Cullen, Fergus; Carrier, Robert; Craig Flynn <C.Flynn@dover.k12.nh.us>
Fergus,

My name is Matt Fennessy, I live at 34 Hubbard Road and Dover. I teach and coach at Dover High School and I am writing you to support the artificial turf as part of the DHS track and field project as well as to refute the commentary that was written in today's [Fosters](#) regarding that potential decision. Artificial turf is unquestionably the best playing surface available. It is currently used by Oyster River (they have 2!), Portsmouth, Exeter, Nashua, Goffstown, and Bedford to name a few. Salem is now under construction with their artificial turf. Many of the NHIAA outdoor championships in the State are conducted on artificial turf. It is standard surface for colleges. The University of New Hampshire uses artificial turf fields as do other more prestigious academic schools such as Notre Dame, Yale, Vanderbilt, and Harvard. To suggest that it is the only cause of injury is mere speculation. There is no conclusive data that can say that an injury was caused by artificial turf. Most of the turf injuries cited are due to non-contact injuries, which are most likely caused by inefficiencies in body movement over time. A quick search of academic work in these areas can lead anyone to varying opinions.

If terms of natural turf, there are some considerations that have been left out of the conversation. First, is that Dover has tried the "organic field maintenance" being advocated for. Flat out it has not worked! Our fields are embarrassing when compared to other Division 1 schools. Our fields are worse than those at STA and PCA. Since most of our fields are along the Bellamy River it is probable that they are clay-based soil and ledge. This makes it nearly impossible to grow a deep root structure for the grass that can sustain the constant wear and tear of our athletes. Using towns such as Marblehead and Martha's Vineyard that have different revenue opportunities, wear and tear and budgets than does Dover is silly.

There is talk about saving the taxpayers money. I am all for that! The savings from not having to water the grass should be substantial. Conserving water is doing our part to be environmentally responsible also. The hours to mow, prep, and paint fields, preparing to play and then having to re-do it when weather hits, is beyond frustrating to observe. Also, conveniently left out of the conversation is revenue potential. If this project were to include multiple artificial turf fields, we are looking at the ability to keep a fund that is for the maintenance and upgrade of the turf. We are located near the highway! There is not another turf baseball field within an hour of us. Fields can fetch \$250+ per hour during the weekends. Using conservative estimates, I believe that we could have our next field paid for by the time the bill comes due.

The idea that artificial turf fields give off heat is true. But we are in New England. How many times are we to believe that this heat will be problematic? As it is we conduct summer activities in the morning and evening so that will not change. The benefit of artificial turf is shortening the New England winter and getting our kids outdoors more often! As I understand it when turf was approved in the initial construction process "Cool Play" was adopted as the approved infill, which can be as much as 20% cooler than typical "black" infill too. The recent heat issue cited in Lynn, MA speaks instead to the athletes there being improperly hydrated and nourished.

I am not pretending to be an expert on this issue. I haven't paid the \$180 that it takes to be an "expert". What I do know is that those that are opposing this have a larger agenda. It is important that the public understand that this is a Trojan Horse argument for their political agenda. This is not for the betterment of this city. This is to lend credibility to their would be movement.

Please consider this as you make your decision to use artificial turf.

Matt Fennessy
34 Hubbard Road
Dover NH 03820

Jillian Brickley<j.brickley@dover.k12.nh.us>

To:fergus ferguscullen.com

Sun 6/9/2024 6:58 AM

Hello Mr. Cullen,

I am unable to attend the meeting, however I wanted to share my thoughts, feel free to share as well. Thank you for your time and commitment to this project, Jillian.

“My name is Jillian Brickley and I am the head coach of the Dover Middle School Field Hockey team. As the feeder program to Dover’s D-1 State Champion high school program, it is imperative we cover all aspects of the sport. I fully support the work and ideas that the Dover Athletics Joint Building Committee has brought forth. Each fall we practice using the outfield of our DHS baseball field, in addition to utilizing the track frequently for additional long distance and sprinting conditioning necessary for game preparation. Following these training days, the team recognizes and comments on the poor condition of the track in various areas, leading me to remind the girls to be cautious while running to avoid injuries each time.

Not only would track improvements be beneficial to our community’s athletic programs, but the addition of a turf field would provide the opportunity for much needed exposure in field hockey. For the past several years our first game has always been against Oyster River on a turf field. Regardless of my creativity in trying to recreate turf conditions in preparation, our team has to feel overwhelmed by how turf changes the dynamics of field hockey and walk away feeling highly defeated in game one. As student athletes, my girls recognize the importance of being prepared and needing all the tools necessary in that preparation. Each year following that Oyster River game, there is always one player or parent that asks the question: “How come we don’t have a turf field? We’re a bigger district with more athletics.” Although this turf field is not meant for field hockey teams, to have this advantage to utilize on occasion would be a great opportunity.

As mentioned, we are a D-1 district with great field hockey success over the past years that has led to many players carrying field hockey careers into college. As we would in the classroom, it is important to always update our resources for continued success. Thank you for your consideration.”

Sarah Michaud<sarahrich2@gmail.com>

To:citycouncil-all@doover.nh.gov;DoverSchoolBoard@doover.k12.nh.us;fergus ferguscullen.com

Tue 6/4/2024 5:06 PM

Good Afternoon!

I am reaching out to follow up on the email that I sent back in December. I will also be at the meeting tonight, in support of the new athletic complex.

Since taking over the Field Hockey Program 9 years ago, we have doubled the amount of athletes and families in our program. Each year we have roughly 40 athletes in our Fall program, and an additional 60-70 families in our Youth Camps/Clinics (K-8th grade). The new facility, specifically a turf field, would be a tremendous benefit to all of these players, families and more! I have listed some of the benefits below:

- We would be able to play rain or shine. Our current field does not have the best drainage system, so it makes it tricky to conduct practices/games in inclement weather. Additionally, overuse/ the field condition would not be a factor due to multiple sports using the same fields.
- We would not have to pay other towns/facilities when we rent turf to prepare for our regular season or tournament turf games.
- From personal experience coaching on turf, there would be less injuries from balls popping up and players tripping from holes in the grass.
- Over half of the schools in our Division (D1) play on turf (Exeter, Pinkerton, Goffstown, Portsmouth, BG, Nashua North, Nashua South, Manchester Memorial, Manchester West and Bedford), which puts us at a disadvantage when we play at their school.

I have been to quite a few turf facilities across the state, and big picture, this would really enhance the atmosphere of many events in our Dover Community. Not only would this benefit all of our sports, but also programs like Band.

Two of the best facilities I have seen in the state are Exeter and Bedford. Our teams always love playing in these stadiums! These are also two of the schools who are always selected to host the semi-final and final games in the tournament. If we got turf, this would be another great way to showcase our school!

Lastly, I appreciate you taking the time to read this email. I know that this is a big decision, but I feel it will only elevate the community in the best way possible! Turf allows for a larger variety of activities to be held, playing in rain/snow or shine and less injuries. At this time, Dover is one of the only D1 schools in the state without turf and I am extremely excited about the possibility for our school to catch up with those around us.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Have a great day,
Sarah

Lori Nollet <lnollet@comcast.net>

Thu 6/6, 10:52 AM

Cullen, Fergus

Good Morning Fergus, I hope all is well with you. I saw the post on Facebook about soliciting some public feedback for the new renovation project. I've had 2 kids graduate through Dover schools, served on numerous PTOs and Boosters, and think this is a wonderful and welcome change. In my experience, improving the storage and space for concessions, and ideally making more centrally located so that the baseball/field hockey field can also make use of them would be wonderful. Additionally, having new bleachers for the soccer/lacrosse fields would be great too, along with a larger storage/concession option that the youth teams who use the fields could also make use of. The Garrison Soccer fields concession really works with the attached bathrooms and storage.

I really am not sure how to fix the parking situation, but anything that can be done to provide better handicap access for the grandparents or anyone who needs it would be great. I recall that being tough for some games if parking was already taken.

Thank you for considering and for all you do for our City!

Lori Nollet
603-767-3776

Courtney Murphy <cmurphy18@gmail.com>

Thu 6/6, 11:01 AM

Cullen, Fergus

Hello,

Thanks for posting about the new field and track project on Facebook. I fully support this project. One thing I'd like to ask is that once the rebuild is complete, the track remain open to the public for use (when not being used by the school or athletic teams). When training for triathlons and road races, I would often go to the track before school hours and get my workouts done. I know a lot of people that do the same. My aunts live in Dover Delaware and upon construction of a new high school and athletic fields, they were closed to the public. As tax payers, my aunts can't even use the track for walking.

Thank you for all you do to keep the public informed. I appreciate you considering my thoughts and sharing them with the committee.

Have a great day!

Courtney Murphy

603-970-0600

Regarding Turf Field

Meaghan Foster <meaghan.g.foster@gmail.com>

Thu 6/6, 10:15 AM

Cullen, Fergus

To the Dover Athletics Joint Building Committee,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a concerned and dedicated member of the Dover community, I am writing to advocate for the installation of a synthetic turf field at our high school. This initiative holds significant potential benefits for our students, athletes, and the broader community.

Benefits of Synthetic Turf

1. Durability and Consistency

Synthetic turf fields provide a consistent playing surface that is durable and reliable throughout the year. Unlike natural grass, which can become uneven, muddy, and unusable after heavy rain or frequent use, synthetic turf remains playable regardless of weather conditions. Many times this year games were cancelled, or rescheduled resulting in bussing and scheduling problems that negatively impacted many teams. This durability ensures that our athletic teams, physical education classes, and community events can proceed without interruption, fostering greater participation and engagement in sports and outdoor activities.

2. Safety

Modern synthetic turf fields are designed with advanced materials that provide excellent shock absorption and traction, reducing the risk of injuries. This can be particularly beneficial for our student-athletes, as it offers a safer environment for practices and games. Additionally, the consistent surface of synthetic turf reduces the likelihood of trips and falls due to uneven ground, a common issue with natural grass fields.

3. Maintenance and Cost-Effectiveness

While the initial investment in synthetic turf may be higher than natural grass, the long-term maintenance costs are significantly lower. Natural grass requires regular watering, mowing, fertilizing, and reseeding, which can be both time-consuming and costly. Synthetic turf, on the other hand, requires minimal maintenance, leading to substantial savings over time. These funds can be redirected to other critical areas of need within the school.

4. Environmental Considerations

Synthetic turf fields can also contribute positively to environmental sustainability. By eliminating the need for watering, we can conserve a significant amount of water annually. Moreover, the use of pesticides and fertilizers, which can have harmful environmental effects, is unnecessary for synthetic turf. Many modern synthetic turf systems are made from recycled materials and are themselves recyclable, further supporting environmental stewardship.

5. Increased Usage

A synthetic turf field can support a wide variety of sports and activities, making it a versatile asset for the school and community. From football and soccer to marching band practices and community events, the field can accommodate multiple uses without deteriorating. This versatility ensures that the field is a valuable and well-utilized resource for students and residents alike.

Conclusion

Investing in a synthetic turf field is an investment in the future of our school and community. It promotes health, safety, and sustainability while providing a reliable and high-quality playing surface for our students and athletes. I urge you to consider the numerous benefits that a synthetic turf field would bring to Dover High School and to support this initiative for the betterment of our school and community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to discussing this proposal further and am happy to provide any additional information or support needed.

Sincerely,

Meaghan Foster

Dover Parent

Coach, Dover Unified Program

Dana Gray<dgray@sau52.org>

To:Craig Flynn <C.Flynn@doover.k12.nh.us>;Ernie Clark <ernieclark32@comcast.net>;+4 others

Tue 6/4/2024 3:43 PM

Good afternoon,

Tonight is another meeting to discuss turf fields. I will not be there because I will be at the senior awards which is at the same time, but I do want my voice to be heard again. I was already at the meeting at the HS with the coaches.

I am the Girls Varsity Lacrosse coach and parent of 3 children in Dover. I am also a teacher at Portsmouth High School.

I have seen firsthand how schools with turf have a considerable advantage given to their athletes because they have turf fields and do not have to worry about, snow, rain, etc. preventing them from practicing. Those same students are proud of their school and thankful for their turf.

I have seen firsthand that the grass fields at our school are in terrible condition with holes, huge divots, patches of sand and dirt, uneven surfaces, and plenty of places to get injured. In the years I have coached I have witnessed many injuries due to the field conditions. This year while coaching I stepped into a large divot that was pure dirt while demonstrating and I was personally injured with a ruptured hamstring, and out of work for 3 days. Coaches and referees have complained about the viability of playing at Fisk and Dunaway..

Those who are against turf complain of injuries, and yes they happen, but the same amount, if not worse, happen on our grass fields.

I would push that this board, which has been going back and forth for so many years about turf, move forward and work in the best interests of children in our town. We have watched school after school, big and small, around the state, put in turf. They are all now making a revenue when they rent it out. I would like to argue that we get more than one turf field so we can make revenue and stop paying other schools. We have a state-of-the-art theater, which doesn't even fit the whole school. We have a beautiful courtyard, that is barely used. We have a gym that can't even pull the stands out all the way to allow for a large capacity audience.

Dover has come up short time and time again with going right below what our town actually needs. It is time that we do something to the full extent and get not one, but 2 turf fields and a turf baseball/softball field. It is time that we give our whole community something to rally behind and be proud of.

As one of the largest schools in the state, it is time for us to match our capacity with our facilities and provide ample opportunity for our athletes to participate in any and all sporting venues. The best way to do this, is to pass and not waste another moment, and install the turf before any students who are currently in the High School (minus the class of 2024) miss out on the promise made of turf.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. I would love to talk about how this will help so many students at anytime.

Thank you for your service to the town.

Best of luck with the meeting tonight.

Ms. Dana Gray

Social Studies Teacher, Portsmouth High School

603-436-7100 Ext. 2230, 50 Andrew Jarvis Drive, Portsmouth New Hampshire

Matt Keane <keane.matt@gmail.com>

Thu 6/6, 10:35 AM

Cullen, Fergus

Hello,

I will be out of town during the meeting, but I would like to have this read out during the public comments portion of the meeting. My name is Matt Keane, Reyners Brook Dr. Dover. I am the president of Cocheco lacrosse, which is a local Dover sports non-profit. I am also the Dover Middle School lacrosse coach. Lacrosse season runs from March – May every year and it is an outdoor sport. Dover is consistently behind in player development to be competitive in our spring season because the field conditions are not playable in Dover until mid-April with the spring thaw and mud on the fields. Not being able to play on a field until half our season is over is extremely frustrating to our programs, coaches and kids in Dover. Other towns with turf fields are already practicing and developing on their fields 4 ahead of our Dover kids. Field use at Dunaway is almost non-existent to anyone other than football in order to preserve the grass which massively reduces field availability. Grass fields will never hold up to community use because there is not enough 'rest' time for the grass to recover from getting torn up. We should want our fields to be used as much as possible in Dover to support school and community programs. If we need to let our fields 'rest' that is taking valuable time away from our local programs. With a turf field, we could have continuous use of the field almost year round and through the evening hours, as it would require almost zero 'rest' time to recover. Take a look at where the goals are setup on Bellamy 1, 2, and 3 – you will see what I mean. The grass is completely destroyed in those areas and will now take a full year to recover at which time they will again be destroyed. Not advancing this project with turf would be one of the biggest mistakes the city could make and will cost taxpayers twice as much to fix the mistake in the future. Please advance the athletic project with a turf surface in the plan.

Thanks,

Matt

nick corain <nickcorain@gmail.com>

Monday 6/9, 8:31 PM

Cullen, Fergus

Hello, My name is Nick Corain and I'm the JV boys lacrosse coach for the high school. I won't be able to attend the meeting on Tuesday June 11, but I would like to get my opinion across for the project. Besides being the current jJV boys lacrosse coach I am also a 2011 dover high school graduate. I could not be more on board with turf being installed at the facility. In my opinion turf should be put on every field we are able to. Its better for the athletes to get practice time. As a spring sport we struggle with getting out on the field early in the season because no one wants to trash the field and make it unusable or unsafe by the time it dries out. There is a reason almost every other school in the area has gone to turf when they redo their athletic facilities. Along with turf being a must, I believe we definitely need to add a bathroom building either under the bleachers, similar to exeter, or just a separate building. The portopottys get gross during events and it's honestly kind of embarrassing for the whole facility. While we are doing this whole renovation I think it would be VERY wise to add way more parking at Bellamy. Between baseball and lacrosse and all the youth sports that play the parking lot gets absolutely packed. I unfortunately don't have the spec of the bellamy athletic fields but I believe you could add two or three more rows of parking without impacting the current specs of the field 1. If the track gets moved to bellamy I believe you could add way more parking and still have a usable practice field on the furthest field from the road. Also if the track moves to bellamy a separate turf practice field should be added between dunaway field and bellamy road, across from the current baseball field towards dunaway.

In conclusion, whatever the set up of the fields may be, more turf is better. As a town we spent all this money on a beautiful new highschool and we should have athletic fields to match. Turf also enables the city to rent out the turf fields to any town, club, Rec league teams and recoup some money being spent. Also I think we could be a very attractive neutral site for playoff games in various different sports which would also bring in some money.

Thank you, Nick Corain

rrlavoie@comcast.net

To:fergus ferguscullen.com

Tue 6/11/2024 9:39 AM

Fergus,

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a previous commitment but hope to be involved in future meetings. I fully support the use of synthetic turf as part of the athletic complex renovation. Having worked with both grass and turf for over twenty years, I feel turf is better suited for this project. Being a multi-use field, I personally don't see grass holding up. It will have minimal recovery time in between events and require many hours of maintenance which also reduces availability. Turf also has year-round availability if the crew is properly equipped, where grass does not. Also with grass, wet springs reduce availability, forcing teams indoors, or having to rent indoor or outdoor space on turf. Also important is the fact that irrigation is not necessary with turf. A hot summer with a water ban would spell disaster for grass.

There always seems to be negativity by some about turf, most of that comes from people with no firsthand knowledge researching Google and other internet sources. Given time I can find as many horror stories about grass. Sports can be tough. Injuries happen regardless of the playing surface. Input from coaches and turf professionals, and of course the athletes, is important in the decision-making process.

Funding will be an issue with taxpayers. Maybe there are possibilities such as fundraising, alumni groups, naming rights and so on. It is important at this time to put a price on this project and then go from there. The outdoor facility is outdated, probably doesn't meet ADA standards, and our athletes deserve better. I'm sure some of them are jealous of what they see at other schools and wish they had the same here.

Thanks,

Ron Lavoie

16 Sunnybrooke Drive

Dover NH

44-year resident of Dover

50 years experience working with grass, turf (20 years), golf turf, and other outdoor facilities.

Sarah Michaud sarahrich2@gmail.com June 11, 4:03 PM

Unfortunately I cannot attend the meeting tonight, something came up with my son and my husband is away on a work trip. I will definitely be at the next meeting!!

However, I did write the message below to one of the school board members today. She had some questions after my last email, so I responded with this:

Good Afternoon!

Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to my email. I appreciate hearing your point of view, and value your opinion as well!

I feel that I am in a unique position, as a former field hockey club director and collegiate athlete, I have played and coached on hundreds of playing surfaces. I have seen the pros and cons of both, but ultimately I do feel that turf (specifically PFAS Free) is the way to go.

PFAS Free turf does not contain PFAS, it is durable, high performing, and can help withstand weather conditions and wear and tear. This makes it suitable for a wide range of athletes and community members. It has also been proven to be safe for families, pets and athletes. I know that other local communities (Example: Portsmouth) have installed this type of turf and it has been seen to lower the risk of soil and water contamination.

Ultimately, with the amount of use that our fields in Dover get, it is impossible to keep up with the maintenance that is required to keep them at the level we need them at in order to compete highly within our Division. Our maintenance crews are amazing, but the natural grass cannot withstand the wear and tear of multiple teams and seasons of use. There are also other factors, such as the chemicals and pesticides that would need to be used in order keep disease and other pest related disruptions from affecting our grass. With that said, the maintenance costs would be much lower over time with turf fields, compared to continual upfront costs of maintaining natural grass fields (treatment/mowing/lining/field repairs etc).

Lastly, we are seeing a rise of multi-sport athletes within this country. To me, this is a great thing! However, with more athletes playing year-round sports, the risk of injury increases. I do not feel that the playing surface is a factor, as some of the worst injuries I have seen in my career have taken place on grass. For field hockey specifically, there are no more grass fields at the collegiate level, and the sport as a whole has evolved to be a turf game.

I know that there are a lot of factors that weigh into this decision, but I do hope that the big picture and the future of our Dover Community/Students is the main priority. Our current facilities are out of date and do not provide our athletes and other members of the community with the proper chance to develop and compete at the highest level possible.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to touch base with any other questions!

Have a nice day,
Sarah

Goodman, Eric Matthew <egoodman7@mgb.org>

June 11, 3:20 PM

Cullen, Fergus

Hi Fergus,

My apologies for not attending today's meeting. I would have liked to offer my perspective in person, I guess this email will have to do.

As an Athletic Trainer for over 28 years, I have had some opportunity to visit other schools, and see their facilities. I have witnessed first hand the direct and indirect results of turf being installed at schools around the state.

If we have turf;

1. Our athletes will always be able to play their games and have practices. The field will never be unplayable (minus lightning and other acts of the universe)
 - a. This is a huge advantage, other schools don't limit the amount of practices or games that occur on their fields, they do not have to close fields for the summer so that they can attempt to grow grass.
2. Our athletes, and their booster clubs, will not have to ask for favors or rent space, in order to be ready to play their away game that is on turf.
3. Our athletes will not risk injury from bad hops, ruts, grass too high, gravel and dirt patches.
4. Our athletes will be able to play on surface that actually fits their sport (Field Hockey, Boys and Girls Soccer, Football, Boys and Girls Lacrosse)
 - a. Right now we cannot host a Field hockey game on the stadium field
 - b. Soccer and Lacrosse host their senior night games there, the field is not designed for either of those sports. It is only designed with Football in mind.
 - i. I have seen Lacrosse and Soccer players end up on the track and get injured because of this width issue.
5. Our Baseball and Softball teams could use the space to get some practice in while their fields are unplayable due to wetness or other issues.

If we don't install turf;

- We would need to install a very high end grass field that would require;
 - Watering systems (that we cannot always use due to drought)
 - Drainage systems
 - Pesticide and fertilizer programs (that have been denied in the past)- Not committing to actually taking care of the grass, will end up with us back here having the same conversation
 - Our other teams would still not have the opportunity to play at the stadium.

I, as some of you know, live in a sending town Barrington. I was so proud when we were finally going through with the new school. My children were going to get to go to a beautiful new school. I was going to be able to teach here, and work in the new Athletic Training room, help my athletes in the new weight room. I felt like this is it, we are finally going to get all of the Barrington and Nottingham students to come back. And then I was informed that we would not be getting turf. I couldn't believe it. If you don't think that has a effect on perception, you are wrong. We directly lose student athletes to Oyster river, and by default we lose athletes to Portsmouth as well. It is no coincidence that both those schools have turf. I know you're thinking Portsmouth, how is that factor. Well if you are from Barrington and you don't like our Football facilities, you can go to Oyster River and play football for Portsmouth. I believe, based on our weather, lack of field space, and inability to commit to a strong watering and fertilization program, that Turf is the way to go. It will help our school look nicer, it will generate income, and our athletes will finally have the ability to compete with schools that do not have to miss practices or games due to poor field conditions. I have attached a video showing you our current field conditions, after only playing Football in the fall, and having only a handful of other games played on there.

Best Regards, Eric M. Goodman Head Athletic Trainer Dover High School

Chris Lynch <clynch16@gmail.com>

6/13, 11:12 AM
Cullen, Fergus

Fergus- I sent this the other day but must not have gone thru as I'm traveling. it was still in my out box so I'm trying it again. Not sure if it helps at this point but figured I'd try.

Fergus-

We are unable to attend tonight's meeting on the new turf fields and track but we want to extend our tremendous support for the project. Dover has a new, first class high school. The athletic fields, are anything but first class. Go to other high schools, Oyster River, Exeter, Portsmouth, etc, they all have very nice turf fields and tracks. It's about time Dover invested to make the athletic fields and track just as nice as the new high school. We have 3 athletic daughters in Dover schools that will utilize these new facilities and we are looking forward to hearing that the new turf field and track are approved and installed. Turf is way better than grass for many reasons: less cancellations due to rain/weather, less upkeep, better play on turf, less injuries, etc. It's really a no brainer.

Thanks,

Chris and Heather Lynch
36 Wildewood Lane
Dover, NH
(617)320-2061

Lesley Atwood <lesley.atwood@gmail.com>

Fri 6/7, 12:28 PM

Cullen, Fergus

Dear Committee,

I am in full support of retaining natural grass on all athletic fields at Dover High School.

While natural grass requires mowing, watering, and weed management, the benefits outweigh these downsides.

1. Athletes are less likely to be seriously injured on natural grass because cleats grip to soil-grass combos well. Underneath an artificial turf are substrates that are highly compact, almost cement like, that inhibit traction.
2. Waters percolate through natural grass and soils with global and local benefits. Intense periods of rain are in our future with climate change. Natural grass turfs enable water to move through the soil system reducing the amount of run-off going into the nearby Bellamy River. Even when a synthetic turf system is described as porous, the compacted substrates below the turf do not allow for water to freely move through the soil system as is necessary for water quality issues.
3. Both grass and synthetic turf can damage skin, but plastic shards in a scrape are particularly painful. I state this from experience.
4. Synthetic turfs still require a lot of maintenance including watering, snow removal, and complete replacement. As a graduate student at UNH, I was particularly shocked by the weekly watering in the warmer months and snow removal events in the colder months. In a natural grass system, snow does not need to be removed and watering seems to be much less frequent.

As a mother of three young children, former college athlete, and environmentalist, I feel a strong need to voice my perspective on this issue so that Dover and all our athletes are provided with the best fields for their health today and tomorrow.

I appreciate all the energy you all are spending discussing this decision.

Thank you,

Lesley Atwood

Dover Resident, Scientist, Dover Community Garden President