

Letter to the Editor, Cornwall Local

Dear Editor,

Friends and neighbor; The district schools' website, "Synthetic turf info"; Showcase the board turf expert Dr. McNitt. One of the studies in his report on turf fields is presented by the University Hospital Sports Medicine Institute, Cleveland, Ohio. Data collected from 26 high schools was analyzed to compare injury incidences on artificial turf versus natural grass based on sport.

*The institute conclusion stated that athletes were 58% more likely to sustain an injury on artificial turf. Football, soccer, rugby, athletes were at greater injury risk on artificial turf.* This medical conclusion is does not support Branden Carty's statement to the BOE that 16% of injuris are generated by playing on a turf field. The lower injuries rate and the safety of cork infill swayed the BOE vote for an artificial turf.

Searching the BOE web site we find the BOE turf expert McNitt reports. It is important to know that a letter written to Nancy Bryan by Diana Zuckerman, president of the National Health Research Center in DC, alerting the BOE of short and long term health harms to children, playing on turf fields is not displayed in the school web site.

Why is the BOE refusing to acknowledge Dr. Zuckerman's medical research as published in the Local? Why is the BOE refusing to provide a comparison of harms and benefits associated with turf fields?

Mothers need to know the cancer harms the children will be exposed to playing on turfs fields!

We urge the BOE to present all information good and bad on the District Website. District taxpayers have a right to review and evaluate both side of the turf arguments, to make an informed judgement on the proposed two budget propositions.

Superintendent Dade stated that the natural grass fields are in poor conditions. True statement. We walked the Middle and High school fields, it is true, the fields are a muddy mess. There are little grass blades, sprouting between the weeds and the bare muds patches. WHY! Are the playing fields at the Middle and High school not properly designed and maintained?

During the budget presentations we are constantly reminded that the reserve fund is full, with over 5 million dollars! So why the grass fields and buildings in need of repairs not maintained? Friends are the fields deferred maintenance by design, lack of knowledge, broken equipment, lack of labor? Or lack of guidance?

Anthony Incanno

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