

April 5, 2006

Arthur Cohen, Chair
Design Review Committee
Public Buildings Department
52 Elliot Street
Newton, MA 02464

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NEWTON, MA 02159

Dear Mr. Cohen:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the School Committee and School Department in response to the request on p. 2 of the DRC NNHS Action Items 3/16/06 for a prioritization of the athletic fields at Newton North. We feel that it is premature to attempt to prioritize fields. If, as progress on schematics moves forward, there emerges a need to cut back on the program, the School Committee would want to reexamine the educational specifications as a whole along with the designers to analyze possible cuts or tradeoffs as they relate to the entire program.

The athletic fields at Newton North are an integral part of the educational program for PE/Wellness classes. This use occurs during the school day, even in the early morning to accommodate children who need that flexibility in their schedules. During X block the fields are used for a variety of clubs and intramural programs, allowing students to engage in fitness activities outside of the formal team athletic programs. After school, the athletic teams take to the fields. Community groups use them on weekends, at other times, and during the summer. I have attached a memo from the Athletic Department outlining the current use of the fields. There is also a listing of team activities that are already taking place off site.

The School Committee has been very consistent in its expressed goal of having all of the fields on the Newton North site if possible. We continue to advance this objective. We will attend the meeting on April 6 to participate in the discussion in any way that would be useful to you.

Sincerely,

Dori Zaleznik
Chair, Newton School Committee

Current Field Use at Newton North High School

The following schedule details the current heavy use of all of the outdoor athletic space at Newton North. The fields and tennis courts are used for the Physical Education and Wellness program that serves all of the students at the school, beginning at 7:00 a.m. and continuing throughout the school day. Club and intramural activities take place during X blocks, and the athletic teams use the fields after school.

The NNHS fields are also used for community youth, adult soccer, lacrosse, softball, and baseball programs under the auspices of the Newton Parks and Recreation Department. During the summer, twenty-two camps run consecutively from June 26 until August 24 accommodating more than 1500 Newton children.

Field Usage at Newton North High School

Football Field (Dickinson Stadium)

- *Varsity / JV / Freshman football games and practices
- *Boys and girls Outdoor Track
- *PE classes and intramural and club activities
- *Newton community and youth use
- *Summer Camps

Season:

- Fall
- Spring
- Fall/Spring
- Fall/Spring/Summer
- Summer

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Baseball Field (Ferguson Field)

- *Var / JV / Freshman Field Hockey (baseball outfield; center and right) Fall
- *Varsity Baseball Spring
- *Summer Camps Summer
- *Newton community and youth use Fall/Spring/Summer
- *PE classes and intramural and club activities Fall/Spring
- *Freshman football practice (outfield; left field) Fall

Soccer/Lacrosse Combination Field

- *Varsity Boys and Girls Soccer practice and games Fall
- *PE classes and intramural and club activities Fall/Spring
- *Newton community and youth use Fall/Spring/Summer
- *Summer Camps Summer
- *Boys Varsity lacrosse practice and games Spring

Softball Field Complex (Elm Rd. and Walnut)

- *Varsity / JV / Freshman football practice Fall
- *Varsity boys and girls soccer practice Fall
- *Summer Camps Summer
- *Newton community and youth use Fall/Spring/Summer
- *PE classes and intramural and club activities Fall/Spring
- *Varsity softball practice and games Spring
- *Freshman softball practice Spring
- *Track and Field: discus throw Spring

Tennis courts (10 courts)

*Varsity / JV Boys and Girls Tennis	Spring
*Summer Camps	Summer
*Newton community and youth use	Fall/Spring/Summer
*PE classes and intramural and club activities	Fall/Spring

Sport Programs Programmed Off-Site due to Lack of Field Space

Fall:

JV Boys Soccer	Cold Springs Park
JV Girls Soccer	Cold Springs Park
Boys Cross Country	Cold Springs Park
Girls Cross Country	Cold Springs Park
Freshman Boys Soccer	Warren Jr. High Field
Freshman Girls Soccer	Cabot Park

Spring:

JV Boys Lacrosse	Warren Jr. High Field
Varsity Girls lacrosse	Cold Springs Park
JV Girls Lacrosse	Cold Springs Park
Freshman Girls Lacrosse	Cold Springs Park
JV Softball	Cabot Park
Freshman Softball	Hawthorne Park (games)
JV Baseball	West Newton Common
Freshman Baseball	Lincoln Park
JV B/G Tennis	Cold Springs Park

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