

## Janice Rockwood-Berry

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**From:** Kevin Marcoux <kmarcoux@killinglyschools.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 9:07 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Turf Field Comment - May 12 TC Mtg

Dear Town Council:

I'm sure you are all aware that a local citizen, Shaun Beauregard, started a petition on [Change.org](https://www.change.org) seeking input on the turf project from citizens. Shaun asked me if he thought that was a good idea prior to submitting it, my reaction was "let's see what the people think". As of now, the petition has 1479 signatures in support of this project! I would say the people have spoken and yes they overwhelmingly support this project. I looked at the last 4 education budgets statistics on the town website. Our education budget has passed on the first try over the last 4 years with the total number of votes in those years as followed:

2019- 612 total votes  
2018 - 638 total votes  
2017 - 815 total votes  
2016 - 811 total votes

The fact that this petition almost doubled the TOTAL number of voters on any given budget year screams loud and clear to me that the time is now.

I completely understand the public relations challenge of supporting this project given the economic climate, I really do. I have a few responses to that question. First, the funding plan for this project has ZERO impact on tax payers. When will we ever be able to complete a \$906K facility upgrade with zero impact on the tax payer? I have heard some leadership suggest pushing this project off to a later date and while that seems like the prudent thing to do, it will only impact tax payers more in the future. Should that happen, the chance of losing the \$364K donation and surplus money being available to fund such a project will likely be gone meaning the only way to complete this project would be by having a referendum and who will pay for the project at that point - the tax payers. The comment I hear over and over when I talk to people in town about this project is consistent - "that should have been done 10 year ago when they built the school". How many times have all of you heard that, let's not make the same mistake twice.

Killingly has always been and always will be a sports town. There are no better supporters for their teams than the residents of Killingly and surrounding towns. One visit to a Friday night game will tell you everything you need to know about that. There is no doubt in my mind that the success of our sports programs over the last 5 years has played a role in the first vote budget approvals, that I have no doubt.

This project is ready to go with this one last hurdle left to conquer, all town permits are approved and the construction team is ready to go. Make this happen for the our kids and our town, they have spoken. We need something positive, this will be a game changer on so many levels.

The people have spoken, get this done now so we don't have to pay more later (the same mistake we did 10 years ago).

Again, thanks for your work and stay safe,

Kevin and Cary Marcoux  
560 L'Home St Ext  
Danielson

