

To: David Lane, DPW Director

CC: Wayne P. Marquis, Town Manager,
Recreation Committee

From: David Mountain, Recreation Director

Date: July 1, 2009

Re: Vye Gym

At your request I am providing documentation on the past and current usage of the Vye Gym. As you will see, the Vye Gym is an integral part of the school's Physical Education and Athletic Department program, as well as an invaluable part of the community's Recreation Program. The use of the Vye gym has not only been consistent for the last decade, but has grown as our needs demanded more full-size gym space. It should be noted that the Vye Gym is one of only two full-size gyms in the Town of Danvers (Field House and Vye Gym). The Holten Richmond Gym as it stands has a full size court but the space surrounding the court and the bleachers is not adequate for an official high school event. I believe in comparison to other similar surrounding communities in eastern Massachusetts we would fall far short in comparing full-size gym space.

Attached you will see various pieces of information including schedules, participation numbers, and letters of support of why we need the Vye Gym. Please note that it is very important to be aware that if a program is scheduled in the Vye Gym, it is either because it is the only space available or because it is one of only two full-size gymnasiums in town.

It was welcoming news to hear that there is the possibility that there would be more community usage of the Vye Gym in the future if the Vye Gym was to remain a gym space. Danvers Recreation has always had a problem in not having a space to run programs during the school days because of the fact that school programs occupy all gym space during that time. Having expanded use of the Vye Gym would be of great benefit to the community. By incorporating cooperative scheduling with the school department, it would allow Danvers Recreation to expand our community-based programming during the school day for preschool-aged children, adults, and seniors. These age groups are three areas in which we often would like to expand our program offerings but can't due to space limitations. Having dedicated gym space would not only increase program revenues, but also would be a cost savings to our division because of the rental of space we pay for the Gymworks program (\$400 a month).

After discussing the Vye Gym issue with John Sullivan, Athletic Director at Danvers High School, he brought to my attention a very important factor, to be considered if the Vye Gym was no longer available. He explained to me that if the Vye Gym was not available as a gym, his practice and game schedule would be drastically

impacted. He would have to move his teams and programs that use the Vye Gym to the Holten Richmond from the end of school days until 10pm on weekdays and on Saturday's all day for the winter sport season and in part during the fall and spring sport seasons. The impact of such a schedule would be devastating to Recreation programs and quite simply put an end to the youth basketball and travel programs for boys and girls.

I am also aware that in the fall of 2009, Danvers High School is going to begin a cooperative high school varsity wrestling program with Peabody High School. Based on the success of Danvers Recreations Youth Wrestling Program, with numbers doubling in each of the first three years, we now have up to 65 children participating in the program and the need for future gym space for Danvers to have their own team is a reality. In addition, Danvers Recreation is in the second year of a Youth Volleyball Program and there is an expansion of girl's volleyball in the North East Conference, with four teams now participating in a league with the Cape Ann League. Both of these factors indicate that it may be inevitable that additional space will be needed in the future for a volleyball program.

Yes, the Vye Gym needs some repairs and upkeep, but I never would underestimate how valuable the gym has been and is needed to help meet the needs of the community in the future.

If you have any questions or if you need more information regarding the Vye Gym please let me know.

Regards,

David Mountain
Recreation Director