Subject: A Unified Commitment to the Future of CASA Fields

To Our Community Members, Families, and Youth Sports Constituents:

More than 30 years ago, visionary community leaders came together with a shared belief in the importance of providing young people with opportunities to participate, grow, and thrive through recreation. Through decades of community donations, state grants, in-kind contributions, and grassroots efforts, CASA Fields was established as a dedicated home for youth sports and has become an invaluable community asset serving generations of families.

Recently, leadership representatives from Cadillac Area Public Schools (CAPS), the Cadillac Area Sports Association (CASA), the Cadillac Soccer Association (CSA), The Sports Academy (TSA), and the YMCA came together to reflect on the history of CASA Fields, discuss current operations, and establish a shared vision for its long-term future.

As partners united by a commitment to youth recreation and the well-being of our community, we want to address recent public discussions and reaffirm the following:

- **CASA Fields is a valued community asset.** The property is owned by CAPS and its deed requires its continued dedication to youth recreation. CAPS remains committed to the fields and has no interest in closing this important community resource. The continued success of the fields as a community asset, requires the collective commitment of the organizations and community members who benefit from its use.
- **Preserving the legacy requires more than maintaining the status quo.** CASA Fields has served our community well for more than three decades. CAPS and our community partners want to see the fields serve the community for the next three decades. To achieve this objective requires facility improvements, necessary field repairs, and regular maintenance. We recognize that preserving the fields for future generations requires thoughtful planning, today, and an on-going commitment from all of us.
- **Shared use must be accompanied by shared responsibility.** The future of CASA Fields must be sustained through the efforts or financial resources of all community partners. Those who utilize, benefit from, and are invested in the fields must continue to share in the responsibility for their care, maintenance, improvement, and financial sustainability, alongside CAPS. Our commitment extends beyond scheduling and use; it includes establishing a fair and sustainable approach to funding the resources necessary to keep the fields safe, functional, and accessible for youth recreation.
- **We are committed to building a sustainable partnership for the next 30 years.** Just as community leaders stepped forward more than 30 years ago, it is now our responsibility

to work together to ensure CASA Fields remains a vibrant community asset for generations to come. We are actively discussing formal agreements that will establish clear expectations for standards of care, maintenance, equitable scheduling, operational responsibilities, and a shared cost structure that reflects the collective use and benefit of the facility.

The future of CASA Fields is a shared opportunity and a shared responsibility. Our organizations recognize that protecting this legacy requires more than goodwill; it requires collaboration, accountability, financial commitment, and a willingness to work together toward common goals.

We sincerely thank our organizational partners, board members, coaches, volunteers, families, and community members for their continued dedication and for engaging in these important conversations. We are confident that through a unified approach, we can honor the vision of those who established CASA Fields while building a sustainable foundation for the next generation of young people.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brown, Cadillac Area Public Schools (CAPS)

Ann Bush, Cadillac Area Sports Association (CASA)

Jeffrey Mutch, Cadillac Soccer Association (CSA)

Greg Guzman, The Sports Academy (TSA)

Mike Kelso, YMCA