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Caledonia Community Schools, YMCA partnership to maximize use of new athletic complex

If school bond proposal passes on May 5, Caledonia Community Schools and YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids agree to operations partnership for new athletic complex

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Caledonia Community Schools and the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids have agreed to a partnership for the operation of a new athletic complex, including a community center and aquatics center, that will be built subject to passage of the school bond proposal on May 5, 2020.

Both organizations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that specifies CCS would own the athletic complex, with students as the primary users of the facility, and the YMCA would operate and manage the aquatics center, providing access and programming for the community. The Caledonia Community School Board reviewed the signed MOU at their board meeting on April 20.

“The MOU is a first step toward creating a win-win for Caledonia students and residents,” said **Dr. Dedrick Martin**, superintendent of Caledonia Community Schools. “The partnership will allow Caledonia Community Schools to do what it does best – educate our kids – and the YMCA to meet its vision of ensuring a stronger, healthier community for all.”

In the most recent CCS community strategic plan, a swimming pool and community center were identified as top priorities by parents and residents alike. The bond proposal also allows for the repair and reinvestment in CCS facilities and does not increase existing property taxes. CCS students currently use aquatic facilities far outside the district in order to practice, compete and learn water safety and there isn’t a swimming pool available for the whole community.

Caledonia Community Schools has a school bond proposal on the May 5, 2020, ballot that includes the development of a new athletic complex with a community center and aquatics center with a swimming pool.

“As an organization dedicated to serving communities for more than 150 years, the Y is excited about what this partnership will mean for individuals and families in Caledonia,” said **Scott Lewis**, President/CEO of the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids. “The Y is committed to ensuring access to child care, wellness, recreation and support networks that are key to a healthy community.”

CCS would work with the community on the next steps for the design of the new athletic complex which would be located on property adjacent to the Cal-Plex. In addition to a swimming pool, the new athletic complex would also have a community center with classroom space to house continuing education programs as well as a multi-purpose gym available to students and the community at large.

CCS has a long history of creating partnerships that benefit the whole community, including the creation of the Cal-Plex youth athletic complex in 2011, a partnership with Caledonia Township and the Caledonia Youth Sports Association.

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