

January 6, 2026

Mayor Mary Jo Mullen & Village Trustees
Village of Lisle
925 Burlington Ave.
Lisle, IL 60532

Dear Mayor Mary Jo Mullen & the Village of Lisle Board of Trustees,

On behalf of the **R. Salerno Restaurant Group and Evviva! Bar & Eatery**, located in downtown Lisle, I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed renovation of Benet Academy's athletic facilities and ask you to approve their plan.

Academic institutions are a point of pride and reflect the values of the communities they serve, and Benet is a notable and visible contributor to Lisle. Having this well-regarded educational institution in our Village strengthens our community and economy.

Families from across the region are choosing Lisle when they select to send their child to Benet. Then, over the course of the school year, and as they attend events like soccer games, track meets, and football games, they are also spending money in Lisle with local businesses such as Evviva! as I have personally met many families throughout the years.

However, the school's athletic facilities do not offer the same quality, safety, or functionality as many peer institutions throughout our region provide to their communities. Instead, the stadium and track are a living time capsule from the 1960s. Benet's proposed renovation of its athletic facilities reflects a commitment to reinvesting in this community asset and bringing it to the standards we see in numerous other neighborhoods across DuPage. Sports are a critical part of many families decision making therefore, without this investment Benet will have many other challenges in the future.

As a business owner, I believe the Village Board must continue to welcome responsible, thoughtful investments in our community. Benet has undergone a rigorous, lengthy public review process. It would send a negative signal to other businesses, investors, and organizations if Benet, which has been operating in our community for decades, cannot get approval to improve its facilities. Our community's reputation would suffer, and students would be denied access to improved and safer facilities.

The renewed on-campus stadium will be a visible demonstration to families and fans from across the region who are attending competitions at the Benet that Lisle is growing and thriving. With the new facility, Benet will be able to host events and competitions again, instead of having to rent facilities across DuPage County. In addition to being a vital part of the high school experience, these events, along with the spending by fans and families before and after games, will support Lisle's businesses, just like mine.

Change and progress inevitably bring criticism and opinions. But I urge the board not to lose sight of the importance of institutions like Benet have in the social fabric of our community. Their renewed athletic fields and stadium will bring neighbors together to make memories as they cheer on the next generation, building camaraderie across our Village.

I appreciate the Village's thoughtful review of this proposal and its consideration of both long-term educational and community benefit.

Thank you for your service to the community.

Respectfully,



Rob Salerno

R. Salerno Restaurant Group / Evviva! Bar & Eatery