

**Ripon Area School District**  
***Office of Director of Facilities***

# Memo

**To:** Dr. Mary Whitrock, Board of Education

**From:** Brian Appleman, Director of Facilities; Jonah Adams, Business Manager;  
Vince Propson, Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Ripon High School

**Date:** January 17, 2025

**Re:** Batting Cage Installation - Fund 46

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## Background

During the 2018-2019 school year, the Ripon Area School District (RASD) established a Long-Term Capital Improvement Trust Fund (Fund 46) to finance costly facilities projects. Over the past six school years, savings have been allocated to this fund to increase General Fund (Fund 10) expenditures, thereby maximizing general state aid and lowering property taxes.

A key requirement of Fund 46 is that deposits cannot be accessed for five years after the fund's inception. In April 2024, Fund 46 matured and was used for the first time to finance a middle school roofing project. The current fund balance is \$2,436,357; however, previously approved projects awaiting installation will reduce this balance. A detailed summary of revenues and expenditures is provided on the final page of this memo.

## Ripon High School Batting Cages

Administrators propose the installation of two new batting cages at the east end of the high school gym. These batting cages would be mechanically operated, allowing them to be raised and lowered from the ceiling as needed.

Currently, baseball and softball teams share a single batting cage located in the middle school's upper gym. This setup presents challenges related to scheduling and supervision. Installing two batting cages in the high school gym would centralize practice locations for these teams.

The existing middle school batting cage will remain in place, providing an additional option for youth teams or as a backup when high school gym space is unavailable.

### Vendor Cost Breakdown

Vendor	Material and Installation	Electrical Costs	Grand Total
Weimer Specialized Installation and Repairs, Inc.	\$27,927.00	\$4,125.00	\$32,052.00
H & B Specialized Products	\$25,990.00	\$4,125.00	\$30,115.00
Beacon Athletics	No response received		

### Funding

Funding for the project would come from three sources. New High School Softball Coach Bob Bruce has raised \$10,000 for this project, and the Athletic department will use \$5,000 of donated funds. Both amounts will be spent from Fund 21. The rest of the project will be funded by Fund 46 - roughly \$15,115.

### Next Steps

Administrators recommend partnering with H & B Specialized Products for the material and installation of the batting cages. Electrical work will be completed by Kaufman Electric. Ordering now should allow for use of these batting cages this school year. We look forward to discussing this project further at your convenience.

**LONG-TERM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND - 46**

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	-	\$ 296,004	\$ 1,239,157	\$ 2,128,134	\$ 2,561,950	\$ 2,956,248	\$ 2,831,663
REVENUE:							
Transfer from General Fund - 10.....	\$296,000	\$935,297	\$886,376	\$425,009	\$374,947	-	-
Interest.....	4	7,856	2,601	9,809	19,351	207,570	61,776
<b>TOTAL REVENUE.....</b>	<b>\$296,004</b>	<b>\$943,153</b>	<b>\$888,977</b>	<b>\$434,818</b>	<b>\$394,298</b>	<b>\$207,570</b>	<b>\$61,776</b>
EXPENDITURES:							
Realized Loss on Investments.....	-	-	-	\$ 1,003	-	-	-
Middle School Roof Restoration .....	-	-	-	-	-	332,155	375,981
John Deere Lawn Mower.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,015
Air Conditioner Replacement (MPQ).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	105,525
Construction - Interior Door (RHS).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,885
Carpet & Vinyl Flooring (BP).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,200
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 1,003</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 332,155</b>	<b>\$ 562,606</b>
<b>NET REVENUE (LOSS).....</b>	<b>\$296,004</b>	<b>\$943,153</b>	<b>\$888,977</b>	<b>\$433,815</b>	<b>\$394,298</b>	<b>(\$124,585)</b>	<b>(\$500,830)</b>

Notes: The air conditioner replacement cost shown has been encumbered, but not yet paid. An additional air conditioning replacement at Murray Park/ Quest has been approved by the School Board.