



MEMORANDUM

TO: ISD 110 Administration

FROM: Erik Olson/Bucky Mieras

DATE: 9/24/2024 (2-5-26)(8-29-26)

SUBJECT: Baseball Cages and Field Improvement Project

Purpose

We would like to complete a batting cage/bullpen project. The bullpen areas are becoming a safety hazard, and the batting cages are needed because there is not a functioning batting cage/bullpen on Fields A/B. This will provide a space for teams to practice and hit for baseball players of all ages in a safe and contained area. The mounds on Fields A and B have been updated, and we will continue to monitor the wear on the mounds.

History and/or Context

The school district built 2 fields when they did the renovation: one field with dugouts and no fence, and one field with no dugouts and a fence. There was also a batting cage/bullpen area built, and the net is the same width as the cage, so the net would get caught on the fence and rip. More importantly, it is a safety hazard to throw batting practice because the ball ricochets off of the fence and posts on most balls that are hit. The only functioning cages available to the public are at the softball field, as Lion's Field keeps their cages locked to the public. Currently, we have 2 updated batting cages at the varsity softball field for unlimited access to community members. New turf and side surround posts were added 2 years ago when the new press box and deck were added to the softball field. Our V and JV softball teams share these cages for practices and games, and our community and youth teams have unlimited opportunities to use the cages when we are not playing games. The baseball community has a higher number and a great need for batting cages.

Proposal Summary

We originally had the plan to install a double cage, and now we are looking to update, enhance, and improve the current cage areas, as they are not functional spaces. We would like to get poles/sleeves cemented into the ground and level the area with Class 5 and other products to have a well-draining cage that will have turf over the top. The turf in the cage will save the baseballs and create a safe space for teams and the community to use for hitting and pitching.

Data and Rationale

Currently, there are 18 metro baseball teams (roughly 216 players) that fight for space to practice from March to July. There is not a place for teams to hit in a cage. Also, there are 4 high school teams (roughly 60 + kids) who do not have an outdoor cage to hit in unless they are granted access to Lion's Field, which is challenging in the spring.

Measures of Success

Enhance 2 batting cages/bullpens to be used during the 2027 season. This space will be available for all WHS and Metro Baseball teams, plus access at all times for community members to hit and pitch. One important area with this is that the cages will save the field from wear, since now we have community members hitting on the 2 fields, and they are digging up batter's boxes and burning the grass on the infield where they throw. The cages will help to curb this and enhance the field conditions.

Potential Pitfalls

Waterlines could potentially have to be moved, and the batting cages might be difficult to access with a 1ton+ truck to drop materials. Any truck or equipment needed is best to have access in the fall since the ground is firm and will have less wear and tear on the outside field space. Another important piece to know: we might only need to cap sprinkler heads in the bullpens or just move these lines.

Proposal Cost Estimates

Project	Estimated Cost
<u>Two 70' Jaypro cages</u>	\$18,250
Site prep / excavation, Class 5	\$3,000- \$5,000
Concrete curbing	\$5,000–\$8,000
Turf	\$8,000–\$12,000
Turf installation	\$2,000–\$4,000
Two clay pitching mounds	\$3,000-\$3,000
Drainage/misc./contingency	\$2,000–\$3,000
TOTAL	\$41,000–\$55,000

*We do have community members who have shared they are interested in donating labor and equipment, which could help us keep the cost down. [DAYCO](#). With this potential donation, we believe that we can get the cost closer to \$32,000. We also believe there are ways to cut costs in other areas.

Funding: This will be done 100% by the boosters. So far, funds have been pledged to our boosters thanks to the generosity of:

- Kwik Trip Donation- \$5,000
- Lion's Club Donation \$7,500
- Legacy Donation- \$8,000
- Fire Department - \$5000

Timeline

We would like to try to get the cages installed this fall so the cages are able to be used in Spring 2027. We will need to get final quotes, ensure that the boosters have appropriate funds, and acknowledge the plan to get formal board approval in order to accept the donations and move forward with the project before the installation begins. The most pressing with the project will be to place the order to get the

materials sent and delivered. If we can get the sublevels under the turf and turf installed, curbing and sleeves installed for the poles this fall, then only netting to put up in the spring.



