Inclusive Bagley Elementary Playground Fundraising Proposal 2024

Introduction

Bagley Public Schools, ISD #162 was informed by the State of Minnesota tha the playground at Bagley Elementary School will not meet code effective in 2025. Which means that the current playground must be replaced. Bagley's Parent Teacher organization is fundraising for Bagley's Elementary School playground. Our current playground will be out of code. We will be installing a new playground in the fall of 2024. Bagley PTO have currently raised $100,000 towards our project and are continuing to work towards our project goal of $366,957.00. The current playground was installed in 1998 making the playground over 20 years old with some equipment no longer operational at this time. We have researched playground designs that help promote inclusiveness for children with special needs and promote healthy exercise, improve mental health, promote communication and relationship building for grades Kindergarten through 6th grade. We are asking for playground money donations to help fund our Bagley Elementary playground, which will directly benefit the children of Bagley and the surrounding area. Below you will also find some revisions we have included in our proposal for the new year 2024.

Statement Of Need

We are fundraising for the new Bagley Elementary Playground Project to help purchase playground equipment and have it installed. The estimated budget of the playground is $366,957.00. The budget and pictures are included and help show our dedication to making it as inclusive as we can. You will see a beautiful space with swings that accommodate wheelchairs, and safety surfacing "PIP" which is poured-in-place or "PIP". PIP is a resilient soft safe surface of rubberized materials, which is highly inclusive for all abilities and caregivers, eliminating wood chips for easier access for wheelchairs and lots of space to promote exercise and play. There are transfer stations and ground level play like the "accessible hand cycler. Also included in our proposed playground is the high-backed OmniSpin Spinner that offers children of all abilities valuable vestibular sensory stimulation and encourages interactive play. The We-Go-Round HDG is a wheelchair-accessible whirl that enables kids of all abilities to play together and experience spinning fun. The ZipKrooz w/assisted Bay is great for kids of all abilities; they experience the thrill of flying with ZipKrooz! The molded bucket seat with lock-in-place harness provides stability and security for kids with limited core strength. Research shows self-directed play is essential for children's physical and emotional development. Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. We want to help create a safe public space for the community and school. Currently, there is not an all-inclusive public park or playground within 10 miles of the neighborhood.

Along with inclusiveness, exercise and play is crucial for children's mental health by reducing anxiety, depression, negative mood and by improving self-esteem and cognitive function. We have seen an increase of anxiety and mental health disorders in children within these last few years. Increasing your heart rate can actually reverse stress-induced brain damage by stimulating the production of neurohormones like norepinephrine, which not only improves cognition and mood but improves thinking clouded by stressful events. Exercise also forces the body's central and sympathetic nervous systems to communicate with one another, improving the body's overall ability to respond to stress.

Demographic Information

Bagley Elementary resides in Clearwater County with a geographic area of 994.71 square miles, with a population of 8.5 people per square mile. The total population of the county from the 2020 census is 8,818 with 17.1% of individuals living below the poverty level and the child poverty rate of 11.1%. The median income of $58,402, significantly lower than the statewide median income of $77,706 which results in significantly limited financial resources across the county. The demographic percentage of

students eligible for free and reduced priced lunches 52%. Clearwater County is consistently counted as the first or second poorest county in the state.



Financials

That's why we are asking for your tax-deductible gift today. Your gift will help us provide a high-quality, innovative play space for our kids. We have currently raised $100,000 towards our project and are still working towards our goal. Bagley Education Endowment & Project Fund is a component fund of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, a community foundation with the mission of Building Better Lives in northwest Minnesota. Northwest Minnesota Foundation handles all our donations and below you will find the QR code, where you can scan with your camera to get to the link to donate or can mail checks made out to Bagley Education Endowment and Project Fund 201 3rd St. NW, Bemidji, MN 56601. Cash donations are also accepted. Because Bagley Elementary School PTO is a 501(c)3 organization, your donation is tax deductible. The total amount of our proposed playground is $366,957.17.

Bagley Education Endowment Donation NW MN foundation

Northwest Minnesota FOUNDATION



Conclusion

As you can see, with your donation we would be able to improve the social, physical ability and mental health for 507 +plus children in the Bagley Elementary School and community. Thank you for taking the time to review our information. If you have any further questions, please contact us at pto@bagley.k12.mn.us or call at 218-368-8309

Attached you will see the preliminary budget.
With sincere gratitude,

The Bagley Elementary PTO Committee

Whittney Jensen (PTO President)
Corrie Uhlir (School Staff)
Mayce Rikhus (Secretary)
Arica Kirby (Parent)
Ashley Shongo (Treasure)
Paige Jourdain (Vice president)
Sara Larson (Teacher Representative)

