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JAMAICA PLAIN

Curley K-8 school in Jamaica Plain gets anonymous \$50k donation

Posted by Matt Rocheleau February 26, 2013 05:07 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The Curley K-8 School in Jamaica Plain received an anonymous \$50,000 donation this week to go toward paying for construction of a planned multi-purpose playing field.

“I was just amazed at the generosity, particularly during this tough economic time,” Principal Jeffrey Slater said by phone Tuesday. “I was telling the staff today I think it just speaks to the work they’re doing at the school – that somebody feels like it’s a worthwhile effort to support what we’re doing.”

Slater said it is the largest single donation the school has received during his five years there and he said it is likely among the largest, if not the largest, in the Curley’s history.

He received an e-mail informing him about the donation on Monday and sent an excited [message via Twitter](#).

The gift came about two weeks after the school launched a fund-raising campaign that hopes to raise enough money to build a long-awaited playing

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field outside the school.

The field would replace a large asphalt-covered area that students use for recess, which Slater said currently “looks awful.”

The proposed new green space would still be used for recess as well as physical education classes, soccer and other sports, Slater said.

Copies of the field’s design are hanging near school entrances, Slater said.

Those blueprints were drafted six years ago as part of a multi-phase schoolyard improvement effort that also called for a new playground and outdoor classroom.

Those other two spaces were built about five years ago, but the field has not had enough funding.

“We’re looking at this as a crown piece,” Slater said of the proposed field.

He said he and the school community are extremely grateful for the large contribution to kick-start the fund-raising and will continue to try to raise the additional funding needed, which Slater said would be approximately \$150,000 more.

He’s hopeful work on the field could start as soon as this summer and that the project could be completed within a year or two.

For more information about the field and fundraising campaign, call the school or visit its website, www.curleyk8.com.

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