



# DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Dr. Matthew Conway, Jr.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

The Derby Board of Education today announced they have received confirmation of a significant donation being made by Joan A. Payden in the memory of her father J. R. (Joseph Raymond) Payden to the Derby Public Schools.

J. R. Payden was born on March 20, 1896, grew up in Derby and was valedictorian of the graduating class of 1915. J.R. went on to attend and graduate from the Yale University Sheffield Scientific School of Engineering and then served in the US Army Signal Corps Aviation Division from 1917-1919, where he served as a fighter pilot for the Royal Flying Corps in England.

The gift from Ms. Payden is earmarked for the construction of a new Field House at the Leo F. Ryan Athletic Complex on Chatfield Street and a new baseball field to support the high school athletics program. The field house will provide the city of Derby with a first class meeting space to memorialize the past, serve the present and build dreams for the city's future athletes as we continue honoring traditions from the generations of athletes and scholars who have passed through our doors and played on our fields.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Conway stated, "The generous donation from Joan Payden is a game changer for this great city and district. It will help us achieve what was just days ago the impossible and will allow us to bring proper honor to our past while providing a much needed home for our present and future athletes. In a community so rich with tradition, this will become the center of that tradition. A place to visit, congregate, reminisce and honor those who have played, and those who have made a contribution to Derby High School, this City...and in J.R.'s case, this country."

Joan Payden is the founder and CEO of Payden & Rygel Investment Management. With \$110 billion in assets under management in 2017, Payden & Rygel is a renowned global investment firm with offices in Los Angeles, Boston, London, Paris and Frankfurt. Joan shared, "Derby is where my heritage begins. I'm happy to give back to the high school my father so enjoyed"

For more information please send requests to [mconway@derbyps.org](mailto:mconway@derbyps.org)