

Mr. Jeff Dicks, Superintendent

Not only do our teachers recharge in the summer through professional learning, continuing education, and some rest and relaxation, but our support staff is busy getting our facilities a ready as well. This is a huge undertaking for a group dedicated people in our building and maintenance group including all of our building custodians. In addition to our typical deep cleaning and re-waxing of floors, we have some larger projects that I want to let you know about.

Stewart Elementary will have the most visible improvements because of the wrap up of the daycare and preschool addition project. The YMCA has now occupied the daycare space and the parking lot is complete and the surrounding area graded and seeded. Outside, some of the old playground equipment has been removed and repurposed at the Fairgrounds. We thank the Fairground Board for their help in putting this equipment to good use and for the removal of the equipment. The new playground will begin to be installed mid-July. We have also put a fence around the entire playground to increase the safety for all students during recess and PE time.

Lincoln Elementary had water pipes in the basement updated. Our maintenance crew replaced some aging pipes and in the process found that the main water service into the building was 3/4 of the way plugged. We were able to secure a local contractor and replace the main service pipe from the street to the building before summer lunch began. We also replaced concrete at the main entrance of Lincoln because it was uneven and cracking.

Another improvement at Lincoln is the creation of a new program called Resilient Individualized Student Education (RISE) program for students in grades K-5. This is similar to our Behavior Learning Center (BLC) at the high school that serves students 6-12. This program creates a designated learning environment that helps students who have identified learning challenges and have met qualifications for participation. Like the high school program, we have built a wall in the hallway on the east side of Lincoln that separate 2 classrooms for this program. We have seen great results for students in the 6-12 program and see the need for this at the lower grades.

In August, after summer lunch has ended and before school starts, our maintenance crew will replace the grease trap in the kitchen at Lincoln. While this doesn't sound like much, it entails much more than changing your garbage disposal and is very timely since the kitchen will be shut down for this process. Our crew has planned out the execution of this repair and we will be ready for the start of school.

The Middle School School water damage repair project is finally complete, with the principal's office and entryway the last to be finished. While insurance covered most of this repair, the asbestos abatement that had to be done on the floors could not be included. This amounted to over \$30,000 of an expense that we were not planning for, but the improvements were able to be paid from Physical Plant and Equipment (PPEL) fund that doesn't affect student learning funds. Throughout this repair project we learned that when working on a 100-year-old building, many things can pop up unexpectedly and cost more than you can ever anticipate.

We started what we thought was a pretty easy project at the high school that was going to improve roof drain flow of water away from the building. The roof drains carry a large amount of surface area (the roof) and that concentration of water was beginning to erode the foundation

near the main entrance of the old middle school wing. We also discovered that steel posts supporting the cement overhang are corroding at cement level or just below. While burying the pipes, we found footings that were engineered to support the overhang. The footings needed to be bored out so the pipes we are using to drain the water to the storm sewer could be installed. Again, more unexpected issues that come up adding cost to these improvements. The cement around the entrance including the sidewalks in the area of bus drop off and pick up will also be replaced.

Both Lincoln and the High School are also receiving upgrades to our internet coverage including some new wiring. As we have more and more devices online and some of the State Assessments are conducted online, we need to ensure that our internet is fast and reliable. Our Technology staff is very proactive and always seeking outside funding sources to help with these costs.

Central Office needed a new heating and cooling system that was completed early summer. This will be much more efficient and will allow heating and cooling more evenly distributed. We have noticed improvements with the new system already.

The last facility related issue is Case Field. The track will be resurfaced this summer. This was approved in March at a cost of \$44,850. The company will clean and repair any places that need it and then apply .5mm - 1.5mm rubber coat to the existing surface. They will then apply 2 coats of spray application of two-part black polyurethane top coating as well as layout and paint lane lines and event markings. This will extend the life of the track 10-15 years instead of a totally new track.

Our transportation department also spends the summer not only providing transportation for all of our activities but also taking this time to make repairs and improvements to our vehicle fleet. We will make approximately \$4,500 worth of body repairs to buses alone this year in order to keep them in service. The State Inspector will put a bus out of service if there is rust visible, including a spare bus.

All of the above mentioned expenditures are paid out of our PPEL fund. These costs keep increasing as our buildings continue to age. We appreciate the voters approving our voted PPEL levy that allows us to maintain and make improvements for our students. I want to thank all of our support staff for all of the efforts this summer as we recharge our facilities for another school year.