

Chippewa Valley outlines construction projects for 2014

Published: Thursday, April 24, 2014 – Macomb Voice Newspaper

By Nicole Tuttle
Voice Reporter



Ojibwa Elementary School in Macomb Township is one of several Chippewa Valley schools that will receive construction-related upgrades this summer. (Photo by NICOLE TUTTLE)

Although summer months mean a break for students, summer is also peak improvement season for school district buildings, and Chippewa Valley schools are set to undergo several upgrades in summer 2014.

Barton Malow Company representatives gave a presentation to the Chippewa Valley Citizens Advisory Committee on April 17 for a bond issue update on upcoming school building projects.

One item on the list that will affect buildings district wide is the concrete and asphalt repairs that need to be done.

“Because this winter was so brutal, we have issues throughout the district that are going to need to be attended to,” Chippewa Valley Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations Scott Sederlund said.

He said that the district will begin to determine where the concrete focus will be sometime in May.

“Also, the Cherokee drive is being replaced through the board awarded contract,” Sederlund said.

According to the Barton Malow presentation, Cheyenne Elementary School in Macomb Township will get new multi-purpose room carpeting, new science room platform flooring and some new toilet partitions. Costs of Cheyenne projects are \$40,000, Sederlund noted.

Fox Elementary School in Macomb Township will have its lobby ceiling and lights replaced, as well as storage cabinets in the work room. Existing countertops throughout the school will be upgraded, and the classroom faucets as well as the building back-flow preventer will be replaced. The fire alarm system will be upgraded and five air handling units and frequency drives will be replaced. Costs of Fox projects are \$375,000, according to Sederlund.

Mohawk Elementary School in Macomb Township is scheduled for a series of upgrades, according to the presentation. These include creating a new front entrance feature and replacing the lobby ceiling/lights, creating an exterior fenced-in planting/garden area, replacing select glazed tile block around exterior doors and upgrading existing countertops. Sederlund said that the front entrance of the school will be remodeled to intuitively identify the entrance of the building, similar to what was done at Iroquois Middle School two years ago.

Other improvements include replacing classroom faucets, replacing some toilets, urinals and sinks, replacing variable frequency drives and upgrading the fire alarm system. Costs of Mohawk projects are \$215,000, according to Sederlund.

Ojibwa Elementary School in Macomb Township will have its main office reconfigured, as well as obtain metal enclosures at the front entry columns and above the doors.

The main office reconfiguration will allow the school to accommodate more of its current staff, according to Sederlund.

“Currently we have three office staff with overlapping work times and only two clerical workstations,” Sederlund said. “We are adding a third clerical workstation to help alleviate some of the congestion.”

Other improvements for this school listed in the presentation include adding corridor security doors, replacing the gym floor, the gym drinking fountain, and three main boilers as well as the back-flow preventer.

Although Ojibwa Elementary has a buzzer system for security, the corridor security doors are needed for after-hours purposes, according to Sederlund.

“This is for after hours when we lockdown the gymnasium from the rest of the building for security reasons,” Sederlund said.

The gym and stage rooftop units and the fire alarm system will be replaced or upgraded, according to the presentation. Costs of Ojibwa projects are \$333,000, according to Sederlund.

Sequoyah Elementary School in Macomb Township will acquire additional coat hooks in the specials rooms, and its bike racks will be relocated as well as a concrete pad added. Costs of Sequoyah projects are \$11,000 according to Sederlund.

Dakota High School’s improvements will mainly be related to the stadium, as existing synthetic turf and the track surface will be replaced. The message board will be replaced and the storm water drainage at the school will also be improved. Costs of projects for this Macomb Township school are \$1,258,000, according to Sederlund.

Shawnee Elementary School in Macomb Township will receive reconfigured and improved clerical stations in the main office, as well as a sign at Card Road and Vesper Drive. The reconfiguration is to accommodate current staff, similar to the overlap of schedules at Ojibwa, and the sign needs an update as Little Turtle School and Shawnee share a campus, Sederlund said.

“We are replacing a temporary sign which has been there since the school has opened,” Sederlund said. “It is needed more now because we have two buildings sharing the same campus.”

Other improvements at this school will include replacing the mechanical yard gate, replacing the front office and multi-purpose room carpet, adding coat hooks in the science and multi-purpose rooms, and upgrading the fire alarm system. Chippewa Valley Director of School and Community Relations Diane Blain said that

projected construction costs for this building will be \$100,000.

The district's administration building in Clinton Township will receive several replacements, according to the presentation. The front lobby reception desk and flooring, some office flooring and wall coverings, board room cabinets, toilet room counters and partitions and two rooftop heating units will be replaced.

"We need to address the flooring because it is a safety issue," Sederlund said. "While tearing up the flooring, we are going to upgrade the reception desk to be more customer friendly."

Blain said that total projected cost for this building is \$300,000.

Technology projects in the district currently include a wireless area network upgrade and Windows 7 deployment. Summer technology projects will include the board room audio system at the administration building, mechatronics for career and technical education and disaster recovery equipment. Elementary school staff PC replacements are scheduled for fall 2014.

Projects at the buildings were bid out in January and awarded by the board on Feb. 24.

"Most projects will begin when school is out in June and will be completed by the middle of August," Sederlund said.

One exception will be the Dakota stadium project, which will begin in May, Sederlund added.

Updating wireless networking cost \$778,000, and Windows 7 upgrades were part of a larger desktop virtualization project that totaled \$5.6 million, according to Sederlund. "The wide area network is essentially done," Sederlund said. "We finish the elementary schools' staff computers this week with the Windows 7 deployment and expect to finish the rest of the buildings' staff computers by the end of May. We're only doing staff computers now and we will flip the student computers this summer."

The majority of the projects will come from the 2010 bond, with the exceptions of the Windows 7 deployment and the Dakota stadium project according to Sederlund. He said that the Windows 7 deployment is a general fund expense and the Dakota stadium project will be paid from the 2005 bond funds.

Nicole Tuttle is a freelance reporter. She can be contacted at ntuttle.reporter@sbcglobal.net.