

Mobile classrooms installed as district updates school facilities

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Content

Portable classrooms are being installed at Harrisburg Elementary and Indian Land Intermediate school to accommodate the surge in student population.

David Small, Lancaster County School District facilities director, said a modular unit, which holds eight classrooms, was placed on each school campus. The district bought the modular units through capital funding.

Each unit cost \$591,131, for a total cost of \$1,182,262 for both. Each classroom, which can hold about 25-30 students, costs about \$73,891.

Small said the plan is to have the modular units ready for students and teachers to occupy this August.

Growth in the district, specifically in the Panhandle, has been the topic of numerous conversations among school board members. The proposed March 26 bond referendum plans to tackle the surging student population with the addition of several new schools.

The district recently purchased three parcels of land, totaling 30-38 acres about a mile from Harrisburg Elementary, which could be for a new elementary school.

For new school construction, at least 25 acres is required for an elementary school, 50 acres for a middle school and 100 acres for a high school.

Capital projects

The school district is working on several capital projects over the summer, as announced at the June 13 board meeting. These projects are funded through capital funds.

Athletic field lighting is being installed at Lancaster High School's softball and baseball fields. Once those fields are finished, then Lancaster High's track will get lighting renovations.

Next year, Small said the stadiums at Lancaster, Buford and Andrew Jackson high schools will be improved.

Southside Early Childhood Center's faculty restrooms are being replaced. They've been demolished and plumbing and electrical estimates are in place for the new restrooms. The slab was also poured, and Small said the project is ahead of schedule.

Buford High School's new weight room design is also in progress, and Small said the facilities team has the sequence for installing impact-resistant sheet rock, flooring, heat, air and fire systems in place.

"It's just taking a little time, but I highly anticipate that being ready for school to start," Small said at the June 13 meeting.

The baseball field restrooms at Lancaster and Buford high schools are also in the design process, but the timeline for completion depends on how long the design review takes with the architects. Small confirmed that there are restroom facilities at the fields for current use. He also said the facilities department predicts those restrooms will be ready around the beginning of the spring sports season, but that is subject to change.

A new roof is being installed this summer at Andrew Jackson Middle, which should be done before the new school year begins Aug. 21.

"David, I think you need more to do," said Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Phipps, with a laugh.

Child images

LANNWS-07-22-23 MOBILES AND PROJECTS LCSD 1



LANNWS-07-22-23 MOBILES AND PROJECTS LCSD 2

