

EDUCATION

U.D. spending millions on capital projects for schools

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UPPER DARBY » The proposed Clifton Heights middle school may have dominated the discussion of Upper Darby School District facilities over the past school year, but an update at a recent school board meeting showed all that has been accomplished, and more to come, to improve their existing facilities.

A presentation by district administrators to the school board at its facilities and operations committee meeting this week detailed more than \$8.6 million in capital improvements throughout the district that have been completed, or will be completed, from the 2018-19 school year until school doors open up again on Aug. 26.

One of the largest projects was an HVAC update at Beverly Hills Middle School. The chiller was re-

placed at a cost of \$616,000. The school also had its front doors replaced for \$38,000. Hillcrest Elementary had its front doors replaced as well for \$26,000.

A long slate of projects will be completed this summer and account for the rest of the funds that have been appropriated.

Upper Darby High School took the bulk of this funding, spending \$1.9 million to renovate a dozen bathrooms in the school of 3,700 students and to replace the track and field for \$2.1 million.

The bathrooms have long been discussed at facilities meeting for their deteriorating conditions. The renovated lavatories include eight in the C wing and two each in the D wing and the gym lobby.

Another point of consternation has been the condition of the school's football field and the locker rooms. Administrators and school board directors late last month broke ground on

a new track and field to benefit the school's various athletic programs and the district as a whole. The main gym floor will also be refinished with the new district logo for \$43,000; replacing the football lockers accounts for another \$31,000.

Highland Park Elementary reaped its share of the capital funds with \$1.5 million being spent to replace an HVAC unit and another \$1 million for roof replacement.

Decades-old fire alarm systems at Highland Park and Primos elementary schools were replaced at approximately \$190,000 each. There are PA (Public Announcement) system and clock replacements at Hillcrest, Primos and Westbrook Park elementary schools cost approximately \$126,000 for each building.

Other capital projects for the summer included: spot floor replacement at the high school, Bev-



FILE PHOTO

Beverly Hills Middle School is getting some major capital improvements, including a new chiller for their air-conditioning system.

erly Hills and the Bywood, Garrettford, Primos and Stonehurst Hills elementary schools for a combined total of \$88,000;

Various masonry projects at Beverly Hills and Drexel Hill middle schools, the Kindergarten Center, and Bywood, Garrettford, Primos and Westbrook Park elementary schools for \$89,000;

And playground upgrades at the high school, the Kindergarten Center, Bywood, Highland Park and Hillcrest elementary schools for \$189,000.

Phase one window replacement was expected to finish at Beverly Hills this summer for \$520,000, but district Controller Marvin Lee said the manufacturing of the windows has been delayed by six weeks.

Lee also said an estimated \$20,000 will be spent for two rounds of mass-trapping and pesticide spraying for pest control. Decluttering buildings, working with building cleaners, identifying access points and food management are ways the district will try to control the rodents and insects in the buildings.

A complete list of capital projects as presented on July 23 can be found online at <https://go.boarddocs.com/pa/udar/Board.nsf/Public>.