

WEST BONNER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #83



Facilities & Transportation Report Ryan Carruth, Operations Director

December 18, 2024

WBCSD FACILITIES

Custodial Update:

- Building cleanliness has been achieved this month.
- The daytime custodian at PRE resigned this month, and the crew has done great job to step up during the short time before we can add a new team member.
- Awesome candidate with 10 years custodial experience was interviewed last week and we offered her the Facilities Assistant II custodial position at Idaho Hill Elementary, pending board / superintendent approval, she starts this week. We feel this candidate will be a great addition to our team.
- Joey Adams will be the new daytime building lead at PRE. Thomas Banuelos will be the new night time lead custodian at PRE.
- Our team has been prepping for snow season. We have trained all custodians on snow removal protocol with shovel, snow blower, and deicer.
- Implemented a punch clock system for increased accountability and streamlining of the time keeping system.
- Implemented custodial checklists for all buildings

Maintenance Update:

- Kevin, Brian and Ryan spent a few hours with Wes Daley (former PRJH custodian) walking through the Junior High. We learned some useful information that have helped us to fine tune our plan for maintaining that building while finding cost savings.

- A student snapped a faucet at Idaho Hill, we had to replace the faucet.
- Metal trim in the locker room needs repair
- Rebuilt condenser pump switch for the JH Annex
- Pulled the condensation pump from the JH bus barn and installed it in the main boiler room JH after it had failed.
- Rebuilt the float switch for the condenser pump in JH.
- Fixed bathroom stall doors that were pulled off.
- Pulled toilets that needed new wax rings.
- Delivered supplies – salt, sand, paper, cleaning supplies
- Continue to fuel the temporary generator for the PRE temp boiler, and monitor the PRE boiler closely.
- Fixed fire alarm at JH
- Kevin went to PLE after hours to deal with an exterior door lock issue.
- Collected donated wood from a local cabinet company which was going out of business for future project needs.
- Replaced the failed electrical panel in the district office.

Upcoming Projects

- Finalizing PRE Title I shower project – Kevin and Brian will be installing a small connection pipe which will supply hot water to the shower.
- Troubleshooting HVAC issues in PRLHS to identify root cause of one classroom trending warmer and one classroom trending cooler than the mean building zone temperature average.
- Responding to maintenance service requests currently in the WBCSD Maintenance service portal cue.

Capital Improvement Projects

- Title I Shower Project is completed, with a small connection pipe being installed by WBCSD Facilities department next week to complete the project.
- PRE Boiler in final phase of installation. Conversion kit to be installed, tuning and start up procedures slated for next week. Apollo will be presenting to the board a more detailed update.
- PRE Unit Ventilator installation project is next on deck. Planning and timeline establishment scheduled for next week.

- PRLHS Valve Actuator replacement being scheduled for January – February.
- RFP for Securing our Futures grant intercom upgrades at PRE and video intercom system for PRLHS going out next week.

Challenges

- Working with staff shortages. Due to the high demand of maintenance issues we are working on, our building lead at PRLHS must dedicate more time to maintenance tasks which takes him away from the custodial tasks during the day at the High School.
- Our custodian at Idaho Hill has worked extremely hard to keep up on the building without having the part time night custodian position to support the building after it was cut following the levy failure. There are deficits that he is not able to cover in his 40 hours per week.
- Custodians having to cover temporary vacancy left by resignation of building lead at PRE.
- PRE Temporary Boiler – Kevin and Brian have gone above and beyond with the tasks related to keeping the temporary boiler and portable generator going throughout the installation process of the new system.
- Finding a way to create a meaningful and effective Facilities Committee which can assist in the improvement of our school facilities to support student learning across the district.

Successes

- Our amazing team has united and worked hard together to fill gaps left by the recent employee resignation and finding a way to make it work at Idaho Hill despite being down a part time night custodial position. I am delighted to see our team members working together to solve problems and make things happen together. Good times ahead!
- Rob's Heating and Cooling donated a new furnace and labor to replace the failed furnace from the WBCSD Maintenance Shop.
- Thanks to Jared Wells from Idaho Forestry Group who (a) is donating his time to assist us in the creation of a preventative maintenance program and mechanical systems logs for our boilers

and HVAC systems throughout the district and (b) has sponsored Kevin Wagner to participate in their annual boiler training to be held in Sandpoint every Wednesday from January to March. Normal admission cost is \$1200 and they are paying for Kevin to attend!

- Our team is gaining a working knowledge of each buildings mechanical systems and how to troubleshoot and drill down on problems using the Johnson Controls system management portal which is saving us time and cost in troubleshooting and repairing issues as they arise.
- HB 521 has been successfully submitted and WBCSD has been awarded it's lump sum School Modernization funding.
- We are nearing the end of the PRE boiler install and looking forward to having a new redundant, high efficiency heating system in the building. Apollo finished the install and are in the final stages of the tuning / start up procedures. The building is being heated by the new system as of Monday afternoon!

TRANSPORTATION UPDATES:

Busright:

- We are in the final phase of onboarding with BusRight. Our rollout date has been set for Monday January 6, 2024.
- The routes have been created in Bus right and student information is being uploaded from Skyward.
- The parent app will be released to the community on January 13, 2024. This gives our drivers a chance to use the system for one week so that we can iron out any kinks. Once our drivers are comfortable with the program, we will send a mass email / all call to invite all parents with detailed instructions how to upload and utilize the parent app.
- Tablet Mounts are being installed in the buses next week.
 - In speaking with other districts, we discovered there were problems with doing mounting directly to the plastic dashboard panels as it was causing the dashboards to crack over time.

- o As a result of this information, and based on a recommendation from other school districts we will be mounting the tablets the overhead bulkhead using an extension rod.
- Power cables are installed in the exterior electrical panel on the drivers side.

NEW BUS AQUITION

- All paperwork has been completed and submitted to move forward with the purchase of the new bus.
- We are still waiting on clarification for the lead time for deliver.
- We will be trading in one of our older, out of service buses with the DEQ which will be worth up to \$25,000 of funds that go back into our Bus Acquisition fund.

Challenges

- Older buses continue to require more maintenance.
- Discouragement related to the levy failing and not able to purchase two additional new buses to begin to bring the District closer to getting on track with the Bus Depreciation schedule. The longer we wait, the more costly it becomes, and the longer it will take to get the district to a place where the Bus Depreciation allowance can fund new bus acquisition. How do we solve this problem without funding?
- With the loss of route 49 in the southern part of the District, and the combination of routes 39/40 in the Priest Lake area certain routes are longer and more crowded which means students have to sit on the bus for longer. And buses which are crowded are more likely to see an uptick in behavior issues – so far we haven't seen a trend in that direction thanks to the student management practices of our bus drivers.

Successes

- Despite the challenges coming from taking route 49 off line and combining 39/40 our drivers continue to work together to solve problems and keep the wheels turning. As I have said, let me repeat, I will put our bus drivers up against any in the state. They are wonderful!

- We are on the verge of rolling out Bus right after a lengthy onboarding process and we are very excited about how much this will be able to improve the service we deliver to the community.