

RSU #16 School Board
Operations Report
John Hawley, Director of Operations
December 2023

FACILITIES

We fared okay through the heavy wind and rainstorm of December 18th. Rapidly changing weather conditions on that day caused us to release students early to ensure safe transportation home. Due to a combination of the lack of power, downed trees, and powerlines closing roads, and then flooding conditions over roads, we needed to keep schools closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. Power had not been restored to Minot until late Thursday evening, causing just that building to be closed that day. Our buildings suffered minor damages and minor roof leaks, but nothing significant.

The air quality issue has been resolved at MCS. Based on the air quality results from the air samples taken in October, the only way to remedy the spore counts was a complete “scrubbing” of the building. This occurred over Christmas break. ServePro took over the building and thoroughly cleaned every surface, including wiping all surfaces and using a HEPA vacuum to get all other surfaces. When the Service Master cleaned after the water damage, they only cleaned the immediately impacted areas and treated them with a chemical that causes the spores to go dormant. Unfortunately, the spores can reactivate under certain conditions, and because it is a school, spores get carried to all corners of the building, hence the need for a full scrub down. The cost was initially estimated at \$176,000. The contract was made on a time and materials basis, so the exact amount has yet to be finalized. A claim has been submitted to our insurance carrier, and a coverage determination has not been given to us.

The failed heat exchange coil at Elm Street was replaced as scheduled over Christmas break, and the building now has total circulation from the boilers.

Ironically, just before the storm on the 18th, bidding was being prepared for a building generator for Minot. During that process, and after meeting with an electrician and talking with engineering, the bid process was put on hold until it was determined what heating and ventilation improvements would be made. The appropriately sized generator will need to be determined after we know what will be replaced. The generator at PCS, which had been down for the better part of a year or so, was recently repaired and was in working order for the storm. However, the automatic transfer switch was not working, so the power that could have been generated could not service the school during the outage.

The gym divider curtain at PCS will need to be replaced, and you will see the expense proposal in next year’s budget. The curtain has not been operated per the manufacturer’s instructions, and the last three year’s preventative maintenance appointments were canceled and not rescheduled. This combination caused the curtain to fail, and when a request was made a year ago for repairs, it was fixed to make it operable, but advice from the service team was not followed through. The curtain is not unsafe for use, but is due for complete failure at any time. This past fall, a scheduled maintenance and inspection determined the end of its useful life, and the service contractor cannot do any further repairs to the unit. A failure will result in the curtain getting stuck in whatever position it was in at the time of breakage, and there is no danger of it coming down.

TRANSPORTATION

We still have an opening for a full-time bus driver, and we continually advertise for substitute bus and van drivers and monitors.

We have four used buses that are currently out for sale by bid. As of the writing of this report, there had been no interest. They are 2011, 2012, 2015, and 2016, and each is in a condition that will not take a sticker, and we believe they are not worth investing any further maintenance expense into. Their mileages are 138,324, 179,428, 97,596, and 104,612 respectively.

One of our buses was rear-ended during the afternoon high school run on December 8th. Nobody was injured, and the bus’s rear door window was broken. Due to it being a high school run, all of the parents had been notified of the accident by their students and their cell phones by the time we had reached them from Central Office.

It is important to note that our bus drivers did a phenomenal job getting students home on the first day of the storm on December 18th. It was common for them to come across low-hanging branches and downed trees on their routes. We also had to make route adjustments on the fly to ensure our PreK, LRTC, and out-of-district students could get picked up and dropped off. When school resumed that week, they ran into similar obstacles and just got it done. We truly have an excellent transportation team, and they should be commended.