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ALERT

## Farrell schools renovation progressing

By MELISSA KLARIC Herald Staff Writer Oct 15, 2018



FARRELL – The \$9-million renovation to Farrell schools is well under way, school directors learned.

District Superintendent Rev. Lora Adams-King updated directors on the projects at the October board meeting.

“The renovation project began in June and is well under way,” Adams-King said. “There are five phases to the project. We are transitioning from Phase 1 to 2. We went out of sequence with some things.”

The school board in May unanimously approved spending \$9.16 million in seven contracts for the project, which began in June and will continue through next year. Plans call for installation of air-conditioning systems at the elementary and high schools, and a new tech education center – called STEAM for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics – at Farrell High School.

“Next summer will be extremely crucial and extremely busy because that is when the air conditioning goes in,” Adams-King said.

In the meantime, construction is now happening after school until well past midnight, she said.

The duct work and chillers for the air conditioning have been installed. Most of the upgraded LED lighting is complete.

“The STEAM lab is under construction at this point,” Adams-King said. “One of the computer labs is being renovated.”

And that is one of the first things that will be completed. Adams-King hopes the STEAM lab will open in the beginning of 2019.

The schools will also have replacement windows.

“Because we really needed the new windows,” Adams King said. “The high school’s original windows are from 1971 and are the original, single-pane windows. They leak. There’s a reason why we’re doing the renovation.”

Work happening now is also in the pool area, the high school locker rooms and basic updates to classrooms.

“Some of the most drastic changes in the elementary school will happen next summer,” Adams-King said. “So we are hoping and praying that the weather cooperates this winter.”

A special school calendar was crafted this year so that school will be out and graduation over by May 31.

Then, the estimated date for completion is Nov. 29, 2019, according to Adams-King.

“At the completion of this project, the elementary school will look like an elementary school,” she said. “It’ll be more than just a facelift. All of it will improve instruction and subsequently learning, which will foster a greater learning experience in general.”

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