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ALERT

Bids now accepted for school renovation project

By ERIC POOLE Herald Assistant Editor | News Apr 23, 2018



FARRELL — Students in the Farrell School District will soon see the work beginning to put air conditioning in their schools and to build a new place for them to learn about science and math.

Farrell School Board is scheduled to award bids on April 30 for its 18-month renovation project.

The district is now accepting bids for the project, which will include installation of air conditioning systems at both the elementary school and high school, and the creation of a center for STEAM — an acronym referring to science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics — at the high school. It is expected to cost more than \$9 million.

At its meeting Tuesday, the board approved a payment of \$239,808 to the Sharon-based architectural firm HHSDR for design services. HHSDR's contribution included a study that underlined the need for air conditioning at the high school, which was built in 1971.

The examination recorded temperatures in excess of 150 degrees in the building's third floor.

Work is scheduled to begin in early June, after the school year ends. But the project, including the installation of air conditioning ductwork, will continue through 2019. Superintendent Dr. Lora Adams-King said the work would cause some disruption to classes.

As part of the project, Farrell will install LED lighting in both schools. It uses about one-fourth as much electricity and lasts 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Adams-King said the STEAM facility would put Farrell on par with other schools. Sharon unveiled its technology wing in February.

"We're extremely excited about the new opportunities that it will provide for our students," she said.

"Our students here at Farrell will have access to the opportunities that exist in other districts."

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