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HOT CENTERPIECE

Multimillion Renovations Complete At Two County Schools

By MEGAN WILLIAMS Daily News-Record Sep 4, 2018 Updated 9 hrs ago



Pleasant Valley Elementary School fourth-graders Andrew Caplinger, 8, of Mount Crawford, (left), and Owen Laver, 9, of Harrisonburg, read together during class at Pleasant Valley Elementary School Tuesday afternoon.

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Daniel Lin .

HARRISONBURG — After 16 months and \$18.7 million, extensive renovations to Pleasant Valley and John Wayland elementary schools are complete.

Renovations at both schools included new HVAC systems, lighting, roofing, updated technology, new exterior windows, flooring, ceilings, interior doors and hardware, kitchen expansions and new kitchen equipment.

The two elementary schools were built in the 1960s and had not seen any significant renovations until now, said Steve Reid, director of maintenance for Rockingham County Public Schools.

“When you have buildings that are more than 50 years old, it’s time to do something with it,” Reid said.

The projects also included renovations of offices, restroom facilities and upgrades to meet federal American with Disabilities Act access guidelines. New loading docks also were constructed.

Reid added that the roofs at both schools were at the end of their lives and needed replaced.

At John Wayland, interior spaces were reclaimed such as an auxiliary gym, locker rooms and shop areas and were converted into additional classrooms and learning spaces.

Lockers for the students were refurbished and painted. The gym floor was refinished and new bleachers were added.

At Pleasant Valley, some existing spaces were made into smaller resource areas and the library was expanded and outfitted with new bookcases.

In May 2017, Nielsen Builders Inc. of Harrisonburg received a \$9.07 million contract from the Rockingham County School Board to renovate John Wayland. The company was awarded an \$11.29 million contract for Pleasant Valley, as well as Rockingham Academy.

Total project costs were \$7.9 million at Pleasant Valley and \$10.8 million at John Wayland.

Maintenance of school facilities rotates through a schedule and projects are prioritized based on need, Reid said.

Two projects similar to that of Pleasant Valley and John Wayland have been scheduled for next year at John C. Myers Elementary School and Fulks Run Elementary School.

The John C. Myers project will have a similar timeline of about 16 months, Reid said, with work beginning next school year. The division is wanting an accelerated timeline for the Fulks Run renovation, with a goal of having it completed by the start of school in 2020.

Open houses will be held at both of the elementary schools for the public to see the improvements. The open house for Pleasant Valley will be Monday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The open house at John Wayland will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 8.



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