September 8, 2015

Dear Members of the School Committee:

Ruth Bennett, our new Director of Facilities, is now leading the team of Mark Miano, Jeremy Brandl, Rodrigo Macedo and Carlos Dominguez, who collectively oversee the maintenance and custodial divisions. Every one of these people has done a tremendous amount of work getting the schools ready for the new school year.

In addition to the usual cleaning, the following major projects were done:

- Hardy building envelop repairs, including window flashing, lintel replacement, brick sealing and brick repair, were fully completed.
- A new Tech Lab was created at the Ottoson Middle School.
- New mats were installed at each entrance at all of the schools. These mats will help maintain the cleanliness of the buildings and protect the life of the floors.
- Major repairs were made to the drainage system of the Thompson School. It is hoped that the repairs will prove sufficient, but this is impossible to test without the full usage of an inhabited school. Final repairs to the floor are being held off until we are sure the repair is final. In the event that more is needed, the work will be done next summer.
- A new Registration Office is nearing completion off of the main lobby of the High School. Formerly a computer lab, this space has been redesigned to provide a welcoming and easy to find location for parents wishing to register their children for school.
- Painting was done at the High School, Dallin, and Ottoson.
- High School locker rooms were partially painted.
- The Peirce Field turf was replaced.
- All schools now have carbon dioxide detectors.
- A new public address system was installed at the Hardy, which added critical functions not formerly available.
- Gymnasium floors at the Brackett and Ottoson were refurbished.
- Electric power distribution was added to the Freshmen Building of the High School to support the new technology roll out.
- Mounting projectors to the ceiling is complete at the Bishop School, but still in process at the Ottoson and Brackett.
- Solar arrays are in the process of being installed at the High School, Ottoson, Thompson, Peirce, Stratton and Dallin Schools.
- The Bishop has a new energy management system (EMS) installed for the first time.
- Ottoson domestic hot water system is being replaced with a more energy efficient model.
- Exterior lights at the High School are being replaced with high efficiency LED lights.
- The renovation of the IT department, with significantly improved cooling to protect servers, was completed this summer.
- Dallin, Brackett and High School grounds were given significant attention this summer.
As you are aware, the elevator at the High School failed utterly, and is in the process of being replaced. Since it is such an old model (1978), it is necessary that replacement parts be created to make the repair. We hope to have it operational as soon as possible.

I would like to thank everyone who worked to get our schools ready for the start of the year. I am very grateful for their efforts.