

Upgrades ahead for Milwaukie-area schools

North Clackamas School District is using \$6.2M in bonds for construction projects

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BY JUSTIN CARINCI

Eight schools in the North Clackamas School District will be remodeled this summer. The district is looking for general contractor bids for the improvements.

The construction budget for the projects, funded by bond money, is \$6.2 million, said Garry Kryszak, capital projects manager for the district.

The improvements are the fourth phase of a \$229 million bond measure that voters in the district passed in 2006. "With this set of projects, we will have under construction 95 percent of the work under this bond," Kryszak said.

Construction has begun or contracts have been awarded for all major building remodels and to build four new schools, Kryszak said. The bond money is funding improvements, to some degree, at every school in the district.

The current bid package covers seven elementary schools – Campbell, Milwaukie, Oregon Trail, View Acres, Lewelling, Mount Scott and Whitcomb – and Rowe Middle School. The schools range in age from the 1920s to the early 1960s, except for Oregon Trail, which was built in the late 1980s.

"It's generally just an upgrade of the facilities," Kryszak said. "New carpet, lighting, windows, mechanical system upgrades."

Barrentine, Bates & Lee is the architect and J.J. Henri Co. is the construction manager for the improvements.

Emerick Construction is completing a major renovation of Rowe that included expanding the gym and lobby areas. The new contract will add a kitchen upgrade to the middle school.

According to federal commerce department statistics, public education construction has been the only type of construction to keep growing during the recession. That's in part due to school districts' ability to pass large bond measures that create jobs over several years.

The eight North Clackamas projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of August, in time for the new school year. The district

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will take on a similar improvement package in summer 2010 for the final set of schools under the bond.

There is a mandatory pre-bid meeting on Monday. The bid is divided into three packages, Kryszak said – one primarily for eastern schools, one for western schools, and one focusing mainly on kitchen work. Contractors may bid on each individual package or for all three together. The bid date is April 9.