

Central Middle School

Progress Week of July 4, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

We have enjoyed another week of good weather and productivity. There has been a hiccup or two with Century link cables being dug up on a regular basis. They are invited to locate the lines before the contractor starts digging but they seem to not be able to find where the lines are. This is a picture of what I



found Tuesday, July 2 when I happened to be passing. The earthwork contractors were cutting a swell to route water off the front of the school and

found the fiber optic line to the school. Century Link workers were preparing the cable for repair the next day. Somebody did not mark the link properly before the dig.

The man on the excavator is doing a beautiful job cutting the swell.



You can see a small ditch on each side of the swell. That is where the fiber optic line runs. As you can see, the operator is good, real good.

While I was on the job site I rode around back and noticed a ladder to the roof. I did what no 73 year old should be doing and went to the top of the ladder to take this picture of the work going on up there. The roof is being removed starting on the north end and working south. The roof beyond the wheelbarrow is the cafeteria. Everything is being removed down to the steel deck.



I expect the roof to look considerably different when finished than it did before. All the HVAC equipment will be below the roof. The roof will be built up as much as a foot causing it to drain instead of pooling water and there should be no ballast rock on it to hold it down. This roof had drains we should no longer need shown in previous newsletters. We expect it will be a much better roof system than what we are replacing.

I went to the job again on Wednesday to take pictures for this update and was pleasantly surprised. Here workers are installing sheet rock in a hallway. That is going to make it really look like something soon called progress!



As we continued north in the eighth grade wing we came to the electrical room. The sheetrock in this room is up.



This will turn the electricians loose to start installing cabinets and pulling wire. This is major progress.

I had some distinguished guests along for the walkthrough. Commissioner Jack Owens and Superintendent Dr. Barry Williams are inspecting the work in the gym and taking pride in what has been accomplished. Dr. Williams and I usually make



at least one trip through the construction each week. This has been quite an educational experience for both of us.

Work continues in the eighth grade wing as before and big changes are evident in the seventh grade renovation area. Bathroom drainpipes are being installed. This bathroom is being expanded considerably from its' original size. The gray upper left wall is where the original bathroom was.



The block closer to the camera was a classroom or office wall. The piping will be installed in a manner similar to that in the new eighth grade wing. A 4" block wall will be installed above the new floor concealing the piping yielding a good looking finished product.

The other restroom brings on a little more talk as there are numerous old foundations in the area. One of the supervisors told me this area was a kitchen

sometime in the past.



Notice to the left (our right) of the man in the yellow shirt are two old foundations they have tunneled under to route the piping. This is tough work especially in this area with the hot muggy weather AND the insulation is off the metal deck overhead making this area really hot.

As we moved through the school the tile with asbestos containing mastic has been removed and the floors are ready for the installation of new tile.



Continuing into a classroom we find a new Bard HVAC unit almost in place in a classroom. This unit will be placed next to the wall at the windows and will attach

to the duct seen dropping from the ceiling.



These units will afford each classroom a separate thermostat, will eliminate the need for HVAC equipment on the roof eliminating the cause of many roof leaks and will be much easier and more cost effective than a large commercial unit on the roof with a chiller causing the need for regular maintenance attention. The maintenance department and Johnny Greene feel this should be quite an improvement for them and the staff at the school.

We took time to look at the lockers scheduled to remain and noted the general state of disrepair on some of the lockers such as this one with the loose door

hinge.



We also noted the lockers are all showing their age from normal wear and tear. There really is not a lot of evidence of abuse to them.

As I left, I had to stop and watch that excavator cutting that swell. The bucket has a cutting edge with the profile of the swell but it still takes a very good operator and some sophisticated equipment such as the laser level in the

foreground to do such a smooth job.



Progress is taking place all over Central School.

Thank you for your continued interest, patience and support.

Ray