

D99 plans \$1.2M improvements

By ANNEMARIE MANNION
Chicago Tribune

Winter hasn't even begun, but Downers Grove Community High School District 99 is already planning a roster of capital projects for the spring and summer.

The projects, which total about \$1.2 million, are planned at Downers Grove North High School, Downers Grove South High School, the district's administrative center and the Transition 99 building where students with special needs learn life and job skills.

The district is planning to replace the phone systems at all four buildings. The price would be about \$450,000.

Jim Kolodziej, director of physical plant and operations, said the current phone system is outdated.

"Our current analog system has been in need of repairs," he said, adding that the district wanted to replace the system last year but delayed the work to save money and crossed



ANNEMARIE MANNION/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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DECEMBER 3-9, 2015
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fingers that the system wouldn't break down.

"I don't think we want to push it another year," he said.

While replacing the phone system is a large expense, Kolodziej said the district might save some money because it expects to need fewer phones and for maintenance costs to drop.

The district also plans to spend about \$65,000 to install additional internal and external security cameras at both schools.

The project will add between 10 and 12 cameras to both campuses, which each currently have 60.

It also will pay to install new recording devices that Kolodziej said will provide better clarity.

The public address sys-

tem at Downers Grove South will be replaced at a cost of \$55,000. Kolodziej said he recently visited the school when announcements were being made and "it sounded like he (the principal) was talking through a cup."

Another project at Downers Grove South will be installation of a pool dehumidifier unit.

The district purchased the equipment last year but its delivery was delayed.

The labor cost to install the equipment is estimated at \$250,000.

"The existing ones are 30-plus years old and deteriorated," he said.

Kolodziej said the district installed a new pool humidifier at Downers Grove North and the air quality has improved greatly.

The new units will not

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— Jim Kolodziej

need to be manually operated as the current ones are, he said.

The district also is planning to convert a writing lab at Downers Grove South into an office space and English classroom. It is estimated to cost \$143,000.

Other work includes replacing a parking lot at the Transition 99 building, inspection and maintenance of bleachers and turf repairs at both schools and reshingling a roof at the administrative center.

The board will vote on bids for the larger projects on a case-by-case basis.

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