Summer projects yield upgrades at Aberdeen public schools

By **Jason Lopez Martinez, Aberdeen Insider Reporter** and **Scott Waltman** - September 4, 2025 in **News** Reading Time: 2 minutes

Plenty of improvement projects were done throughout the Aberdeen Public School District during the summer months.

Ben Schnell, the district's director of operations for buildings and grounds, recapped the projects during an August school board meeting when there was a modest amount of work left to be finished. Now, he said, all of the work has been completed.

Summer rains posed challenges, but crews were able to work around them and get things done, he said.

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A recap of some of the bigger improvements follows.



The second of three phases to replace the roof at Central High School was completed. The remainder of the work will be done next summer.

Guaranteed Roofing and Sheet Metal did the job at a cost of $520,655. Schnell said this was the first time the district worked with the company, which did a good job. He said there were no leaks during the process.

The project that resulted in the most questions was resurfacing the playground at C.C. Lee Elementary School, Schnell said. People wanted to know what was happening and why, he said. That involved milling and new asphalt on about 39,000 square feet for $225,525. Lien Transportation was the prime contractor.

Concrete work at C.C. Lee and near the entrance of Simmons Middle School cost $19,125 with Lien as the main contractor, Schnell said. Wright and Sudlow Cement Contractors helped remove bricks in front of Simmons Middle School and replaced them with cement, he said.

There were also landscaping improvements on the north side of Brownell Activities Complex. They included 33 new trees, decorative grasses and a retaining wall, Schnell said.

The project cost $15,000 and was completed by Parkview Nursery, Husby Construction and the school district, he said.

Schnell also discussed some of the interior projects finished during the summer. They included:

- Central High School Family and Consumer Sciences classroom, including seven kitchens with new appliances: $150,000 with the work done in-house and by True Finish.
- Simmons Middle School Family and Consumer Sciences classroom, including six kitchens with new appliances: $320,000, including plumbing, cutting out old flooring and adding new flooring. The prime contractor was Kyburz Carlson Construction.
- O.M. Tiffany, one new kitchen: $25,000 with the work in house and by True Finish.
- Simmons Elementary School library and library office: $80,000 with the work done by Innovative Office Solutions over two years.
- Lincoln Elementary School entrance and reception area: $40,000 with the work done by True Finish and the district.

All of the kitchen work involved new countertops, painting and new flooring, Schnelll said.

He said the Simmons Middle School Family and Consumer Sciences project was more in depth because the room was previously split and is now one cohesive room.

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At Simmons Elementary, the library renovation was a two-year project because of budgetary concerns, Schnell said.

The district replaces flooring as needed every summer, he said. This year, that work was done by Rayman Flooring at a cost of roughly $170,000. That covered roughly 30 classrooms throughout the district, Schnell said. He said that price includes new blinds in many of the classrooms that got new flooring.