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unlike modern windows that are pulled up or down or slid from side-to-side.

If the bond issue is successful, the old windows will be removed. So would the dark paneling once put up to cover old single-pane, energy inefficient windows prevalent at Dunkel.

And the bond would also enable teachers such as Green to eat lunch (usually sandwiches, not prime rib) in improved surroundings, rather than in the current lounge - a small room that now also stores some custodial equipment.

"We just have no space," said Dunkel Principal Pamela O'Malley. "It's 40 years old and it shows."

O'Malley said the bond issue is the same kind of thing as a real-estate taking out a home equity loan for fix-up purposes. "You reach the point where... you can't do it out of what you've got."

She added that the bond is needed to help keep schools viable and, in turn, strengthen property values.

"We're looking at an area where just about every school district around us has passed a bond and improved their buildings," O'Malley noted.

### Kenbrook

Space also is a premium at Kenbrook Elementary School, particularly in the cafeteria. If Proposal II succeeds, that building's eating area will be enlarged, thus reducing the number of lunch periods required to handle the student population.

Kenbrook parent Rebecca Pniowski said the current set-up is not acceptable, with her fourth grade son not eating lunch until 1 p.m.

"Study after study after study shows students don't learn when

they're hungry," Pniowski said. "They are allowed to eat a snack (in the late morning), but to me that's not sufficient."

Pniowski said for any youngster to go six or seven hours between breakfast and lunch is "just way too long... That's just the basics."

### Farmington High

Also showing its age is Farmington High School, in the running for quite a makeover should the bond issue get the go-ahead next week. A walk through the building revealed some of the structural cracks.

■ In an art-room-turned-computer-lab, electrical extension cords dangled down from the ceiling over work stations.

■ The chemistry laboratories featured rows of chairs huddled too closely together and experimental tables that FHS Principal Jim Myers said "probably have been around since I went to school."

■ Insufficient classroom space for the current enrollment is the reason the courtyard outside the chemistry labs is filled with portable classrooms. "They (teachers) are ostracized. They are out in no man's land and it's not easy to collaborate," Myers explained.

■ Students in various bands and choirs have to share those classrooms with storage and office space. The spillover typically goes out into the halls and even outside for sessions.

"We could double that and it wouldn't be enough room," said Myers, glancing around the classroom during symphonic band class.

Myers said it's not surprising for violinists to be banging elbows under the current set-up. "They're really sitting in the storage area."

A successful bond issue, of course, would rectify many of those problems - in addition to repairing and deepening the swimming pool (to enable competitive swimming meets) and adding an auxiliary gymnasium.

The space now used by portables would become a new science wing. Expansion and renovation at the front of the building would give bands and choirs adequate space to play and sing. A new dressing room for the theater department would also solve another problem, that of drama students needing to don their costumes in a hallway adjacent to the stage. And that garage-like computer lab stands to be remodeled and made into an environment much more conducive to learning.

"I envision the whole place being remodeled," said Myers, about the computer lab.

The reason? "Our instruction has to be based on real-world application. Otherwise it's just words and pictures... Research shows they remember more if it's hands on."

### North Farmington

Some of those very same prob-

lems exist at North Farmington High School, the building slated for the most improvements, a combined \$16.4 million if both Proposal I and II are approved. North Farmington is the smallest of the district's three high schools, yet has the largest enrollment.

"We are so very, very crowded," said Principal Deborah Clarke. "First of all, we need new classrooms."

The bond includes the addition of a 10-classroom wing off of the building's east wing. Like at Farmington High, the NFHS music department is much-too-cramped, with the percussion ensemble being forced to take their equipment "all over the building in order for them to practice."

The space crunch is compounded by poor acoustics. "The impact of that sound is not healthy for students' ears," Clarke said.

Bond dollars would also eliminate the need for a writing workshop to be held in the cafeteria.

According to Clarke, "the community realizes how stretched for space we really are... It (lack of space) is limiting program options for kids."



STAFF PHOTO BY DYLAN MITCHELL

Jamming: Teacher Norm Logan, at right, discusses a quiz with students in the Farmington High music room, which requires creative storage for equipment and instruments.

## Here's what the bond buys

Following is a breakdown of what each building in the Farmington Public School District stands to get - and for what price - if Tuesday's bond issue is approved by voters. To be decided is \$65 million in Proposal I and \$28.1 million on Proposal II.

### Alameda Early Childhood Center

**Proposal I:** (\$873,880) Add media center; heating, ventilation, air conditioning; technology wiring; general building renovations; asbestos abatement.

### Beechview Elementary

**Proposal I:** (\$1,144,466) Renovate media center; change two classrooms to one art classroom; heating, ventilation, air conditioning; technology wiring; general building renovations.

**Proposal II:** (\$1,090,013) Renovate two classrooms to large group instruction/community use space; gym to cafe/multi-purpose room; cafeteria to art; add gym/stage, storage.

### Eagle Elementary

**Proposal I:** (\$1,001,787) Renovate media center; change two classrooms to art classrooms; technology wiring; general building

renovations; heating, ventilation, air conditioning.

**Proposal II:** (\$1,442,304) Add art classroom and office; renovate two classrooms to large group instruction/community use space; renovate storage area to stage.

### Fairview Early Childhood Center

**Proposal I:** (\$842,707) Renovate multi-purpose room to a "discovery room"; heating, ventilation, air conditioning; technology wiring; general building renovations.

**Flanders Elementary**  
**Proposal I:** (\$803,076) Music classroom addition; technology wiring; general building renovations; heating, ventilation, air conditioning.

**Proposal II:** (\$725,478) Add large group instruction/community use space, stage, storage; renovate gym.

### Forest Elementary

**Proposal I:** (\$882,999) Renovate media center; heating, ventilation, air conditioning; technology wiring; general building renovations.

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