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teachers union president and school board members the buildings would be occupiable.

"Occupiable means it's safe," McCarthy said. The fire marshal will be touring the buildings Friday.

Ron Aten, facilities architect, and Philip Schaeffer, an industrial hygienist, sent a letter to various school officials Aug. 13 stating the different ways environmental concerns had been addressed. Those concerns include dust particles and floor tile adhesives. Buildings inspected included Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington high schools, Dunckel, Warner and East middle schools and Wooddale Elementary.

Confab: Warner Middle School Principal Darlene Russell and John Barrett, principal at Farmington High School, talk about the unfinished new construction at FHS.

"Many of the above noted buildings have sustained asbestos abatement and air monitoring was performed to determine that safe conditions prevailed during and after the (Asbestos Containing Materials)," the letter stated. "We are confident that results of this air sampling will indicate that no building has sustained a significant level of residual airborne dusts."

The letter also stated water samples were tested to determine the water supply's safety.

"Laboratory data indicates that all potable (drinkable) water systems at the buildings surveyed were found to be safe for consumption."

Copies of these reports and laboratory data are also available at the district architect's office for review.

Major work is still needed at Farmington, Harrison and North high schools; East and Dunckel

middle schools; and Wooddale Elementary School. Harrison High's construction has just started, and Warner Middle's construction and renovation is nearly complete.

Concerns about safety

Several parents have expressed concerns about the schools' safety. One parent, who asked for anonymity, said a complaint was filed with the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The parent declined to reveal the specifics of the complaint or say who filed it.

Dobbie McCracken, secretary to Superintendent Bob Maxfield, said they were not aware of any complaints filed with OSHA.

"We have not had anything forwarded to us by OSHA," McCracken said Wednesday morning.

Parent Joyce Fellows, who has a freshman who will attend Farmington High School, said



This way, please: The tour group goes through the FHS band area.

she saw a notice stating lockers wouldn't be available for a couple of weeks.

"These kids are really going to be dragging," Fellows said of their heavy backpacks.

The construction projects have had their share of setbacks, both stemming from worker shortages

and mechanical problems. A urinal valve bursting at Dunckel three weeks ago caused major water damage to the gym, causing the floor to buckle, with a 3 1/2 foot hump running slightly

off the gym's center. Custodial workers at the middle school have taken the setbacks in stride, wearing T-shirts reading "Expect the unexpected and don't panic" on the back.

That phrase could very well apply to the gym floor alone, but Dunckel Principal Pamela O'Malley said the shirts were printed last summer.

Complicating the water problem in the gym was the fact it was being used to store new cabinets for the building. The school's custodial crew worked quickly to remove as many of

them as possible before the floor buckled, preventing the items from being moved.

"The custodial staff just knocked themselves out," O'Malley said.

The district's insurance will cover the water damage at Dunckel and the gym water damage at North Farmington, which was likely caused by a door being left open during construction. Both floors are expected to be repaired by the end of this year.

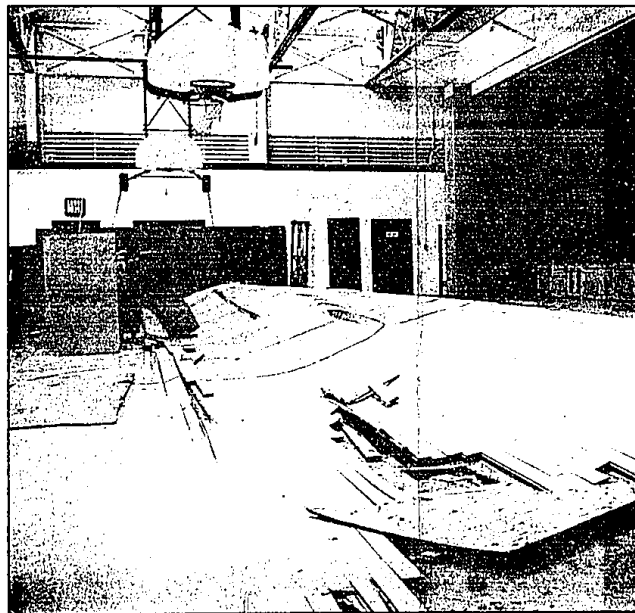
"(The North Farmington gym floor) was due for its last refinishing," said Superintendent Bob Maxfield, adding it would have needed replacing within five years anyway.

The gyms at both schools will be closed until the repairs are made, but alternate rooms will be available for classes, both principals said.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL EBERHART

Sights along the way: Later in the tour (left), the group gathers near the main entrance at Dunckel Middle School. Above, lockers in some Farmington High School hallways are yet to be installed.



Add it to the list: The gym floor at Dunckel Middle School, originally not scheduled for replacement, buckled when a water pipe burst, flooding it over a weekend.

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large number of people, but no more than the area can reasonably handle. We'll have to see how that plays out.

"We do expect some parking to spill over into neighborhoods," Goss said. "We hope people use common sense and not block people's driveways."

People parking illegally will be ticketed. Goss also said people should make sure not to park on private property, such as in apartment parking lots.

The main opponents of night games have been residents living near the high schools. School board trustee Jack Inch said a number of residents have

addressed the school board about it.

"Some of the neighbors say they felt it would be an invasion of their privacy," Inch said.

The school board voted last spring to begin night home games. Some supporters wanted the games to begin last year, but it wasn't possible to implement it in time, Inch said.

"We're looking forward to a successful season," Inch said.

The main supporters of night games are band members. Previously, home games were held Saturday afternoons, the same day as marching band competitions. This meant band students

had long days, often beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending 10 p.m. or later. The band has been competing since 1991.

Harrison band director Mark Phillips said the night games will be good practice for the students, because they will be playing under lights, like they do at most competitions.

He said his students often had to leave games early to attend competitions throughout the state.

"We didn't like to have to leave early, but sometimes we did," Phillips said. "It's hard to play a game and then go to a competition."

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