



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMLEY

End dust: Lanigan Elementary teacher Debbie Newsom works with kindergartner Bradley Korn on a computer. In the background, a white marker board rests against a conventional chalk board — no longer used because the chalk dust harms computers.

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when students went home for lunch. Cafeterias were an afterthought.

As a result, William Grace's cafeteria is nestled in a hallway alcove.

Students and staff pass through while others are eating; the small area creates four lunch sessions from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Plans call for the cafeteria to be expanded into the courtyard area. A performance stage will be included in the new setup.

**Choice of schools**

Elementary schools were given a choice between expanded cafeterias or gymnasiums in the proposed upgrades, Cannon said. Grace — like many elementaries in the district — wants to consolidate lunch periods.

Like many older schools, wood doors and chalk boards will also be replaced under proposed renovations. Chalk dust is not good for classroom computers.

Also, updated heating units and the addition of air conditioning would help control the climate for computers to operate effectively, school officials said.

Facility upgrades are partly motivated to narrow the gap between old facilities like William Grace and new ones like Hillside, which was built in 1990.

"All of our buildings are not going to look like Hillside," Cannon said. "We are trying to provide comparable facilities and comparable opportunities."

**Lanigan Elementary**

Instead of shooting two-point buckets, Lanigan kids could be bringing their lunch bucket into what is now the gymnasium. The school plans to convert its gym into a cafeteria and kitchen. A new gym with storage space would be added to the south side of the building, which was built in 1965.

The current eating area is cramped, necessitating lunch periods to run during a two-hour period.

"Hopefully, we'd be able to consolidate it into one hour," said Marva Turner, principal.

The school also houses the district's food and nutrition services, which officials said has outgrown its area.

Under the proposal, those operations would move to East Middle School and the kitchen and food storage area would be "gutted" and turned into art and music rooms.

Food and nutrition services — in addition to preparing lunches for school buildings — also caters to central office and the

Farmington Training Center for special functions.

Freezer and storage place is limited at Lanigan. So much so the district cannot take regular deliveries of government surplus food items.

"There is just no potential for growth," said Deb Larson, director of nutrition services.

The scent in the Lanigan media center is not the type to whet one's appetite. Moisture and a lack of windows creates a dank odor and grim setting. "Adequate — that's a good word for it," said Judy Miller of URS Greiner, district architect. "They need windows in here."

A renovation would add windows and needed space for computers.

Space is also needed for performances and after school programs, school officials said. A school open house this year spilled out onto the parking lot. A student to take music and art classes in both facilities. Those classes would be folded back into the main facility with a proposed 11,620-square-foot addition.

"We had parents leave here angry," Turner said.

**Longacre Elementary**

If the main building is a ship, two portable classrooms outside the Farmington school serve as its life boats. Proposed renovation plans would torpedo them.

Children trek across the parking lot outside — no matter the weather — to take music and art classes in both facilities.

Those classes would be folded back into the main facility with a proposed 11,620-square-foot addition.

"We make accommodations and we make do," said Bill Smith, principal. "I think this is an opportunity to deliver services in a more effective way."

Separate music and art classrooms are included in the plan as well as a new gymnasium, resource room, large group instruction area and an additional classroom.

The school's current gym will be converted into a cafeteria. Lunch runs in four sessions from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in a hallway enclave holding 100 students. Noise waits through the hallways.

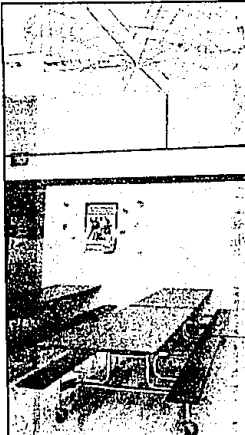
"Let me tell you that's not completely ideal," Smith said.

Major renovations also call for expanding the media center and school's Technology Assisted Support Center. Renovations would create office space for ancillary staff, which includes a psychologist, social worker and reading recovery teacher.

A psychologist currently uses the principal's office to test kids. "You pull a kid out of class. Where are you going to take them that is quiet?" Cannon said. "You need a better place to bring them in order to do testing."

**Kenbrook Elementary**

Aspiring Picasso's have their muse wheeled to them at the Farmington Hills elementary. "Art on a Cart" is not so much



Cafeteria: Metal fans circulate during the four lunch periods at Lanigan.

for portability but borne out of necessity. The school doesn't have an art room.

Instead, the art teacher goes room to room with her supplies on a cart. She has a storage closet to call her own. A proposed 8,968-square-foot addition would create art and music rooms.

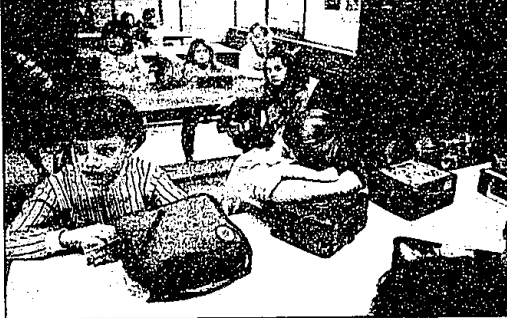
"I'm just grateful to have something," said Araxey Barsamian, art teacher. A cafeteria that holds 75 students — lodged near the main entrance — would be also extended. Lunch is broken up into five sessions spanning three hours.

"It's a crazy place. People are coming in and out," said Margaret McKinley, principal. "On election day, we have our senior citizens coming through to vote dodging peanut butter and jelly sandwiches."

Kenbrook is in Kendallwood subdivision, which is a typical area undergoing transition where younger couples with children are moving in.

Large group instruction areas are planned at many elementaries, though they can be converted into regular classrooms.

"If you have peaks and valley in terms of enrollment, you can accommodate it," Cannon said. Editor's note: Thursday, we'll take a look at middle and high school improvements.



New space: The cafeteria at William Grace Elementary School is proposed to be expanded. Left to right: Michael Harwood, Derrick Pass, Eric Balla (taking off sweater) and Ricky Pascoe, all first graders.

**Here are 4 schools' price tags**

Here's the price tags for items at the schools we toured:

**WILLIAM GRACE ELEMENTARY**

- Expand cafeteria with stage into courtyard (\$485,450)
  - Renovate special education room (\$392,468)
  - Update heating and air quality system (excluding gymnasium) (\$462,070)
  - Replace/repair doors (\$30,000)
  - Replace chalk/tack boards (\$30,000)
  - Replace coat racks (\$11,000)
  - Furnish project out windows for cross ventilation (\$10,000)
  - Equipment (new/renovated) -fixed (\$14,690) -loose (\$9,613) -media center (\$50,000)
- TOTAL \$1,495,281**

**LANIGAN ELEMENTARY**

- Add gymnasium with stage, storage and toilets (\$1,076,300)
- Convert gymnasium into cafeteria and kitchen (\$225,450)
- Convert central kitchen into art and music room (\$411,870)
- Update heating and air quality system (excluding gym) (\$505,000)
- Replace/repair doors (\$29,000)
- Replace chalk/tack boards (\$23,400)
- Remodel media center and

- add windows (\$106,916)
  - Convert existing cafeteria into large multi-use space (\$83,500)
  - Replace coat racks (\$12,100)
  - Equipment -fixed (\$55,901) -loose (\$30,282) -kitchen (\$50,000)
- TOTAL \$2,609,719**

**LONGACRE ELEMENTARY**

- Convert existing gymnasium to cafeteria/multi-purpose room and kitchen (\$119,426)
  - Construct new gymnasium and provide stage, storage and toilets (\$846,325)
  - Expand media center/technology area (\$325,916)
  - Convert cafeteria to workroom (\$71,340)
  - Update heating and air quality system (excluding gymnasium) (\$275,444)
  - Replace/repair doors (\$28,000)
  - Replace chalk/tack boards (\$12,800)
  - Add music, art, resource and large multi-use space (\$766,400)
  - Replace coat racks (\$8,800)
  - Replace signs (\$7,000)
  - Equipment (new/renovated) -fixed (\$59,482) -loose (\$16,242) -media center (\$50,000)
- TOTAL \$2,567,175**

**KENBROOK ELEMENTARY**

- Create parent drop off loop and visitor parking at main entry (\$100,000)
  - Main entry renovation (\$102,314)
  - Update heating and air quality systems (excluding gymnasium) (\$436,456)
  - Cafeteria addition (\$570,898)
  - Replace/repair doors (\$55,000)
  - Replace chalk/tack boards (\$23,000)
  - Provide barrier free ramp (\$62,226)
  - Renovate media center and add windows (\$59,813)
  - Add art and music rooms and large multi-use space (\$537,738)
  - Replace coat racks (\$11,000)
  - Furnish project out windows for cross ventilation (\$10,000)
  - Equipment (new/renovated) -fixed (\$20,453) -loose (\$20,271)
- TOTAL \$2,008,956**

Cost estimates are based on: \$55-\$70 per square feet for major renovations; \$40-\$55 per square feet for medium renovations; and \$8 to \$30 per square feet for minor renovations.



**BRIGHT IDEAS**

COLOR AND STYLE COMBINE FOR PURE FASHION INSPIRATION. COTTON/ACETATE TAB-BACK JACKET, LIME OR BLACK, SIZES S,M,L. SLIM-LEG LINEN/COTTON PLAID PANTS, SIZES 4-14. NECKERCHIEF AND SUNGLASSES IN BIZZLING SPRING COLORS. JACKET, \$58; PANTS, \$39; NECKERCHIEF, \$8; SUNGLASSES, \$12

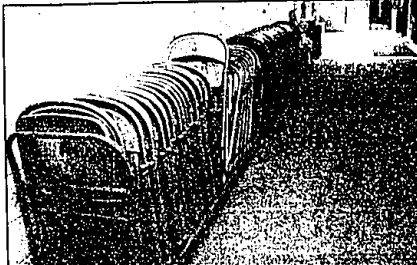
**CHE BELLA**

**Jacobson's**

BIRMINGHAM 810-614-6900

TUENIA 813-601-7000

INDUSTRIAL 813-601-7000



Storage: Carts of folding chairs are stored in the hallway at Lanigan Elementary.