

Asbestos abatement, new flooring planned for Bowie

Written by By FAITH HUFFMAN, News-Telegram News Editor
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Trustees for Sulphur Springs Independent School District during a special meeting Wednesday approved spending \$163,000 to abate asbestos and replace carpet at Bowie Primary School, and designated up to \$241,244 for replacement of district heating, ventilation and air conditioning units.

SSISD Superintendent Mike Lamb explained that the district at the end of each school year tallies the funds allocated to certain purposes but not spent. The district also compiles a list of items needing repairs or upgrades, essentially a wish list. District personnel evaluate that list and utilize that pooled money to fund some of those projects.

The asbestos removal project at Bowie, truck and HVAC units are among those projects, he noted.

Lamb said both Bowie and Lamar Primary schools are among the last campuses in need of carpet replacement and asbestos abatement, required when certain older tiles are removed but not when carpet is replaced. The district plans to have about 32,000 square feet of tile replaced at Bowie this summer abating asbestos in the process, then replace it with vinyl tiles. Next year, the same would be done where needed at Lamar.

He said a student's allergies to an unknown substance at school were a factor in determining which of the two campuses to abate this summer and which next.

Trustees Wednesday approved spending \$86,000 for asbestos abatement and another \$77,000 to have the new vinyl clad tile installed.

SSISD Maintenance and Grounds Director Dan Froneberger noted that contracts could be let next week and abatement beginning within 15 days.

Trustees also agreed to spend up to \$61,513 to replace HVAC units in the high school cafeteria and gymnasium and up to \$179,131 to replace 31 HVAC units with cracked heat exchangers at various campuses.

Lamb noted that the district has a repair-replacement schedule, in which about 30 of the oldest HVAC units are replaced. The 31 HVAC units are not necessarily part of the originally scheduled group. He explained the district has been operating in "emergency mode" similar to a situation which arose at Christmas time. These 30 would be emergency replacements, then the other 30 would be replaced after.