

HOCKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Facilities team does much with little

With the old District Office bursting at the seams and the new Middle School reaching completion, staff began seeing the old Middle School buildings with new eyes.

Located just behind the District Office, the lower part of the old building housed a double-sided line of eight classrooms separated by closets and hallways. It almost looked like a horizontal office building.

That vision kicked off an improvement project that rehousing district administration and created a ripple effect that touched nearly every campus—and was accomplished on a shoestring budget:

- The age 18-21 transition program moved from the High School into the old District Office.
- The preschool moved from a portable at the Elementary School into the transition program's portable at the High School.
- The Elementary School turned the preschool classroom into space for the Highly Capable program.

"Everyone ended up in more suitable spaces," said Superintendent Sandra Yager. "And almost the entire project was completed by our people, mostly reusing and repurposing existing materials."

The whole domino-like project cost \$75,000 in materials, and because it involved repurposing facilities at the Elementary School for a growing student body, it was funded using impact fees—not levy or general funding.



ABOVE: Preschoolers don coats at their new location at the High School.

RIGHT: Eirik Huset leans against the maple District Office counter that he salvaged from the old Middle School's wood shop.

(Earlier this year, the cost to bring two portables—four classrooms—to the Elementary School cost the district more than \$200,000 per classroom, including the buildings, site work and related expenditures.)

Maintenance staff member and High School shop teacher Eirik Huset took the lead on the District Office challenge, repainting the old Middle School's bright-orange cabinets "Hockinson blue"; bringing in old High School lunch tables for a staff break room; and building a reception desk out of maple butcher block counters salvaged from HMS's former wood shop.

Once district staff moved into the new space in early July, work began on the old District Office. The maintenance team of



Huset, Maintenance/Operations supervisor Shaniko Ristau, and summer crew members Chris Crawford and Matt Dawson created a kitchen accessible to people with disabilities and turned a restroom into a laundry room, for starters.

Where administrators once prepared budgets and managed the district, students now spend their days learning how to cook, do laundry and solve math problems.

"I do like it," said student Cecil Strode. "Everything."