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 reboused 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. Maintenance staff member and High School shop teacher Eirik Huset took the lead on the District Office challenge, re-painting the old Middle School’s bright-orange cabinets “Hockinson blue,” bringing in maple butcher block counters salvaged from HMS’s former wood shop.

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

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(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.)

The Elementary School cost the district more than $75,000 in materials, and because it involved repurposing facilities at the Elementary School for a growing student body, it involved repurposing existing materials.

“All of this was funded using impact fees—not levy or bond,” said Superintendent Sandra Yager. “And almost the entire project was completed on a shoestring budget: nearly every campus—and was accomplished by our people, mostly reusing and repurposing existing materials.”

“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, the maintenance team of Eirik Huset, Maintenance/Operations supervisor Shaniko Ristau, and summer crew members Chris Crawford and Matt Dawson designed a kitchen accessible to people with disabilities and turned a restroom into a laundry room, for starters.

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