

## Custodian Questions all schools April 23, 2019

### Participants

Karen Florence, daytime at MLS

Steve Wilson, MLS, used to be at high school

Note that I spoke to each of them individually

### **What are the strengths? What makes it a good school?**

- Block foundation
- Good foundation to build on or repair
- No cracks in the foundation
- The structure of the building – this building holds up.
- Cinder block is so well made.

### **What are the weaknesses of the Mills Lawn buildings? What doesn't work?**

- Water leaks
- Window problems
- Small building
- No storage for anything
- Stage is really a storage area for village theater props that we have to move around
- Older windows are very drafty
- Some broken and it is hard to replace because of their age - no longer make windows like that
- No screens for windows – when we open the windows, we get bugs
- Doors are old metal doors and the thresholds have disintegrated. Big gaps under the doors. Snakes come in.
- Roof leaks a lot – lots of ceiling tiles have water spots and we have to change them out
- Hard to find the leaks because the water travels in the ceiling
- Modular – has been there for 20 years when it was planned for 5 years. The doors and windows are rotted. The whole modular is in bad shape.
- Plumbing is scary. All of the plumbing is underground. Have to trench to find the problem.
- Pipes have frozen – no insulation on them – have done repairs and caulking, not sure how long that will last.
- Bathrooms are not bad. We have heaters in the winter so warm in winter.
  - Have bad windows. Some bathrooms have screens in them. Not all
- Flooring seems to be OK – we change it out as it fits in budget. That is nice.
  - Have carpet squares in classrooms where you can take out and replace
- No insulation beyond the cinder block – if we just had double pane windows and no gaps, it would do a lot.
- It is an old building, that is key – down the oldest wing the rooms used to be scorching hot; in the last five years the rooms are now cold.
- YS has been notorious that the water system has been so bad, better now with the new water plant. But our pipes are chock full of lime – not getting the water to the boilers in the classrooms
- Windows are not only old and not efficient; they are old glass that is not safe if it breaks.
- Putty around the windows is so old that when you wash the windows, it is like milk running down.
- Summer time- when running the buffer or scrubber machine – it knocks the breaker out. – electric is at capacity. Teachers using individual AC in the old classrooms which contributes.
- AC in the new section is pretty good. Gym on down is newer. Middle build no AC, newest build has AC
- Hallways are made of asbestos on the flooring tile. Getting old and brittle. If we put a wood veneer on top, it would help, make it safe.
  - Newer flooring you don't have to strip and wax – this would pay for itself.

- Today have to strip and wax. It also makes the floor slippery and kids can fall. Newer floors are not as slippery
- Carpets are holding up pretty good, but will eventually need to be replaced.
- Lighting pretty good, have a bulb replacement schedule. Have replaced some old bulbs with energy efficient bulbs
- Bathrooms – kids will be kids – esp. the kindergartner bathrooms – the kids pee all over the place
- Most of the sinks in the bathrooms are old, perhaps need to be remodeled some
- The newer bathrooms are worse than the old ones cause the kids pee on the registers
- Modular – that thing is old. Having problems with AC right now – not sure it will even work this year. Heating is OK
- Playground inspected by health department twice a year and Craig will fix whatever is necessary. Have had a few items taken down for safety. Ex: big monkey bar set
- Doors are getting old – might have asbestos in some of the covering
- Kitchen area has not been updated. If not for the lime buildup, the steam table would not hold water. Wall and equipment are really outdated.
- Damage to pipes and plumbing over the years from the hard water is significant.

**What would you like to change in the buildings? What changes would make this a better school?**

- Replace all the doors and windows. This would be a big thing.
- Newer part of the fifth and sixth grade is pretty new and OK, the old wing is what needs to be replaced.
- Get screens for all windows.
- Build a new music area – real classrooms
  - Build new storage in this area
  - Meeting rooms – for PBL, for testing,
  - More useful space
  - Have girl scout meetings in classrooms today – wish we had meeting room.
- Hallways covered with new veneer
- Have central AC to replace the individual AC units
- Bathroom partially gutted and cleaned up better
- MUST replace windows – they are unsafe
- Some rooms a candle can be blown out when the window is blowing
- They are just so bad
- Do have animals – comes with the territory. Flies, potato bugs, little yellow bees, hornets, not so much bats. Snakes, skunks, raccoons and possums out back at night.