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School projects ahead of schedule

Suzanne Laurent

LONDONDERRY | Renovations and construction work at the town's schools are mostly ahead of schedule, according to Facilities Director Chuck Zappala.

The largest project this summer will add 40 to 45 additional parking spaces to Londonderry High School's parking lot.

American Excavating, the general contractor for the project, teamed up with Continental Paving to reconfigure the parking lot's traffic flow.

"Work began on June 19, and should be done by August 10," Zappala said. "It's about a week ahead of schedule right now."

Zappala said as they got into the project, engineers hired by the district advised that more drainage be added.

"The water table is so high right now," he said. "We want to be sure the new work will last another 20 to 30 years."

The additional work added \$20,000 to the original bid of \$306,000.

Other work at the high school includes replacing 50,000 square feet of roof, new carpeting in some areas, and walls moved to create new spaces. The outdoor running track is also being resurfaced.

In addition, 130, 30-year-old windows are being replaced at the high school, Londonderry Middle School and Matthew Thornton Elementary School.

"There will be a big savings on energy with the new windows," Zappala said.

At Matthew Thornton Elementary School, carpets are being replaced, as well as floor tiles and the basketball backboard in the school's gym.

The roof on the gym of North Londonderry Elementary School is being replaced, and there will be new lockers in the locker room and eighth-grade wing at the middle school.

"All this, plus our normal summer cleaning," Zappala said. "We have all of our 40 custodians, plus 20 high school and college students working."

Zappala said the cleaning, too, is ahead of schedule because of the nice weather this summer.

"When it's too hot and humid, the carpets won't dry," he said.

Every stick of furniture is cleaned, offices and classrooms cleaned and light fixtures. Tiles are re-stripped and carpets cleaned.

"We're in the best shape we've been in five or six years," Zappala said. "We're two-thirds done and the summer's only half over."

Cost of Londonderry schools' summer renovations

High school parking lot: \$326,000