

In my last article, I wrote that the community could decide to close the MS/HS building in the future rather than spending money on the building. The result, as expected, was many people saying that they want to keep a MS/HS in Cornell. If that is the majority opinion of the community, then we need to plan for remodeling or building a new structure.

We have an incredibly old middle section of the MS/HS and old north and south sections. The main water heater is 20 years old; the boilers are 14 years old as well as the 1962's roof with the 1952's and 1921's roofs and the A.C. units following closely behind. The 1915's roof needs to be replaced soon and both the 1915 and 1921 sections have grout crumbling out from between the bricks which will be a major project that should be tackled soon. The plumbing within the walls and the windows are beginning to fail, there are non-grounded outlets, and the air quality ventilation does not meet current codes. With all the things that are coming to the end of their useful life, it will be a pretty extensive and expensive remodeling project, and the buildings will still be old. Just for comparison, the current elementary school was built in 1995 to replace the 1940 building after 55 years of use. Besides the MS/HS commons being built in 1995, the **newest** section of the MS/HS building is 62 years old.

I've been asked many times if it is worth remodeling the MS/HS. In order to answer that question, a company could be hired to make a list of updates needed and the estimated cost to do so. However, it should also be kept in mind that nearly ½ of the rooms in the MS/HS are not being used, yet we need to heat and maintain them. With the layout of the building, we can't just totally close a section of it. So, it may make the most sense to build a new section to the MS/HS and demolish much of the old building to decrease the total square footage. Next month's article will focus on building a new portion of the MS/HS.