

**Behind Closed Doors**  
**Got your attention! Sorry, not that kind of an article.**  
by Paul Lewis, Director of Facilities and Transportation  
Reed City Area Public Schools

Most of my job duties here at the Reed City Area Public Schools are “behind the scenes” projects. The following is one example of those many projects:

Have you ever wondered what equipment it takes to heat and cool a school district? For those inquiring minds, I have compiled a list of the equipment that is required to keep the buildings open during the school year here at Reed City Area Public Schools.

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Air Handling Units | 22 |
| Boilers            | 16 |
| VAV boxes          | 30 |
| Unit Vents         | 60 |
| Exhaust fans       | 66 |
| Walk-in Coolers    | 3  |
| Walk-in Freezers   | 3  |
| Roof-Top Units     | 5  |
| Hot Water Heaters  | 14 |
| Pumps              | 55 |
| Air Compressors    | 7  |
| Gas Fired heaters  | 11 |
| Cabinet Heaters    | 41 |
| Fan Coils          | 22 |
| Make-Up Air units  | 2  |

The list goes on. All of this equipment needs to be serviced and maintained. Parts wear out and need to be replaced; controls need to be calibrated and adjusted; filters, belts, seals and couplings need to be changed. We have not had to cancel school in the past ten years due to an equipment failure. Preventive maintenance is the key to keeping the equipment running and performing properly. It is no different than changing the oil in your car or cleaning out the lint from your clothes dryer. An air-handling unit with plugged filters will not move the required amount of air. A boiler that is not tuned will waste energy. Preventive maintenance finds the problems before they become a big problem. Maybe you should put the paper down and clean the lint out of that dryer...