

# COYOTE CORNER

## Facilities Needs

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The Reed City Area Public Schools' facilities are no different than your house in the fact that repairs and upkeep are required to get them to last to protect your investment. Our oldest building that is still in use was constructed in 1948. It still has the original boiler in place and operating. Many advances have occurred in boilers in the last 62 years to make them more efficient. We are forced to wait for a catastrophic failure to replace the boiler rather than upgrade to save energy dollars each year. The shingles on the roof are in the need of replacement; they can last twenty or so years.

The Middle School constructed in 1993 will need the 70,000 sq ft of roof resurfaced in the near future. The carpeting is still original with the building. That is seventeen years of school use, way longer than is usually seen in a school setting. Even cleaning with commercial equipment can't keep the carpet from just plain wearing out.

The High School constructed in 1961 will be in need of roof and insulation improvements – that is over 100,000 sq ft of roof.

Parking lots and drives are starting to crumble and will need costly asphalt repairs. Many sidewalks are cracked and heaved from the unforgiving Michigan winters.

The money to repair and keep up the facilities gets reduced year after year with reduced funding of the schools from the State of Michigan. We are still keeping the buildings operating, but to attract more school-age families to the Reed City area, it is important to have top-notch facilities for school and community use.

The school district is looking at all options available to keep the buildings maintained, usable and a positive highlight for the Reed City area.