

Fremont City Schools board hears about asbestos abatement

OCTOBER 18, 2011

Written by
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FREMONT -- Fremont City Schools estimates the cost of asbestos abatement at Fremont Middle School will be \$178,000, more than \$1.2 million less than the district had budgeted.

Chris Moore of Touchstone CPM, the contractor for the middle school project, said there were two major bid categories left regarding the existing middle school: asbestos abatement and demolition.

Moore said a survey of the middle school revealed the plaster area of the auditorium ceiling needed to be removed, at a cost of about \$100,000.

He said most of the other plaster tested negative for asbestos.

"That's really where your savings come from," Moore said.

Superintendent Traci McCaudy said the cost savings from the asbestos abatement, once it is completed, would be used for permanent improvement items throughout the district.

Moore said the contractor wanted to advertise for bids on the abatement by the end of the week, with work beginning by March 12.

He said the abatement work would take about 9 to 10 weeks.

In other business Monday:

» The board heard an update on the district's five-year budget forecast from Treasurer David Chambers.

Chambers said the district had been able to control most costs in its revised budget.

McCaudy said the district found cost savings of more than \$1.7 million to balance its budget.

» The board also approved a resolution opposing House Bill 136, a bill that, if approved, would expand the state's private school voucher program to students from families making less than \$95,000.