



# Minnesota Educational Facility Management Professionals

## The Messenger

### MASMS Legislative Outreach Week | February 22, 2021 through February 26, 2021

During the week of February 22-26, 2021 MASMS members are being asked to make a good effort to contact their legislators and inform them of the MASMS legislative 2021 platform. Personal communication from a constituent to a legislator is the best way to inform your legislative members. Making it personal matters!

Let's make this an impactful week! Review the talking points and platform information that you received in the mail in mid-January. Please try to contact your legislator the week of February 22-26, 2021.

We held a Zoom "Training Session for the MASMS Legislative Outreach Week" with our Lobbyist Sam Walseth. **For those of you that were unable to attend, you may watch it by clicking on this link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Va5kcn19KfCp6uTkQSo4077inO6esvQm1shOtNOWWz3pCQLpf2ympXd9mf0ufz.vujul9x5qpseWPQU> (Passcode: 7Wq%GKRe)

#### Here is a template email message you may use:

Dear Senator/Representative Name,  
I'm \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ school district. I'm writing today to reach out to you about the work I (and my team/my crew) do to take care of our school facilities.

While most of this work happens locally, your work at the state capitol impacts our ability to get the job done. I attached the legislative platform for the Minnesota Educational Facilities Management Professionals Association (also known as MASMS). MASMS is a group of over 700 individuals working in the area of facilities, grounds, health and safety operations for Minnesota K-12 and higher education.

I know your time is very limited this session, but I would greatly appreciate a 15 minute virtual meeting to talk about our local school facilities and the potential for legislation that could help our work.

I greatly appreciate you considering my request. Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_ Please contact the MASMS office with questions.

### Basic Zoom Etiquette to Improve Meeting Engagement

**Engage with Video** | Video can easily improve meeting engagement by being present on screen.

**Be Aware of Background Noise** | Sometimes it can be easy to forget that the mic picks up just about everything.

**Wear Headphones** | Wearing headphones is a simple effective way to create the best Zoom experience.

**Use Hotkeys** | Shortcuts and hotkeys are a great way to improve meeting engagement.

A favorite is "Push to Talk" – a.k.a. the spacebar! It's a Zoom "best practice" to stay muted while others are speaking, but it takes time to navigate your mouse and click "unmute" for a quick reply. By pressing and holding the spacebar, you can quickly unmute and give your reply. Once you let off the spacebar, you'll go right back to being muted. **Talk about a game changer!** Other shortcuts:

Raise/Lower hand: Alt+Y	Take a screenshot: Alt+Shift+T	Toggle full screen On/Off: Alt+F
Toggle In-Meeting chat panel: Alt+H	Switch to Active Speaker view: Alt+F1	Switch to Gallery video view: Alt+F2
Toggle video On/Off: Alt+V	Toggle audio On/Off: Alt+A	Toggle audio On/Off for all except host: Alt+M

#### Tips to improve meeting engagement in a zoom meeting you are hosting:

- **Organize a Clear Meeting Agenda**
- **Always Greet Attendees** (and if appropriate allow for introductions).
- **Leverage Zoom Tools** | Zoom tools are the best way to take meeting engagement to the next level! One feature Zoom has is called Whiteboards that allows users to collaborate, brainstorm ideas, and organize them into a virtual space.
- **Teach Tools To Audience** | If you do plan on using Zoom tools, it's also important that your attendees know how to use them. Make sure that you not only learn them well enough for your own use, but well enough to teach on the fly in a virtual meeting.
- **Work In Groups** | A powerful Zoom feature is the opportunity to use breakout rooms. If you're hosting a Zoom session that could benefit from breaking into smaller groups before rejoining the main event, this would be a great feature for you.

**Check out Mike Remington's Vendor Corner on Page 3 for more Zoom Tips!**

All MASMS In Person Events are canceled until  
May 1st, 2021 Due to COVID 19

#### CONTACT US



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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Educational Members

Jack Donlin, Osseo Schools  
Richard Bohland, St. Paul ISD  
Travis Schuldt, Robbinsdale Area Schools  
Kai Hauglid, Robbinsdale Area Schools

### Business Members

Tyler Thielsen, Showcase Lawn Care  
Trent Herman, Servicemaster Professional Services  
Brian Johnson, Bituminous Roadways, Inc.  
Jarrad Nickolite, Hillyard  
Steve Jacobson, Pro-Tec Design  
Jim Olson, Pro-Tec Design  
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## Attention Boiler Operators!

Ben Weekly is a retired MASMS member who has been a boiler training instructor for about 25 years. He has created a series of boiler training videos on YouTube. He is offering this series videos free to MASMS members.

### Information on how to use this training:

This video series will go a long way towards training persons in low pressure boiler operation. It can be used individually in the comfort of your home or as a classroom tool to effectively train a group of students. The most effective use is to have the boiler books from American Technical Publishers to complement the videos.

### Recommend books:

1. Low Pressure Boilers fifth edition by Frederick M. Steingress, item 4372.
2. Low Pressure Boilers Study Guide 5th edition by F. M. Steingress, item 4373
3. Persons with no boiler license should order "Safe Boiler Operation Fundamentals Special Engineer's Guide for the State of MN" by F. M. Steingress, item 4611

Below are the links to recommended American Technical Publishers books to purchase for the video sessions. They may be available independently online as well.

<http://www.atplearning.com/product/1434/low-pressure-boilers>  
<http://www.atplearning.com/product/1438/low-pressure-boilers-study-guide>

<http://www.atplearning.com/product/874/safe-boiler-operation-fundamentals-special-engineer-s-guide-for-the-state-of-minnesota>

(The study guide is not used with this book.)

Order the appropriate books (or borrow them from others who may already have them) and start by listening to the introduction session and follow the instructions given. The sessions mirror the chapters in the text and study guide. Read each chapter and complete the study guide. Then view the corresponding video.

### To find the video series go to YouTube and type in a search for "Boiler Ben Introduction Instructions".

Open the channel and click the subscribe tab. (There is no charge to subscribe) Then under "Subscriptions" you will find all the training videos.



Introduction to Boiler Ben's Low Pressure Boiler Training.  
30 views • 5 days ago  
Ben Weekly  
This introduction describes how this video series is best used and introduces the various content that is to be studied and taught.  
New

Those using the "Safe Boiler Operation Fundamentals" book you need to read the chapters that best match the videos corresponding subject matter.

*Note from Ben: This was a home spun project that I undertook in response to the pandemic. You may find a few minor errors in the videos as I'm not a professional presenter and did not have written text with which to read. (Reading from a text I thought would put most people to sleep.)*



# Vendor Corner

## Some Zoom Tips for 2021



This ongoing Covid pandemic has forced us all to adapt and learn new ways of handling things. Using Zoom is one of the many things that most of us had to learn for the first time very quickly and now use it quite often. Not only is it a very valuable tool for meetings these days, it's also great for seeing family members and friends. Even after this crisis is over it seems that Zoom and other online meeting methods will continue to be used routinely. I wanted to share a few tips that you might not be aware of or want to try out:

Many of you have seen other people on Zoom that used a custom background. There are "pre-canned" virtual backgrounds that you can choose from, and it's also very easy to use one or more of your own photos as a virtual background. By using a virtual background, other people will not see the "mess" that may sometimes surround you, and better yet, you can be at your cabin and look like you're in the office!

Did you know there is a beauty filter you can use on Zoom to make you look even better than you naturally do? Zoom has a Touch Up My Appearance feature that is easy to turn on, and it does actually improve your appearance (don't get your hopes too high!).

You've likely seen other people "share their screen"; if you haven't tried it yourself you should! You can share a PowerPoint or a spreadsheet or a photo or whatever you can bring up on your computer screen other people can see as well. It isn't as hard as it looks, look online to see how its done (and the other features I've mentioned). It's a very powerful tool and one that would be good to be familiar with, if anything you can share pictures you took with your friends and family.

**Continued on Page 4**



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## Some Zoom Tips for 2021

(Continued from Page 3)

Lastly, if you use Zoom quite often and think you will continue to, consider buying a webcam. Not only do webcams provide a better picture than the camera that is built into most computers, some webcams also have built-in speakers and microphones that greatly improve the sound too. Most of these webcams are “plug and play” and are not hard to install or use.

Hopefully our reliance on Zoom and other online meeting methods will soon be replaced by “in person” meetings that we all miss so much. But online meeting are here to stay and the better we can get at using this tool the better we can do our jobs and communicate with others.

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*The following is a re-print from the MASMS September newsletter at the request of the Covid Call Thursday Group.*

## ASHRAE Building Readiness for Schools and Universities

ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) committee generated some general maintenance checklists and key take-away messages for changes:

- Ventilation should be increased to the extent possible within HVAC systems, even if occupied space setpoints are maintained with secondary supplemental space heaters. Dilution is critical within buildings. Stagnant air should be avoided.
- Buildings are recommended to be flushed for two hours prior to school start times.
- Ventilation systems that recirculate air are recommended to be upgraded with MERV 14 filters, where increased static pressure can be overcome and supply air does not decrease.
- Toilet exhaust operation should be verified and doors to restrooms should be ‘normally closed’ at all times.
- A HEPA/UV filter is recommended within classrooms, sized for 2 ACH.
- Consider additional local heating in occupied spaces during the heating season, if additional outside air causes thermal discomfort.
- Relative Humidity of 40-60% is recommended.
- Schools should have negative pressure rooms to quarantine students/staff when necessary.
- Talk with utilities about the increased load you’ll require when you open.

Education facilities staff may find this technical document useful: <https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/building-readiness>

## SCHOOL VENTILATION - COVID-19 FAQs *(Reprinted from IEA, Inc. with permission.)*

### SOURCES INCLUDE:

ASHRAE Reopening Schools: <https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/covid-19/ashrae-reopening-schools.pdf>

CHPS School Ventilation for COVID-19: [https://chps.net/sites/default/files/file\\_attach/CHPS\\_COVID-19\\_Whitepaper\\_June2020.pdf](https://chps.net/sites/default/files/file_attach/CHPS_COVID-19_Whitepaper_June2020.pdf)

**VIRUS TRANSMISSION CONCERNS** One of the primary ways viruses can be transmitted is through airborne droplets and even aerosols. Fortunately, the American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) has stated, “Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 through the air is sufficiently likely that airborne exposure to the virus should be controlled. Changes to building operations, including the operation of heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems, can reduce airborne exposures.”

### VENTILATION OPERATION STRATEGIES

#### FILTER ADJUSTMENTS

- Ensure current filtration bay and system are sealed properly, and not allowing filter bypass
- Upgrade filter media to highest MERV rating that your system can properly operate without pressure drop concerns, which can damage your ventilation system (Although MERV 13 is recommended, your system may not be appropriate for this filter rating.)
- If HVAC systems are operating in occupied-mode on a constant basis, filters may need to be changed more frequently; so, consider budgeting for additional filter changes
- Use gloves and a face covering for changing and handling filter replacements during pandemic outbreak periods, if replacements can be done safely with the unit under LOTO

#### SYSTEM CONTROL FUNCTIONALITY

- Alter control settings to remain in occupied mode while building is in use; which may require bypassing occupancy sensors
- Flush with 100% outside air or maximum allowable ventilation for 2 hours, prior to occupants arriving in the building
- Revise Demand Controlled Ventilation (DCV) to monitor and maintain lower CO2 action levels at a maximum CO2 level of 800-1000 ppm, or lower (400 ppm) if possible
- Control economizers (if installed on the system) to ensure maximum outdoor air is being provided when outside conditions allow. Ensure economizers are properly functioning
- Minimize return air where appropriate; and bypass energy recovery systems, where feasible, to allow for maximum exhaust of classroom air and to minimize air returning to the system

Increase ventilation rates to meet or exceed ASHRAE 62.1 for classroom settings, by including your ventilation consultant on how your facility functions. Verify dampers and diffusers are open

## Links that may be helpful for MASMS Members:

Link to COVID cases by County: [https://jwolfson.shinyapps.io/school\\_openings\\_mobile/\\_w\\_148061f0/](https://jwolfson.shinyapps.io/school_openings_mobile/_w_148061f0/)

Link to Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County:

[https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/wschoool.pdf?\\_ga=2.213705940.1526337632.1598272893-1768970726.1568917994](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/wschoool.pdf?_ga=2.213705940.1526337632.1598272893-1768970726.1568917994)



## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

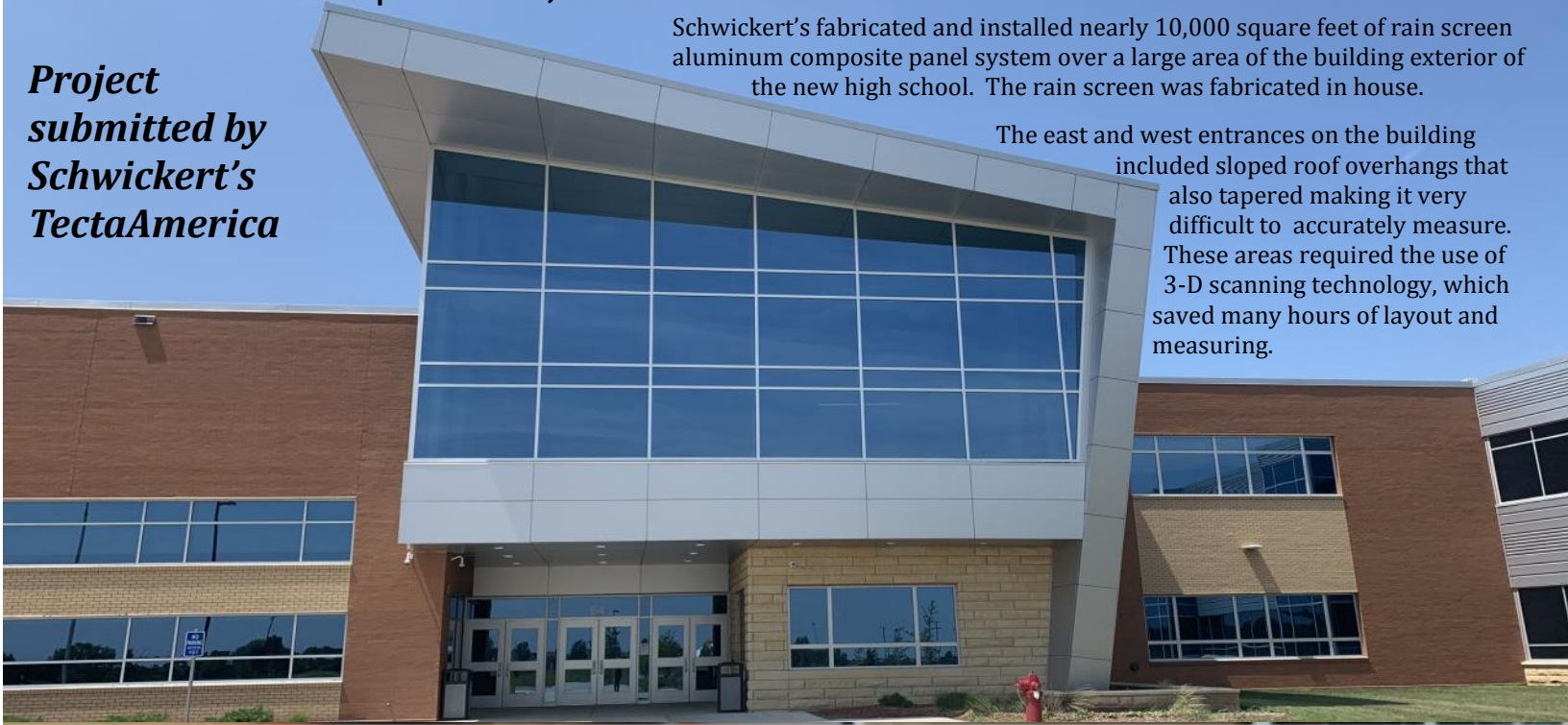
**St. Peter ISD #508 | St. Peter, MN**

*Project  
submitted by  
Schwickert's  
TectaAmerica*

**Scope:** St. Peter Schools began the groundbreaking of its new high school in October of 2015. The general contractor on the new construction project was Kraus Anderson and the architect was ISG. Schwickert's was hired as the architectural metals contractor on the new school. In Spring of 2017 Schwickert's began work on the metal panels.

Schwickert's fabricated and installed nearly 10,000 square feet of rain screen aluminum composite panel system over a large area of the building exterior of the new high school. The rain screen was fabricated in house.

The east and west entrances on the building included sloped roof overhangs that also tapered making it very difficult to accurately measure. These areas required the use of 3-D scanning technology, which saved many hours of layout and measuring.



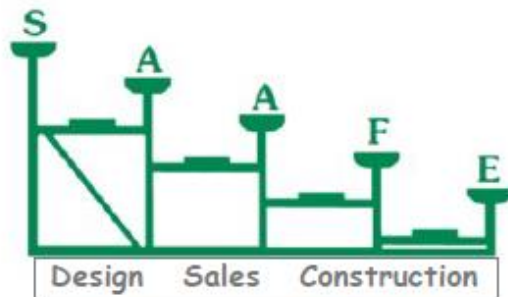
**Architectural Metals:** Schwickert's TectaAmerica  
**Architect:** ISG

**General Contractor:** Kraus-Anderson  
**Project Reference:** Marc Bachman



**Looking for a Mentor,  
or just someone  
to talk to?**

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**Health & Safety** The MASMS Health & Safety Committee supplies information for this section. If you have a specific topic you would like to see covered, let the MASMS office know.

## WORK FROM HOME ERGONOMIC TIPS

*Published from [www.ieasafety.com](http://www.ieasafety.com) with permission from IEA, Inc.*

With many employees working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, it's important to keep ergonomic safety factors in mind that apply to different workspaces. Staff working from home are facing ergonomic challenges. Here are some tips that can be shared with staff working from home to prevent ergonomic injuries:

### Workspace:

Choose a table or desk with adequate clearance for your knees, thighs, and feet to slide under

**Avoid working on the couch** – it causes the spine to curve unnaturally and will result in soreness and pain over time

Find a spot away from harsh lighting; if near a window, sit perpendicular (at a 90° angle) to avoid glare in eyes or on your screen

### Chair:

Your chair should have a firm back and is low enough so feet can touch the floor, with thighs parallel to the ground. A DIY footrest can be added, if necessary (e.g. boxes, stack of large books, an empty trash turned on one side, etc.).

If possible, chair height should be adjusted so that your forearms, wrists, and hands are in a straight alignment; and your shoulders are relaxed and down while using keyboard or mouse.

For increased lower back support, consider adding a small pillow or rolled up towel to the backrest where it meets the curve in the small of your back.

### Laptop/Monitor:

While using a laptop, an external keyboard and mouse is recommended so the top of the screen can be adjusted to eye level while typing. If this equipment is not available, place laptop at the proper height for typing and angle the screen up and use the eyes to look down while maintaining proper posture, or slightly tilt the chin down to see. Avoid hunching forward and down over the computer screen. This may be okay for a few hours a week at home, but when doing it for 40+ hours per week, it can lead to back, shoulder, and neck strain.

### Additional Tips:

You should take frequent breaks and set a reminder to get up and stretch every 30-45 minutes.

If you regularly use the phone, put it on speaker or use a headset to avoid cradling it between your head and shoulder.

While typing, keep your elbows and upper arms comfortably at your sides and your wrists as straight as possible. While using an external mouse, grip it lightly and move it using the elbow as opposed to bending at the wrist. Reduce eye strain and headaches by following the 20-20-20 rule: Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.



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## MASMS Boot Camp | July 2021

**Dates & time:** Tuesday July 20th and Wednesday July 21st, 2021 | 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, dinner at 6:00 PM on July 20th.

**Location:** Holiday Inn, St. Cloud, MN **Cost:** MASMS will cover the cost of this training, including hotel & meals.

**Boot Camp Information:** The MASMS Boot Camp is specifically designed to provide training for facility professionals.

### The following topics will be covered:

Custodial | Grounds | Maintenance Management | Security  
Health & Safety | Transportation Standards | Best Practices  
Training | Equipment | Management Tools | Inspections  
Budgets | Staff Management & Development

### Instructors:

This course is taught by seasoned experienced facility staff from public schools. Mike Boland (ISD #622), Scott Hogen (Mankato Schools), Chis Pint (ISD#196) and Laura Masley (Elk River Schools), who have over 75 years of combined experience!

**Contact the MASMS Office with questions or to register.**

**ruth @ masms.org | 320-685-4585**

**Please indicate if you need a hotel reservation.**

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-Russ Bode, Grounds & Maintenance Supervisor, Goodridge Schools

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Today's Edition

No. 11-2020

## Waconia Daily Telegraph

### School Leaders Turn Into Super-Heroes!

LED Conversion Saves District Tax-Payers \$624,000



Waconia School Board - Photo Taken After Project Approval

Students and staff will be walking into completely transformed schools this year because of Waconia's partnership with the Bright Schools Project.

New integrated LED lights with controls will save the district over \$624,000.

There was no initial investment on the project and the ten-year capital lease carried an interest rate of 2.6% - resulting in immediate cash-flow back in the districts budget.

**DAVID SWAN**

Bright Schools Project, Anoka MN

[David@BrightSchoolsProject.org](mailto:David@BrightSchoolsProject.org)



## MASMS 2021 Scholarship Opportunity

The MASMS Scholarship Committee is accepting essays from sons and daughters of all dues-paying and life members (**educational and business members**) of MASMS who are high school seniors graduating in 2021 or are currently a post-secondary student attending a post secondary school in the United States

The MASMS Tom Robinson Memorial Scholarship program is in memory of a long time employee with the Hopkins School District in the field of maintenance. He was instrumental in writing software for the State Department of Energy and served on multiple MASMS committees for many years.

### HOW TO APPLY

**All applications and essays will be submitted electronically using the link below. You will receive an email confirmation once you submit your application.** When you click on the link, complete the application form and submit your essay by April 15, 2021. (You may also go to [www.masms.org](http://www.masms.org) and select "2021 Student Scholarship" to submit your information.)

### Essay specifications:

- Maximum of two pages, type written, double spaced narrative.
- Financial need is not a consideration.
- This essay should NOT have your name on it, or any reference within its context that would identify the applicant or his/her MASMS parent. (We do not want the judges to know who the applicant is.)

### Essay should contain:

- Personal data to include school, community activities in which you have participated during high school and/or post secondary (e.g. student government, music, sports, church work, volunteer work, etc.)
- Discussion of awards and honors you have received.
- Description of your work experience (without any reference to a business which may be owned by your parent). Include how long you have worked at each job and the number of hours worked per week.
- Discussion of your grade point average. While the committee will not base scholarship awards on the highest grade point average, they do feel that some discussion on this topic is appropriate.
- Your educational goals and aspirations.

All information is reviewed by the MASMS Scholarship Committee. **Awards will be announced by letter in early May 2021.** Checks are issued after proof of enrollment is received.

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The number of scholarships awarded will be based on available funds. Awards will range from \$250 to \$1500 per person. Each person may receive a lifetime limit of \$2000.

**Applicants need to have a google account to submit this form.**

**Link:** <https://forms.gle/jVvNGkse8rdZsyuY9>

### Please note:

**You must be a registered member of MASMS for your children to be eligible; grandchildren are NOT eligible.**

If you have any questions, please email Scott Clemente at: [scott@servpro10278.com](mailto:scott@servpro10278.com) or contact the MASMS office at 1-320-685-4585 | [ruth@masms.org](mailto:ruth@masms.org)



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## Flooring Choices for Schools

*Submitted by: Dave Bahr Hiller Commercial Floors*

For the past few months, I have heard several Facilities Directors comment that they will need to replace carpet in the classrooms after the pandemic ends. With kids spending most of their day, including snack and mealtimes, in the classrooms, spotting and staining has ramped up to a point where it is no longer recoverable. Add in the constant bath of sanitizer over-sprayed on desks and landing on the floors, it is easy to believe it will be time to replace those floors. The question becomes "What is the best floor to use" in these rooms. There are basically three choices in wide use today: Carpet (including roll and tile), Hard surface (LVT, VCT, Rubber and some sheet vinyl) and sealed or polished concrete. This month I will address carpet and next month Hard Surface. In April will be a discussion of concrete sealing and polishing.

Carpet for schools is really quite varied. The first decision is to use roll stock or carpet tile. Carpet tile has really dominated this market the past few years, roll stock is very seldom used. The advantage to roll carpet is the initial cost is lower than carpet tile and the floor prep does not need to be as perfect. That is, some old adhesive residue can be left on the floor without creating any issues. Roll carpet is also installed with a large notched trowel so a lot of adhesive is used to lock the product in place. The back also seems to breathe a little and concrete moisture does not usually create any problem. A good grade of Roll carpet with cost about \$1.50/sf less than carpet tile.

The drawback of roll carpet is the lack of a moisture barrier, top down. Liquids spilled on the surface can sink down all the way to the concrete and spread out quite a distance. Cleaning the spot from the surface can seem to be successful but it is likely to return in a week or two, forever. We also see seam edge raveling, delamination from the backing and lower performance when compared to carpet tile. Repairs are more difficult because the carpet is fully adhered and not able to be pulled back successfully. Use of roll carpet should be considered only if budget is the primary concern and then expect about 60% of the lifecycle you can expect from a good carpet tile. If roll carpet is your choice, use one that has ravel proof backing system with a lifetime warranty against delamination and unraveling. Make sure the product is installed with seam sealer to maintain the warranty. Fiber is extremely important and can easily be overlooked. Make sure you are using an upgraded Nylon fiber. Upgraded nylon prepared as a type 6,6 is better suited for school use than the other form of nylon, type 6. Type 6,6 has fewer dye sites, stronger molecular chains and higher melting points than type 6. Type 6 is usually used in residential carpets and some of the larger residential mills started using it in the commercial carpet but we see a shorter lifecycle with this fiber in schools. It seems to "scratch" easy and look dull and spots can be difficult to remove as the open dye sites fill with the spotting material and will not come out. There are a few mills using Polyester but polyester has a history of crushing and I would wait for long term solid data before jumping on that bandwagon. The same goes for Polyolefin fiber that also has a long history of underperformance. One mill has been producing a very tightly knitted polyester product that has been used in several schools and may be worth looking into. It is more like a hard surface product than a carpet product.

Continued on Page 11

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# STOP

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## Flooring Choices for Schools Continued from Page 10

There is an enhanced roll carpet system available from three mills, and possibly more, that incorporates a vinyl backing laminated to the back. This system gives the product a water barrier as well as a ravel and delamination guarantee. The added cost for this system plus the need for additional concrete preparation for installation, puts it in a category on par with carpet tile without the versatility carpet tile offers. Some of these also require an intense seam sealing technique which, if done incorrectly, the carpet actually shrinks away from the seams and the walls up to 1/2".

The other major category of carpet is carpet tile. This category has really blown up over the past 15 years and is the most common type of carpet used in schools today. Carpet tile is available in 19" x 19", 24" x 24" and 39" x 39" tiles as well as planks 10" x 39" or 12" x 36" and other sizes. It is also available in geometric shapes like octagons and diamonds. Various collections are available that allow the end user to mix patterns and colors and shapes in the same room to achieve interesting visuals. The explosion of carpet tile is because it does everything that roll carpet does not. Carpet tile has a moisture barrier to trap stains on top so when they are cleaned, they do not return. If the stain is biobased or particularly tough to treat, the tile can easily be pulled and replaced by school staff with using additional adhesives. The performance is much higher than roll carpet in that the structure locks in the fibers to prevent raveling and delamination. The only drawback with carpet tile is the additional cost of the product and the floor preparation required. Many manufacturers are requiring all the old adhesive be removed, often by grinding and sealing, so there is not interaction between old adhesive and new. Any chemical abatement contamination voids the warranty on all but a very few carpet tile products.

Things to look for in carpet tile include the Commercial Nylon fiber type 6,6 (as described above) and an antimicrobial treatment that is permanently bonded into carpet to prevent mold and mildew growth. We have mostly moved on from using vinyl backed carpet tile on or below grade because moisture migration through the concrete can destroy the adhesive and back integrity causing the carpet tile to curl. Above grade installations are usually not affected by this problem. New backings and adhesives are coming out that will handle high concrete moisture even up to 100% Rh without reacting and we prefer that. Some of the mills have brought out carpet tile with a cushion and we are seeing very high performance when compared to hard backed carpet tile. The cushion seems to prevent cow trails in high traffic lanes as it prevents the fiber from being smashed into the concrete as you walk on it.

We are also seeing some carpet tile that is warranted for installation over abatement chemical residue which is very helpful in some districts. Most mills do not like this condition because of past failures.

The advantages of carpet over hard surface in schools? The most common comment I hear is that carpet enhances learning by feeling more home-like. Carpet reduces noise in the classroom as well as in corridors. Kids seem to respect carpet more than a hard surface and are less likely to spill liquids and more likely to try and clean up spills. Vacuuming with backpacks can be accomplished fairly quick and, of course no waxing needed. Attic stock can be maintained, and tiles replaced as needed with ease by school staff. The vast array of patterns and style available can make a very dynamic installation that will make you look good! For a good grade of roll carpet budget about \$3.50/sf for carpet, installation, and removal of old carpet. Budget about \$5 /sf for a good grade of carpet tile, installation, removal of old carpet and removal of the old adhesive. The typical classrooms are around 900 sf.

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# COVID-19 CORNER

## Conversations with other MASMS members on Covid19

To keep MASMS members connected and informed, we created a weekly virtual meeting for directors/supervisors to discuss current topics. We hold this meeting every Thursday at 9:00 AM. To participate please email the MASMS office at [ruth@masms.org](mailto:ruth@masms.org).

## New Info Added Daily to the COVID-19 Discussion Forum

The MASMS COVID-19 Discussion Forum is for members to share information during this time. Feel free to use this forum to share information or ask questions about COVID-19 applicable to members. Login at [www.masms.org](http://www.masms.org)

- Select the "Covid-19 Discussion Forum" button on the left side of this window & share information.

Contact the MASMS office with questions (320) 685-4585 or [ruth@masms.org](mailto:ruth@masms.org)

## COVID 19 Testing:

To order the at home saliva test: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html>

For questions about testing, email: MN\_MDE\_COVID Testing [COVIDTesting.MDE@state.mn.us](mailto:COVIDTesting.MDE@state.mn.us)

Link for saliva testing guide:

<http://www.mnmsba.org/Portals/0/COVID-19-SalivaTestingforSchoolStaff-Q-and-A-121620.pdf>

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## Solar Schools: A bright idea for education and cost savings.

*Submitted: Peter Lindstrom, Manager,  
Public Sector & Community Engagement | University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships*

Unprecedented challenges at schools have spotlighted the need for collaboration, leadership, and new ways of thinking. But with these challenges, opportunities for meaningful solutions and long-term change have arisen. How schools are preparing for a clean energy future is no exception.

"I think it's really important for schools to take initiative, to set an example for their students and others, and to take leadership on sustainability and clean energy," shared Ana Martinez, a junior at Edina High School. District leaders are listening with nearly 700kW of solar recently installed at the high school, an elementary school and transportation headquarters.

Mounds View Public Schools is another shining example of a district that is using clean energy to engage students and reduce costs. The district in the Ramsey County suburbs has 13 arrays that are estimated to save the district as much as \$2 million in electricity costs over the next 25 years, while also enhancing student education and helping the district meet its sustainability goals.

"My students came to me with this idea of solar energy on our schools. We sent out a petition in the district, attended school board meetings and drafted a resolution," notes Andrea Abeln, Environmental Science Teacher at Irondale High School. Her fellow teacher, Michael Cartwright adds that, "School board members have told me that one of the reason they were most interested is because of the involvement of students."

Mounds View joins nearly 160 additional schools in the state with solar serving close to 100,000 students. Why now? There are many compelling reasons, and here are the most common:

**Financial.** The cost of solar panels have dropped 65% over the last decade, and schools can avoid the upfront investment and ongoing maintenance through third-party ownership. These systems allow school districts to save money on their energy bills and instead invest those dollars in their students.

**Educational.** Access to solar allows students and teachers to connect STEM education with new technology on school grounds and one of the fastest growing job markets in the state.

Continued on page 14





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## Solar Schools: A bright idea for education and cost savings. (Continued from Page 13)

Clean energy represents one of the fastest growing career fields in the United States, adding jobs 70 percent faster than the overall economy from 2015-2019. In 2019 *Clean Jobs Midwest* reported that there were more than 61,800 people working in clean energy jobs across the state—1 in 3 of them in Greater Minnesota—an increase of over 1,000 jobs just that year.

**Environmental.** Solar schools offset an estimated 1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually, equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions from nearly 221,000 cars. These savings benefit all of us, and showcase a tangible way schools can partner with their students on an issue that is front and center for many young people.

**Community Leadership.** Schools are more than just brick-and-mortar buildings, more than where students assemble for classroom learning. They are the heart of lifelong learning, societal guideposts and beacons of opportunity. A solar array sends a strong message that sustainability is a key value and can inspire others.

Ok, so you've decided this sounds like a good idea, but then you're faced with lots of decisions about how to proceed: Should we buy a solar system outright or enter into a power purchase agreement (PPA) with a third party? Would it be better to do a rooftop system, a ground-mount or maybe a carport? How can we work with our electric utility? What rebates or other incentive can we tap into? When and how should we engage the school board?

That's where the Clean Energy Resource Teams—or CERTs—swing into action.

CERTs has been working with schools across the state to make solar a reality for years, and in the process has developed unbiased tools and resources for other schools to utilize free of charge. Tools for site selection, requests for proposals, state contracts, calculators, curriculum resources and more are online and ready to use at [cleanenergyresourceteams.org/public-solar-procurement](https://cleanenergyresourceteams.org/public-solar-procurement).

Even after tapping into these tools, it's always nice to talk to a human to ask questions, learn who else has installed solar, and get help all along the way. Peter Lindstrom with CERTs is ready and willing to help your school move forward with solar. He can be reached at 612-625-9634 or [plindstr@umn.edu](mailto:plindstr@umn.edu).



Edina Schools

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- Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN
- Stetson University, DeLand, FL





## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



*Colin Green  
President Elect*

Dear MASMS members,

I realize how precious time and focus is for us all right now, especially as we grapple with the seemingly uncontrollable, so my apologies for being brief in my letter to you.

I want to share how your willingness to dig deep and keep going matters and I can't wait to say it again to you all, God willing, at our next Fall conference.

Thank you for the devotion to your schools and you communities.

## MASMS February 2021 Zoom Meetings

**Metro Chapter | Tuesday February 9, 2021 | 9:00 AM**  
**Southern Chapter | Wednesday February 17, 2021 | 10:00 AM**  
**North/NW/West Chapter | Thursday February 18, 2021 | 10:30 AM**

**All educational and business members are invited to join these meetings.**  
 You do not need to pre-register for Zoom meetings. You are invited to "attend" your chapter, or if a date/time does not work for you, feel free to join any other chapter.

### Option #1 Zoom On-Line:

To join a zoom meeting go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9312911084>  
[pwd=UE1xc0Y3YTZ6V3FzOFZyZnVNbVM2QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9312911084?pwd=UE1xc0Y3YTZ6V3FzOFZyZnVNbVM2QT09)

Select "Join Meeting" on the top right side of the screen and enter meeting ID. Meeting ID: 931 291 1084 | Passcode: 4585

### Option #2 Call In:

Dial in: 1 (312) 626 6799 | Meeting ID: 931 291 1084 | Passcode: 4585

Please contact the MASMS office ([ruth@masms.org](mailto:ruth@masms.org) | 1-320-685-4585) with questions!


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If you were unable to attend the MASMS State meeting on Tuesday 1/12/21, or attended and would like to review it again, here it is!

**Topic: Managing Your Stress in Times of Uncertainty  
 with Dr. Cindra Kamphoff  
 Meeting Recording:**

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/0ropxJoK4n8XiBP3hSZoEXJBhksxY6bDpxx8pSU6931G31Gv0JVSuLk7UyHFfh.V4DMReauRHdkc59H>

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## UPCOMING MASMS EVENTS

02/09/21	MASMS Metro Zoom Meeting
02/17/21	MASMS Southern Zoom Meeting
02/18/21	MASMS No/NW/West Zoom Meeting
03/09/21	MASMS Metro Zoom Meeting
03/17/21	MASMS Southern Zoom Meeting
03/18/21	MASMS No/NW/West Zoom Meeting
04/13/21	MASMS Metro Zoom Meeting
04/15/21	MASMS No/NW/West Zoom Meeting
04/21/21	MASMS Southern Zoom Meeting
May 2021	State Meeting   TBA
June 2021	Custodial/Grounds/Maintenance Day   TBA

## MASMS Custodial Days!

**Make this the year that you send most of your team to  
 MASMS Custodial Days!**

**Mark your calendar for the MASMS  
 Custodial/Grounds/ Maintenance days:**

**Metro Area | June 16 or 17, 2021 | Hastings, Minnesota  
 North/NW/West Area | June 22, 2021 | Hill City, Minnesota  
 Southern Area | June 24, 2021 | Mankato, Minnesota**

**Watch for registration materials in March!**