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## Lakewood to save more energy, money

**By Kim Garee - HEBRON** – Lakewood schools are hoping to move forward soon on the second phase of an energy savings project that has already made them a model for other Ohio districts.

School board members recently voted to proceed with Phase Two of an energy savings House Bill 264 project with the Sabo/Limbach engineering company, pending approval from the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC).

The House Bill 264 program allows Ohio school districts to borrow funds for energy saving updates and repairs, then pay that amount off with the projected savings – savings a school district should continue to enjoy after the original project amount is paid off.

The OSFC visited the district just weeks ago to evaluate the first phase of the project, which began a couple of years ago. That project included replacing boilers at Hebron Elementary and at the middle school, as well as lighting upgrades. Gault said the OSFC “found that we were exceeding any expectations” of savings from that first phase, which then became a model of other districts.

Treasurer Glenna Plaisted said the district enjoyed a cost avoidance of \$168,519 in 2005, as a result of that first phase of repairs and updates. Cost avoidance refers not only to the actual amount of saved energy but takes into account the savings based on current rates, Plaisted explained.

Gault said Phase Two was originally designed to save the district another \$66,000 per year and consists of items like CO2 sensors in areas that don't need to be heated or cooled all the time, some high efficient lighting in several areas, the replacement of the majority of the original middle school roof, and replacement of several original windows at the middle school.

Last Wednesday, they added the re-roofing of the intermediate school to the project because they were informed even more money was available to them for the project.

“We'll have all the roofs taken care of,” Plaisted told board members.

Lakewood has to prove savings within a 15-year period for the now \$880,000 project.



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