

Lincoln Community Center's pane an opportunity

Window project is pending

By Tanner Kent

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MANKATO — Old, inefficient and woefully drafty, the windows at Lincoln Community Center will not likely be missed after they are gone.

“ We are so excited,” said Joan Eisenreich, director of Mankato Community Education and Recreation, which is one of Lincoln’s several tenants. “I think everyone in the building is excited.”

The project is now pending, following the Mankato Area School Board’s approval of a \$698,500 bid to replace more than 130 windows at the aging schoolhouse.

Built in 1921, Lincoln hasn’t had new windows in more than 40 years. Most of the windows in the building are single pane and, Eisenreich said, require plastic wraps in the winter.

An infrared test of the windows staged earlier this year showed a 20- degree difference between the interior of the room and the interior face of the glass.

Jerry Kolander, business manager for Mankato schools, said a replacement was on the district’s improvement radar for several years, but met several delays — most recently when the city’s Envision 2020 document listed the construction of a new community center, a project now tabled indefinitely since the economic downturn.

Kolander said the district budgeted \$750,000 for the project, which will be paid for with excess funds from the \$31 million bond referendum passed in 2008 to

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Possible completion date Dec. 1

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build Rosa Parks Elementary and expand Eagle Lake Elementary, among other projects.

The bid winner, Ford Metro of Rochester, will begin construction in the coming months with a possible completion date of Dec. 1.

“ Hopefully, we’ll have good construction weather,” Kolander said. If not, Ford Metro will resume the project in the spring. Lincoln houses both Central High School and Freedom School as well as the school district’s Adult Basic Education program, Community Education and Recreation programs and Early Childhood and Family Education programs.