

Building Project Bids Under Budget; Cafeteria Prices to Increase Next Year

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low bidder among seven firms wanting to rid our schools of asbestos. James L. Lewis, at \$44 thousand, beat out two other firms for plumbing work.

Now that the bids have been awarded, the only roadblock to ground-breaking is the paperwork and legal amenities associated with the project. Work is expected to begin within two weeks.

Cafeteria Blues

Implementing changes in federal school lunch nutrition guidelines this year has not been the success that Lansing hoped for. as increasing District costs have caused the operation to fall into the red at the same time that students in all the schools have complained about portion sizes.

On the financial side, 1997-98 food costs are expected to rise 2%; labor costs are projected to rise 4%; health insurance benefits will go up 20%. At the same time, federal reimbursement for school lunch

meals will drop by 63%.

On the consumer side, students and some parents complain that portion sizes have shrunk and are inadequate to meet students' desires. In fact, meal preparation is different as reimbursable meals must fall within strict fat, protein and calorie guidelines that don't always coincide with what youngsters are used to or expect.

Faced with more red ink next year, the School Board reviewed several food pricing options, as well as continued participation in the federal school lunch program, over the last two Board meetings.

The net result will be a 10 to 20 cent hike in the cost of complete school lunches and an increased emphasis on a la carte items to give youngsters the chance to go beyond federal minimum standards. Elementary breakfasts will remain unchanged and middle and high school breakfasts will go up 20 cents. These price increases will not apply to free and reduced rate meals.



BEATING THE THROW - Jamie Maywright's top-of-the-seventh clean shot down the right field line earned him a double and ended Newfield's hopes for a no-hitter at the IAC championship game at Cornell's Hoy Field.. Ken Henry pitched a good game and our boys fought to the wire, but couldn't overcome Newfield pitcher Marsh's rhythm, speed and accuracy. Thanks, guys, for a good season.