



Fresh Paint

May-Jun 2015 

Custodial, Maintenance, Grounds, Technical Services

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Perspectives

The kids are gone for the summer and most of us are breathing a sigh of relief. Now is a great time to reflect on the past year and think about what's coming next. One thing is certain there will likely be changes, either in staffing, leadership or where you hang your hat.

Change is an inevitable and irrefutable fact of life. Everything about us is constantly changing... the places we visit, things we own, the cost of everything, exploding ever-reinvented technology, people we know and love, plants we over and under water, new societal norms (does Facebook count as change?), teenagers, the environment, etc., etc. Change can occur in nanoseconds or geologic epochs but it always happens—just like physics says it will.

Depending upon your perspective, change can be for the better or worse. Good things happen with positive results and likewise, bad things occur too. There are also times when change has seemingly no immediate impact or effect—perhaps we just don't recognize it at the moment.

Facility Services has gone through a lot of change lately. Six months ago the leadership of Auxiliary Services changed when Paul Shulte, former Principal at Highland High, took over as the Executive Director. In January, I announced my intentions to

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Radio Batteries

We have written many articles on the care of two-way radio batteries but we still have issues. Fortunately, most all of the newer radios are now using Lithium Ion (Li-Ion) packs which don't have as many issues with charge and discharge cycles like the older Nickel Cadmium (NiCd) batteries. So if you have older type radio that has NiCd batteries, make sure you...

...take your school radio
OUT OF THE CHARGER
for the summer!

Chuck Smith
Technical Services Supervisor

Summer Fire Alarm Testing... again



The Technical Services folks are **required by law** to conduct a comprehensive annual test of the fire alarm systems in every District facility. Testing begins June 8th, continues through August 11th and is generally annoying to everyone including the neighbors. It takes from one to two hours to complete and includes sounding the very noisy alarm horns. Public notification and a **testing schedule is posted on the District's home page.**

We try to avoid interfering with summer school programs, registration days, etc., however, there is always a chance for conflict. **Please note your alarm testing day and be prepared for the interruption.**



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Summer is our busiest time of the year so Fresh Paint will be on vacation from July to August.

Nature Calls

As the Grounds Department heads into the summer months we are focusing on irrigation application to our turf areas. With the lack of moisture during the winter we realized that water will be a highly desired commodity during the hot, dry months. We are going to be aerating all of our fields as soon as school is out. This should provide valuable air and water holding spaces in the soils where our turf grows. We have not had to apply a lot of water yet due to the cool wet period that we are now experiencing. This is helping us to keep the plants from becoming too reliant on the amount of water that has been available up to now.

By not watering between the last few storms we have attempted to dry out the soils enough that the

roots need to go deeper to find the required moisture to keep the plant healthy. We have taken soil tests and applied fertilizer to ensure that the plants are adequately fed going into the summer stress period.

By using good cultural practices, the turf areas at our schools should be able to withstand the environmental stress that will be coming. The combination of aeration, fertilization, proper irrigation and correct mowing practices, the turf species at our schools should be able to not only survive but actually prosper.

These practices will also help to control the amount of broad leaf weeds that take root in the turf. We are attempting to keep the turf healthy so that it can keep out the invasion of broadleaf weeds and provide quality and aesthetically pleasing turf areas on each of our school properties.

While we have recently experienced some cooler and wetter than normal weather, the fact is Utah remains in a drought. Consequently, this means we all need to practice water conservation. The methods that the school district is using should be applied to water for all turf grass areas.



Mark Ruff
Grounds Supervisor



Maintenance Matters

Question: Is Preventive Maintenance really worth the time and expense.

Answer: Yes

Why: Preventive Maintenance completed on scheduled visits can improve efficiency, operation, and longevity of any type of equipment boilers, chillers, motors, pumps, etc. the list is quite long.

Equipment that is properly maintained reduces the School Districts energy consumption. Scheduling and shut down of equipment is also a great contribution to reducing energy consumption.

Some equipment that we can all relate to and have affected our lives at one time or another are furnaces, air

conditioners, and sprinkler systems at our homes. If properly maintain this equipment is a savings to our own pocket. All of us have participated in doing preventive maintenance which would be our own personnel vehicles such as checking tire pressure, oil changes, changing air filters, and tune ups all of these have a direct effect on performance of our vehicle which has a direct effect on our fuel consumption and therefore have a better chance of not being late for work because mechanical breakdowns.



Have a wonderful summer and be safe.

Jon Woodward
HVAC Supervisor

New Employees

Technical Services has a new employee! Replacing a retiree, Bryan Bonney is our newest tech. He has vast experience in stage lighting and installations of all AV systems and is

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Clean sweep

As some of you know, this is the first clean sweep article I will be writing as the new district custodial manager. I feel honored and somewhat overwhelmed by the responsibility of the job. I wanted to take a minute to explain why.

El antepasado is a Spanish word that roughly means "those that came before". My entire life has been spent with the Salt Lake City School District as a major part of it. My father worked here for years and he spent many nights telling us the stories of the things that happened at work.

I grew up hearing names like Clyde Walters, Phil Lambert, Dave Davis, Don Vaughn and Sue Campbell. And then there are my own stories at my own home about people like Don

Vaughn, Dan Dudley Craig Hardy, Ed Hartway and most recently Ricardo Zubiata.

When I was old enough (14), my dad had me go up to Sue Campbell and interview for a job at Highland Park as a water boy. Not the kind of water boy like Adam Sandler played, but the kind that chases brown spots in the lawn and digs weeds out of asphalt.

Later, when school started I got on at Riley as a sweeper and since that time, off and on, have worked pretty much in every custodial position in the district. Most notably 16 years as the head custodian of East high. The same place and position my father worked for 9 years.

You can only imagine how much pressure my father and my family, many of which have worked here
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Who's Retiring

Dell Zesiger, our General foreman, has decided to enjoy the benefits of retirement. Dell worked for the District for the past 26 years and was a cornerstone of the Facility Services Department. From unlocking the outside gate in the wee dark
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Windows on TS

As part of our on-going series "Don't Do This" or better yet, "Please, Don't Do This!" we present the following: The non-working paging/bell/p.a. speaker! From time to time we get requests to "turn off the speaker in my classroom" or "is there any way to turn this speaker down? I don't want to hear the announcements." Yep, we actually get these types of requests.

Well, the PA speaker in your classroom, besides being annoying sometimes, is actually considered a "life safety device" similar to a fire horn in that it is used as a method for emergency evacuation notices, lock down notices, earthquake alerts, etc.

Normally it is used for typical school announcements and class change bells and other "annoying" things

that the administration in the school deems important. We consider the paging/bell system an important part of school safety and want it in good working condition all the time. We can turn each speaker down individually – to a point. But if it is too soft, it's no good!

The picture at the top right shows a typical classroom speaker in case you did not know what it looks like. The lower picture shows a speaker that has been "modified" by climbing a ladder, removing the ceiling tile and cutting the wires to the speaker. I won't say where this picture was taken, but it has happened enough to have me concerned. If you have any questions, please let us know. 801-886-8935. Be safe, and Be smart. Thanks!



*Chuck Smith
Technical Services Supervisor*

Safety matters

In a coordinated effort and with proper training of all the teachers, staff and students a school building can be completely evacuated in a matter of minutes.

Fire drills are conducted during the year to get everyone acquainted with the sound of the alarm and the procedure to follow when exiting the facility. When the alarm sounds it is expected to work properly and all the horns should both make a sound and light up to show that you should now exit the facility. The system should also contact the Alarm Company so they can send the emergency personnel needed to deal with the problem.

Fire alarm testing is done during the summer months by our Technical Service technicians to ensure each school has a working system and

that all the horns are working properly.

When the alarm is activated it sends a signal to an "Alarm Company" and the fire department is then notified. The school custodian and our Technical Services Department together play an important role in ensuring that this system is working properly and correcting any problems with the system if it is found to need repair.

As you can see there are a lot of people involved in maintaining the fire system but did you know that the most important person in this process is YOU! Yes, you.

When the alarm sounds you should know exactly what to do and where to go. If you don't know what to do talk to your principal today and find out.

When a drill is conducted, check your area and make sure the horn is sounding and the light is flashing. On your way out of the building check to see that the fire doors have closed properly, that there is nothing blocking your exit path or anything in the way of the exit that would be a trip hazard. If you see others acting confused or unsure of what to do help them and report this to the Principal along with any other problems found.

The emergency response process is constantly evolving and being modified to be more effective. With your help we can make sure that everyone safely exits the building and is accounted for during an emergency and that our emergency equipment stays in top condition.

*Robin Anderson
Custodial Supervisor*

Bug Off!

I opened the barbeque the other morning to see if it would be ready for the evening sizzle and I found some uninvited visitors. A hand full of wasps had begun to build a condo in my cooker! I know that times are tough out there for the wasps right now and they have to find a safe place to find refuge from the rain that we have been constantly getting, but I don't think they realized that there home was soon to become an inferno. Since it was a small nest I was able to remove it with little effort. The one or two wasps that were there quickly got the hint and either left or became part of the BBQ experience.

Our Custodians are trained to walk around the schools on a regular basis in the spring and summer to look for developing nests. When they do

find a nest, they can usual remove it and the couple of guard wasps without anything more than a scraper or a stick. This saves putting on the "bee suit" and resorting to more extreme methods later on when it becomes a full size active nest in the middle of the playground or worse near a main entrance. We have found that following the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) easily reduces or eliminates wasps from problematic areas and avoids a possible pesticide application.

Just like the BBQ incident, we all can learn from this simple tip and convince the problem wasps to move to a different area and away from those pesky humans that keep harassing them!

*Robin Anderson
Custodial Supervisor*

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a welcome addition to our staff. He has been working for us for several months now and is a great asset to our department. He calls Midvale home and has kids going to schools in the SLC School District. He has been on tour with "Piano Guys" as a stage manager and was formerly employed by Brio Technologies.

We like him so far.

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hours of the morning, to tracking untold mountains of information about vehicles, back flow devices and keys. He was a practical locksmith and could speak the lingo of this trade. He was also responsible for overseeing the daily operation of the mill and there was nothing about concrete that Dell didn't know.

Dell will be busy working on a never ending "to do" list and wondering how he ever found time for meaningful employment. Whenever he can, which will be often, you can bet he'll be riding one of his beloved motorcycles. We're going to miss him and wish him best of everything in his retirement.



Leaving Technical Services as our "tech helper/delivery driver" is Brad McCallister. He is going to school to be a medical surgery tech. We wish him well with all the fun schooling he will be doing, and hope we don't have to have surgery (not because of Brad, just surgery in general!).



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retire at the end of June which was followed by Dell Zesiger's retirement in May. That was a lot of change in a short period of time.

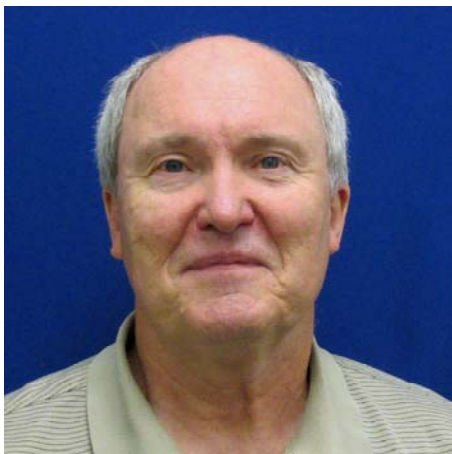
My position has been filled by Ricardo Zubiarte, former Custodial Supervisor, and his vacated position is now occupied by Robin Anderson. A new employee has been hired to fill Dell's position. Time and change march on and Facility Services will adapt and embrace the new guard accordingly.

New approaches to the business of providing services are already being discussed and more change is on the horizon.

Over the years, through the combined efforts of supervisors and staff, Facility Services has experimented with and implemented

Final Thoughts

After 19 years, I will be retiring from the Salt Lake City School District as the Director of Facility Services (and the editor of Fresh Paint). Leaving was a difficult decision—probably more difficult than actually retiring from full-time work.



change at all levels, as best represented by the attitude—"we will do it, try it, and then fix it". Higher standards have been set and a sustainable culture has been established. Our new paradigm of what a maintenance department can and should be, reflects a consistent vision of our role in supporting the overall mission of the District and ensuring that all students who attend Salt Lake City schools, do so in a safe and healthy environment. We have received numerous awards and recognition for our many efforts but the most important has been, the satisfaction derived from doing the **right thing for kids**.

Keep up the great work!

Gregg Smith
Director, Facility Services

At first, I experienced some apprehension about the future but it didn't take too long to realize that it's time to turn the page and enjoy a new chapter (or two).

The District has been one of the more rewarding periods during my varied careers and I have thoroughly enjoyed every opportunity and challenge. The people I have met and worked with over the years have been truly exceptional and I'll miss the daily interaction and those friendships.

My wife and I will be traveling extensively and I'll finally have time to engage in sports, hobbies and other pursuits. One thing is certain, sedentary will not be in my vocabulary.

Thanks,

Gregg Smith

Old School

After the fire of 1960 and the survey to determine the feasibility of rebuilding the structure, it was decided to demolish the 1890 building and build a brand new structure on the North West corner of the property. The brand new, 61,594 square foot facility was finished and opened for school in 1964. Some of the features of the new building was a parking area located under the south end of the building, as well as a heated concrete front walkway! Sometime in the 1970's the parking structure was enclosed and became three new classrooms and a cafeteria.

In 2002, the Board decided to close two schools in Salt Lake, Lowell being one of them. However, in 2004 the building was used to house the students and staff of Beacon Heights



Lowell Elementry School Circa 1965

while their building was rebuilt. Likewise in 2005 for the students and staff of Bonneville. In 2006 the building was leased to the Open Classroom, who occupies it today.

For 157 years this block of land has had a school building on it, though by five different names and three different buildings, it has served the educational needs of the community!

*Merv Brewer
Assistant Custodial Supervisor*



Spotlight on ...

Spotlight on Classroom Projector Operation

There are many good reasons why projectors should be turned off when they are not being used. District-wide, with more than 2,000 projectors now in use, annual energy consumption is somewhere around 700,000 kWh which results in electricity cost around \$76,000.

While this technology enables teachers to improve educational delivery to our students it does come with associated costs. Lamps cost \$175 and are supposed to last 3,000 hours but typically are burning out after 1,500 hours or sooner due to lack of filter cleaning.

Please turn off your projector when it will not be needed for 20 minutes or longer.

Thanks !

*Greg Libecchi
Energy and Resource Manager*

Please be certain to **turn off** everything in your classroom before you leave for the summer break!



GREEN Scene

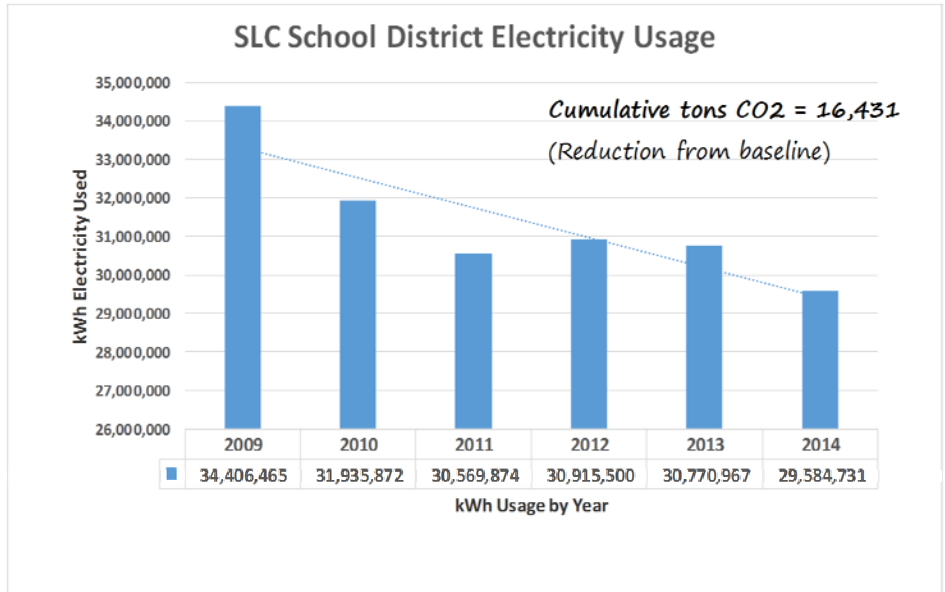
Want to save money this summer?

Take advantage of some of the free money offered by Rocky Mountain Power (www.wattsmart.com) and Questar (www.thermwise.com) along with state and federal tax credits and improve the efficiency of your home! You can expect greater comfort, smaller utility bills and a smiling planet (and eventual appreciation from future generations ;).

Consider adding insulation in your attic, replacing fluorescent and incandescent lighting with LED (including and especially can lights!), turning the thermostat up a couple degrees to around 72°F (or get crazy and go up to 74°F), pull down the blinds so the sun doesn't directly shine into the house, treat yourself to some new Energy Star labeled appliances, consider replacing your air conditioning (refrigeration) system with a newer technology evaporative system and the list goes on and on.

Think about that large summer electric bill and then think how nice it would be to cut it in half! Questar offers a low cost home energy audit where they come to your home and spend an hour or two looking over your gas and electric related systems including checking attic insulation levels. You pay \$25 on your gas bill but receive an equal credit once you implement one of the recommended energy saving measures. Plus they pay part of the cost of the measure!

After you've done all that you might want to join the hundreds of forward thinking Utah home owners (600k in US today!) who are installing solar panels on their roof tops. Cost has



never been cheaper and between federal and state tax credits payback is coming in at closer to 5 – 6 years. That doesn't consider the fact that you will be increasing the value of your home! Whose house would you want to buy... the one with the \$100 monthly electric bill or the one with \$25? This assumes you have done some efficiency upgrades and put a bunch of solar panels on the roof.

There are many solar professionals out there but be sure to select one that comes with a positive recommendation from a reliable source. Let them show you the numbers and evaluate your home for feasibility. South facing, non-shaded and reasonably sloped roofs make for the best efficiency. Next thing you know you'll be plugging in your car and fueling it with the power of the sun! Nah that would be crazy... (By the way, I have 14 solar panels on the roof of my home and plug in my Chevy Volt every night ;)

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also, put on me to not disappoint them. Maybe it is only in my head but that is the way I feel.

There is just one other side I would like touch on. It is the great people that work in this department. There are some of the most intelligent, fun loving and caring people that for whatever reason ended up as custodians in our district.

They love their jobs. They know that the way they conduct themselves at work makes a difference in people's lives and helps education.

I am now honored to lead this fine group and will give all I have to move us even further in the work of helping our students by providing a clean, healthy environment to learn in and also helping our custodians have the tools to continue to be the best at what we do!

Robin Anderson
Custodial Supervisor