

As Bandini says goodbye:

# School maintenance programs being implemented

By DOUG WOOD-BOYLE

READING - The future is to rebuild and then maintain the town's aging schools, according to Director of Facilities Skip Bandini.

He was responding to a Letter to the Editor in the Thursday, August 21 edition of the Daily Times Chronicle.

"Before (Superintendent) Harry Harutunian, the lack of planning led to disrepair," Bandini said. The buildings are in such lack of repair now that capital outlay is the best way to take care of the problem.

"Once the capital outlay is done then we can keep up with regular building maintenance."

Assistant Director of Facilities Domenic Cacciaputti said, "In the short time of the last two years there has been a bigger commitment to the maintenance of buildings and staffing than in previous years."

Cacciaputti has been on the job in Reading for the past 25 years. He backed up Bandini's claim that no records could be found of any maintenance plans from previous years.

Cacciaputti, who will become interim Acting Director of Facilities for the town and School Buildings when Bandini leaves next week, said that he has worked under four different directors and "all of them wanted to implement a program."

"However, we have not had the number of people to do that "

Bandini noted that when he took the job nine months ago, he and Cacciaputti searched for records and could not find any.

In the past nine months Bandini has implemented a work order system to keep track of what work has been done.

\* Another improvement that has been made under Superintendent Harutunian's approval is the purchase of a computerized maintenance program to track the progress that will be made in the future. The computer has arrived but has not been set up as yet.

More people have also been hired to bring the staff closer to what it needs to be for the amount of buildings that are worked on. However, the number of buildings have also been increased with the addition of town government buildings.

Among the new hires are a heating and ventilation technician and a carpenter to supplement the electrician and general maintenance person that were in the department.

The department's 22 custodians maintain the 14 school building and three town buildings.

Cacciaputti noted that the Parker Middle School consists of 75,000 square feet of space with only three custodians to maintain it. At a recent conference he learned that a New Hampshire school district has a 95,000 square foot building with eight people maintaining it.

Cacciaputti said he would not

be applying for the full time director's position. However, as interim he will keep up the work order system that has been started.

"We will also look over a manpower study," Cacciaputti said, "and see what we can implement."

According to Bandini, the lack of manpower that the department suffered was a direct result of the Proposition 2 1/2 restrictions. Because of the lack of manpower, Bandini said that the buildings became in such disrepair.

He noted the good comments that were received about the school buildings as the doors were opened for yesterday's start of the 1997-98 School Year.

"This is one of the best crews you can work with," Bandini said. "They come early and stay late."