

The following memo was submitted by Deanna Judy, Chair. She asked Jonathan Balls to provide some figures, which are in blue.

Clarification of Facts: Responses to Questions from the Board and the Public

November 2025

This memo is in response to questions posed and comments posted by the Board, the staff, and the community over the last several months. As a response to these misunderstandings, a clear outline of the following funds is needed: Modernization Funds, Insurance Funds, and CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) funds. The information requested below is intended to clearly explain **what insurance pays for, what modernization funds cover, and what additional CIP projects are planned**. We have a need for an understandable way to interpret these things.

1. Insurance Coverage (Burned Areas Only)

Insurance pays **only for the square footage that burned**, based on the **bid cost per square foot** for each affected area.

Please provide (or confirm) the following figures for public clarity:

The project was not bid by area nor only the burned areas nor only additional space, but as a project as a whole. The bid amount per sq. ft includes construction costs, architect / engineers' fees, and furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E): \$392.74

- **Gym** – square footage covered 13,518 + bid amount per sq. ft. \$392.74
 - **Locker Rooms** – square footage covered 2,745 + bid amount per sq. ft. \$392.74
 - **Music Rooms** – square footage covered 3,583+ bid amount per sq. ft. \$392.74
 - **Cafeteria** – square footage covered 6,870 + bid amount per sq. ft. \$392.74
 - **Commons Hallway** – square footage covered 2,422 + bid amount per sq. ft. \$392.74
 - **Weight Room** – square footage covered 6,230 + bid amount per sq. ft. \$392.74
 - **Other affected areas** such as offices or classrooms 23,656 – square footage + cost per sq. ft. \$392.74
 - **Total square footage burned and total insured square footage** approximately 67,000 square feet included in the claim.
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2. Modernization Funds (Additional Square Footage Needed for 6A Standards)

Modernization funds cover **the additional space needed** to rebuild the burned areas to appropriate, up-to-date and “modern” 6A standards.

Please confirm:

- **How much additional square footage** is needed beyond what burned. [Approximately 50,312](#)
 - **How much modernization funding** will be applied to expand the burned areas to current functional standards. [Approximately \\$33,886,796](#)
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3. Projects Using Modernization + Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Funds

These projects are **NOT part of the fire rebuild** and **are not funded by insurance**. They are long-overdue updates that Century and Pocatello High School already have. Some of these improvements have been postponed and saved for several years so they could be completed at the same time as the rebuild, simply because doing them together is more economical.

Projects to bring HHS up to the level of the other high schools:

- **New Auditorium**
 - Approved unanimously by the board about 3 years ago as a separate, but concurrent project.
 - Insurance funds do *not* apply to this.
 - (Insert projected cost.) [Approximately \\$7,442,756](#)
- **Science Rooms**
 - (Insert projected cost.) [Approximately \\$1,315,000](#)
- **Maintenance and Upgrades**
 - Interior and exterior paint
 - Exterior maintenance in areas not affected by the fire
 - (Insert projected cost.) [Budgeted cost \\$707,781](#)
- **Parking Lots**
 - \$1 million approved *prior* to the fire to address safety needs.
 - Another \$1 million approved last year from CIP funds for design and paving.
 - Please clarify whether remaining costs come from current CIP funds or modernization funds.
 - (Insert projected amounts.) [Budgeted cost \\$1,771,704](#)
- **Tennis Courts (Maintenance or Rebuild)**
 - Pocatello HS: date + current condition [July 2024 - good](#)
 - Century HS: date + current condition [July 2025 - good](#)
 - Highland HS: date + condition [Projected completion date July 2027](#)
 - HHS athletes have had to use city courts shared with ISU because HHS courts have not been usable.

4. Important Context for the Community

If CIP projects and long-term maintenance are being discussed alongside the rebuild, it is important to also acknowledge the **significant investments made at Century and Pocatello High School over the last 15 years.**

HHS has not received similar major projects during that time.

The current CIP and modernization projects at HHS are intended to **bring the school up to the same standard** as the other two high schools according to respective sizes.

These improvements are positive and much-needed, and they benefit all students. We have to remember it's not SCHOOLS, it CHILDREN. We have many reasons to be grateful for the progress happening across all three high school communities.