

MEMORANDUM

TO: Molalla River School District Board of Directors

FROM: Chris Shaw, Technology Director

DATE: October 2, 2026

RE: Update on G2 Wireless Panic Button Pilot, HB 3083 Compliance, and System Modifications

Background and Procurement The District has been actively reviewing Oregon House Bill 3083 (2025) and its provisions regarding the consideration of panic alarm systems to enhance school building security. To meet the requirements of the statute and the spirit of Alyssa's Law, the District conducted an RFP process in the spring of 2025 to evaluate existing Bell/PA and Security systems as we worked to replace the High Schools existing PA system. We selected the G2 Wireless Panic Button system, which offered the best cost and features while integrating directly with their Bell/PA systems. This initiative was funded through a Department of Justice School Violence Prevention Grant we received in the fall of 2025. We deployed the system at the High School first as a pilot program to learn the system with the hope of expanding wireless panic buttons to every school this year.

Implementation Challenges and False Alarms The core purpose of this initiative is to provide staff with an easily accessible device to discreetly call for help when they cannot safely use a phone or send someone for assistance. However, our review of this system has taken on additional importance following two recent false alarm events that resulted in significant disruption to school operations and increased anxiety among students, staff, families, and the broader community.

Going into the pilot, we anticipated a learning curve. Early false alarms were caused by physical issues, such as items being stacked on the devices or buttons being compressed between the user and other objects. We utilized this as a learning exercise with our students, who helped develop protective covers to prevent accidental physical compressions.

Despite this fix, we recently experienced another false alarm caused by user error in the heat of the moment. These events highlighted the importance of examining the human factors associated with device use, safeguards against inadvertent activation, and the downstream consequences of initiating a first-responder response. False alarms cause professional embarrassment and risk desensitizing our students, staff, and first-responders. Furthermore, staff members have become wary of setting the alarms off, leading some to stow the devices away where they are difficult to access, ultimately defeating their primary safety purpose.

Proposed System Modifications Because modern emergency systems can rapidly activate law-enforcement resources, we must balance ensuring staff can summon immediate assistance with minimizing the risk of human error leading to unnecessary emergency activations.

To achieve this balance, I am working with Dr. Atherton and G2 to reprogram the devices and modify our workflow. We are proposing a shift to a two-tier alert system:

- Staff members will continue to carry the device equipped with two distinct buttons: one for help and one for lockdown.
- Upon activation, the device will *first* alert school administration rather than immediately triggering a school-wide alarm.
- School administrators will rapidly assess the situation to determine if the situation needs to be escalated into a full scale lockdown.

Next Steps and Continuing Review

We hope this workflow modification will alleviate staff and community concerns about accidental triggers while preserving a fast, reliable avenue to call for help. I will work on implementing these changes this fall. We will closely monitor the system's effectiveness at the High School before proceeding with the district-wide rollout to other schools in the Spring.