Board Meeting Date: 9/24/24

Title: School Safety and Security Priority Updates

Type: Discussion

Presenter(s): Dr. Stacie Stanley, Superintendent; Nate Swenson, Assistant Superintendent; Nathaniel Lindley, Director of District Media and Technology; and Alex Hattstrom, Emergency Management and Safety Coordinator

Description: Edina Public Schools is committed to the safety and security of all individuals on our campuses. The evolution and assessment of our safety practices is ongoing and will always remain so. We will continue to enact best practices, policies, and procedures to enhance our layered security approach. We will continue to leverage the strong partnership with Edina Police and Fire, as well as the City of Edina.

Recommendation: No recommendation is being asked of the Board at this time.

Desired Outcome(s) from the Board: Please bring forth questions you may have of the presenters.

Attachment(s):   9/24/24 Safety and Security Slide presentation
                        Safety and security priority updates

Introduction

Administration is providing a comprehensive overview of our proposed priority updates for school safety and security. This presentation is the culmination of a process that involved research, analysis of our current reality, and a forward-thinking approach to addressing the evolving landscape of school safety. Several members of the district team including Assistant Superintendent, Nate Swenson, Emergency Mgmt and Safety Coordinator, Alex Hattstrom and DMTS Director, Nathaniel Lindley worked in partnership to conduct a needs assessment. The assessment takes into account both immediate concerns and emerging trends in safety and security. We've carefully considered the specific needs of our district including each site.

In addition to addressing current safety and security reality, we've also looked ahead to anticipate future threats and ensure that our safety measures are proactive and adaptable. By

investing in these priority updates, we will create a safer and more secure learning environment for our students, staff, families, volunteers, and community.

Over the past few years, we have made significant strides in enhancing school safety and security, aligning our efforts with our strategic priorities. Specifically, we have focused on creating a caring and supportive environment where students and staff feel physically and psychologically safe, and we have leveraged partnerships to strengthen our community connections.

Some key initiatives we have undertaken from 2021 to 2024:

- **I Love U Guys Training**: We have implemented comprehensive I Love U Guys training programs to equip our staff and students with the skills and knowledge necessary to prevent, identify, and respond to potential threats. This training has fostered a culture of awareness and vigilance within our schools.
- **Threat Assessments**: We have established robust threat assessment protocols (Comprehensive Threat Assessment Guidelines - CSTAG) to proactively identify and address potential risks to student safety. These protocols involve a multidisciplinary training approach that includes school counselors, administrators, and law enforcement, to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of each situation.
- **PREPaRE Training**: In addition to maintaining physical safety, we also provided PREPaRE training to all our building administrators and mental health providers. PREPaRE training was developed by the National Association of School Psychologists to provide evidence-based resources and consultation related to school crisis prevention and response. This program focuses on knowing our students well so that we can spot students in crisis and prevent a school crisis from taking place. Should a crisis take place, this program allows our staff to evaluate and respond to individual student's specific needs following a crisis event.
- **Visitor Management System**: We have implemented the Raptor visitor management system to enhance security and control access to our school buildings. These systems include procedures for checking visitors in and out of buildings.
- **Drill Protocols**: We have regularly conducted safety drills, including lockdown drills and evacuation drills to familiarize our students and staff with emergency procedures. These drills help to prepare our school community for potential threats and ensure a coordinated response.
- **Interagency Partnerships**: We've built a strong partnership with the Edina Police Department and Edina Fire Department. This has included cross-system training with EPD, EFD, EPS, and city of Edina management and monitoring and planning for critical incidents such as student walkouts
- **Community Engagement**: We've held outreach efforts with the community and provided yearly school board updates to build a common understanding of our efforts.

By prioritizing these initiatives and onboarding a layered approach to safety and security, we have made significant progress in creating a safer and more secure learning environment for our students and staff. However, as the landscape of safety and security evolves, so must our strategies.

Overview - Why Safety and Security Improvements Are Necessary

Evolving Threats: The landscape of school safety has changed dramatically in recent years. We must adapt our facilities and protocols to address new and emerging threats.

Aging Infrastructure: Many of our buildings were constructed decades ago before modern security standards were established. Previous bond referenda allowed for the district to add forced entry vestibules and varied protective infrastructure. Upgrades are essential to meet current safety requirements.

Technology Advancements: New technologies offer enhanced security measures that were unavailable when our schools were built. Implementing these can significantly improve our ability to prevent and respond to safety incidents.

Mental Health Support: Improved facilities can also support better mental health services, a critical component of overall school safety.

The Importance of a Bond for These Improvements - A bond allows us to:

a. **Make Immediate, Comprehensive Upgrades**: Rather than gradual improvements over many years, a bond enables us to make all necessary upgrades promptly.
b. **Plan for the Long-Term**: With secure funding, we can implement a cohesive, district-wide safety strategy rather than rely on short-term fixes.
c. **Minimize Disruption**: By completing improvements quickly, we reduce ongoing disruptions to our students' learning environments.

Recommended Safety and Security Updates:

Cost Breakdown by Category

Physical Security

1. Access Control: $296,000
2. Classroom doors and locks: $5,000 per door (Total TBD)
3. Security Cameras: $750,000
4. Additional network cabling: $240,000
5. Additional Network Infrastructure: $420,000

Subtotal: $1,706,000 + (Classroom door cost)

Emergency Management Notification & Alert

1. Visitor & Volunteer Management system: $15,000/year
2. Integrated Crisis Management software: $40,000/year
3. Classroom Paging and Alert System: $4,547,400
4. Classroom Paging and Alert Controller: $265,850

Subtotal: $4,868,250

Operational/Facility Security

1. HVAC monitoring and integrations: $450,000
2. Fire panel integrations: $320,000
3. Parking lot safety: $2,800,000
4. Safety glass: $30,000
5. 3D Response System: $13,000,000

Subtotal: $16,600,000

Total Estimated Cost: $23,179,250

<u>Financial Summary</u>:
The total *estimated* cost of $23,179,250 represents a significant investment in improving the security and emergency response capabilities of Edina Public Schools.

The largest expenses are focused on advanced systems like the 3D Response System and the Classroom Paging and Alert System, which together account for over 75% of the total budget. These represent cutting-edge technologies aimed at significantly enhancing emergency response capabilities across our school system.

It's worth noting that some costs, like the classroom doors and locks, are not fully determined, which could impact the final total. Additionally, there are ongoing annual costs for software subscriptions that will need to be factored into long-term budgeting. In preparation for this report, Catalyst was consulted to help prepare initial estimates for these improvements as.