



CHELSEA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Memorandum

To: Michael Kapolka, Superintendent

From: Ryan Spencer, Director of Technology
Doug Whitsel, Director of Safety & Security

Subject: District Radio System

Date: June 13, 2025

Dear Mr. Kapolka,

As part of our continued commitment to health and safety, a key priority in our district's strategic plan, we are proposing a full upgrade and expansion of our radio communication system. During our recent security review, we identified several limitations with our current radios, many of which are consumer-grade devices acquired over time. These shortcomings, coupled with communication dead zones reported by our transportation department, highlight the need for a more reliable and scalable system to support day-to-day operations. The new radios will be used not only for routine communication across buildings and departments but also as a critical tool during emergency situations.

To address these needs, we recommend awarding the district radio system project to Electromcomm-Michigan, Inc. (EMI). An RFP was published on May 2, 2025, with bids due by May 19. We received 12 bids from 7 vendors, including both base and alternative proposals. Bids ranged from \$62,000 to \$332,000 and were evaluated on price, warranty, service and support, reference checks, and equipment quality.

The selected solution includes 185 portable (handheld) radios and 45 mobile (vehicle-installed) radios. Portable radios will be distributed to staff in all school buildings, including the Washington Street Education Center, as well as to Transportation, Operations, and Food Service personnel. Mobile radios will be installed in all buses, trucks, and vans. The repeater located at the Jiffy tower will be replaced, and new repeaters will be added at Beach Middle School and Chelsea High School to improve in-building signal strength. Each building and department will have its own dedicated communication channel.

The total cost for this project is \$164,878.69 and will be funded through district bond dollars.

Given the improvements to both daily operations and emergency readiness, we see this as a strategic investment in district safety and communication infrastructure and recommend approval of the project.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ryan Spencer
Doug Whitsel