
Benjamin Middle School Gymnasium Sound System Upgrade

Background:

Currently, the Benjamin Middle School gymnasium lacks a functional, working sound system. This deficiency has significantly impacted a wide range of school activities. The proposed system upgrade is designed as a comprehensive audio reinforcement solution for both daily use, and advanced special events

Summary:

Project Timeline

The exploration of this project began in 2023 while researching ways to bring better audio quality to the BMS Gym. . At that time, a quote was received for \$144,000, which was deemed too high to fit into a yet developed capital plan. While a "gym refresh" was later included in the current capital plan, the sound system was not officially added. We recently re-initiated investigations into refreshing the lobby and main gym, including lighting and sound. This past October, we asked our construction management partner to provide Initial pricing obtained through Joint Cooperative Purchasing. Multiple vendors bid the project and the best quotes came in at **\$590,000**. Recognizing this as excessive, the administration pulled the project from cooperative management to source it independently.

Proposed Solution:

The proposed Sweetwater solution includes an innovative loudspeaker design, a new digital mixing console, and 16 wireless microphone channels for shows and large events. The system will also feature simple wall-plate controls for daily use by PE staff and coaches. The sound system can also be easily connected via bluetooth, and will allow for teachers to deliver lessons via headset, coaches to play pre-game music and make player announcements, and for speakers to be fully heard during assemblies.

The implementation of this system will directly benefit:

- **Fine Arts:** Providing necessary support for the theater, chorus, and band programs.
- **Student Life:** Ensuring clear communication during student assemblies.
- **Athletics & PE:** Restoring functional audio for physical education classes and indoor sporting events.

Financial Analysis:

By quoting the project ourselves, we have secured equipment pricing through Sweetwater that is lower than any other identified source. Board approval is requested at this time to avoid additional future expenditures, like the need to rent a temporary sound system for the upcoming musical. Furthermore, immediate equipment purchase protects the district against potential price increases due to any supply chain challenges.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the proposal for the purchase of sound equipment from Sweetwater in the amount not to exceed \$39,123.90, and Design and Project Management in the amount not to exceed \$2,240. The Administration will continue to investigate the most cost effective solution for installation not to exceed \$25,000.