



Executive Summary Board of Education Meeting

DATE: September 4, 2025

TOPIC: Video Camera Recommendations 2025-2026 School Year

PREPARED BY: Jordan Stephen

Recommended for:

- ☒ Action
- ☒ Discussion
- ☒ Information

Purpose:

The Board of Education approves all contracts and expenditures greater than \$10,000.

Background:

Over the past several months, our team has undertaken a comprehensive review of the security technologies currently in use throughout District 74. This review was not limited to just technology infrastructure but also took into account the physical safety and security of students, staff, and visitors. Our goal during this time has been twofold: 1) to ensure we are leveraging the best tools available to protect our school community; 2) to evaluate these solutions through the lenses of both financial sustainability and facilities readiness.

The current video surveillance infrastructure across the District is built around a system called **ExacqVision**, which is owned by Johnson Controls. While the platform remains relatively robust and functional by today's standards, the system's design presents several challenges due to its reliance on cameras from multiple generations of hardware and aging servers. The District's current camera network includes a diverse array of models—ranging from **1.4-megapixel IP cameras** to **modern multi-sensor units** featuring four integrated **5-megapixel lenses**. In total, the system comprises **approximately 98 lenses**, distributed across a mix of single, dual, and quad-lens cameras. Importantly, all cameras operate over IP, utilizing **Power over Ethernet (PoE)** for both data transmission and electrical power—aligning with current industry standards.

As an alternative, the District is proposing moving to **Rhombus** which offers a cloud-based surveillance architecture. This design allows video to be accessed remotely without the need for extensive physical infrastructure. Localized footage can reside within the camera for short-term access, to be uploaded to a secure cloud storage platform on off hours. The Rhombus system's AI capabilities add substantial value, including: Facial recognition and motion analytics, vehicle color and direction tracking, as well as license plate recognition built within all standard units. Though not all AI features may be used immediately, the system offers a future-proof platform for smarter surveillance.

While Rhombus and CDW-G provided designs and quotes for this solution, RC Systems would provide the Installation and support with backend integration and management handled by Rhombus staff members technical staff is needed. After a number of meetings held on site, the team is proposing upgrading the original designs to encompass

many other views into this system as well as add additional cameras to locations that should be monitored throughout the campus.

Updated Rhombus Video Costs CDW-G, RC Systems And Rhombus			
R200 Single Lens IP Camera	19	\$281.28	\$5,344.32
R400 Single Lens IP Camera	3	\$732.22	\$2,196.66
R520 Single Varifocus Bullet Camera	2	677.55	\$1,355.10
R600 Multi Lens IP Camera	27	\$1,906.47	\$51,474.69
Installation Parts (Lot)	1	\$6,474.15	\$6,474.15
Installation RCS	1	\$22,515.00	\$22,515.00
Total Project Upgrade Costs			\$89,359.92
Enterprise Camera License 5 Year	27	\$1,291.02	\$34,857.54
Professional Camera License 5-Year	24	\$410.37	\$9,848.88
5 Year Recurring Costs			\$44,706.42

Given the clear advantages in flexibility, image quality, and overall cost, we recommend moving forward with the **Rhombus cloud-based video surveillance system**. It provides the District with a cutting-edge, scalable security platform that not only meets current needs but positions us well for future enhancements.

This item has been reviewed by District Legal Counsel, who indicated no concerns with the contracts, as the terms are minimal. Counsel noted a clause with binding arbitration that was referenced in the general scope of work, however, Counsel said that given the small scale and limited scope of this contract, it is not a cause for concern.

Financial Changes and Updates

From a financial perspective, we believe the Rhombus solution offers the greatest long-term value and aligns well with the District's current budget. At present, the District is paying our current vendor approximately \$36,000 annually for licensing, support, and maintenance. Rhombus includes these services within its subscription model, which covers camera features and licensing, and also provides a 10-year warranty on all hardware. Through their educational program, we can purchase subscriptions in 5-year increments at a cost of approximately \$41,000. This results in a projected break-even point of just under 4 years. Additionally, it's important to note that this proposal includes several key changes from the previous version. Many of our existing cameras are now upgraded from single-lens to multi-lens models, significantly enhancing coverage. The proposal also includes the addition of several new cameras, resulting in approximately 38 additional views across the property. These improvements will provide visibility into areas that were previously not covered through our former system.

Fiscal Impact:

\$134,066.34 for equipment, licensing, installation and support for the upgraded Rhombus product for all locations.

Recommendation:

The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the quotes from CDWG and Renaissance Communication Systems for the installation of the new Video Security systems in the amount not to exceed \$135,000.