Executive Summary
Facilities Committee Meeting

DATE: June 10, 2025
TOPIC: District Security Audit and 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.

Currently, when we think of our security within the District we think of a few major systems: 1) door access control system 2) video camera surveillance system, and 3) alarms on all buildings in case of a burglary.

Inside this Facilities Committee packet you'll find current descriptions of our current product as well as descriptions of what we are intending or recommending to move toward. Some of these recommendations are multifaceted and could affect operations in other buildings as well as future upgrade plans.

Door Access Controllers: Current Reality

A door access control system is a security system that manages who can enter a building, a specific room, or designated areas. Unlike traditional physical lock-and-key systems, which can be easily compromised by lost keys, access control systems use electronic methods to authenticate users and provide a higher level of security and control.

Our current system's hardware, or brain of the system, are built by Honeywell, a reputable industry leader in security components. The control system (software) runs on **Access-it**, which is a cloud-based software. This software platform enables authorized users to remotely reprogram access cards and users, adjust access levels, set time-based restrictions, and generate reports on all access events.

Our long-standing vendor, **Access Master,** currently manages our door access control system and the door hardware. As part of our current agreement and hosted support contract, the District can contact Access Master for any required changes via email and/or needed repairs. As part of this agreement, Access Master charges the District a service fee that is billed per reader and controller to offset software costs and future replacement costs of electronics. Recently we have obtained internal access to the system to make modifications on-site, and or check and run reports on events. Overall, the system has proven highly reliable, and we've experienced minimal issues. In the event of a problem, we simply contact Access Master, and their team addresses the situation, most of which are covered under their hosted support contract.

A detailed breakdown of our monthly and yearly pricing for this program is provided below.

Hosted Access-it Breakdown						
	Each	Admin Building	Lincoln Hall School	Rutledge Hall School	Todd Hall School	Total
Controller	$100.00	1	1	1	1	
Readers	$37.25	6	27	12	12	
Total Per Month		**$323.50**	**$1,105.75**	**$547.00**	**$547.00**	**$2,523.25**
Total Per Year						**$30,279.00**

Door Access Future Choices: Proxess

The future of door access control systems goes far beyond our current key fob and card setup. Modern technology now enables the seamless transmission of signals, commands, and controls between various devices, opening up opportunities for smarter, more secure buildings. Two companies currently under consideration, Maxxess Systems and Proxess, LLC, offer promising solutions for our future.

If the District chooses to phase out physical keys entirely and implement remote locking for classroom doors, we recommend giving strong consideration to the products offered by Proxess.

Proxess stands out as both a door lock manufacturer and a provider of complete access control system. Their system, ProxessIQ, functions similarly to our existing setup but utilizes both wired and wireless setup, which helps bring down installation costs. Its cloud-based controller supports multiple access options, providing flexibility for users. Staff

could continue using key fobs similar to those currently issued, or opt for wallet-sized access cards or access could be enabled via a mobile app, turning any smartphone into a digital key. This type of integration also means that on the safety front, administrators could initiate a full building or District-wide lockdowns instantly with a push of a button or as part of an automated response plan.

Proxess major advantage lies in its cost-effective solutions and installation. In any building, the bulk of expenses are tied to internal wiring and infrastructure—not the locks themselves. For instance, a typical wired classroom door with a reader and power supply could cost $2,000–$3,000 to install. By comparison, Schlage, a well-known commercial vendor, sells a wireless classroom door lock for about $2,000 in hardware alone. Proxess, on the other hand, offers a wireless lock with a price around $600 per unit, bringing remote wireless security within reach, at costs slightly higher than the traditional mechanical locks.

Looking ahead, if the District were to decide to move in this direction, it's crucial that all access control systems originate from the Proxess centralized controller unit. This would ensure consistent management and integration across all campus buildings.

A detailed breakdown of pricing for this program is provided below.

Proxess Take Over Breakdown						
		Admin Building	Lincoln Hall School	Rutledge Hall School	Todd Hall School	Total
		6	27	12	12	
Install new Door Contacts						
Install new REX Sensors						
Install new cabling for All Current Doors						
Re-Use Door Locks						
Total Project Costs						**$155,100.00**
Classroom Door Hardware (Self Install)						**$600.00**

Door Access Future Choices: Maxxess

By contrast, Maxxess Systems offers a system that closely resembles what we currently have in place. However, instead of being cloud-based, the Maxxess system is on-premise, utilizing a local virtual machine that would sit on our internal network and manage control boxes located in each school. This system would essentially replace and replicate our existing setup.

The key advantage with Maxxess lies in cost and compatibility. The total replacement cost for the system would come in at just under $40,000, and we would retain all our existing Honeywell hardware, which would simply be reprogrammed to integrate with the Maxxess system. Our current database—including key card numbers, facility IDs, and user access information, would be uploaded directly, allowing us to have a fully operational system within just a few days.

After the initial hardware investment, ongoing costs would be minimal as the District would only need to pay for an annual software maintenance fee.

Maxxess Take Over Breakdown						
	Each	Admin Building	Lincoln Hall School	Rutledge Hall School	Todd Hall School	Total
Controller Reprogramming		1	1	1	1	
Readers Reprogramming		6	27	12	12	
Total Project Costs						**$39,091.00**
Annual Recurring Software Licencing Fee						**$1,200.00**

Support

If issues arise —either with the software or the door controllers in either of these scenarios, support would be handled through a local security company at a traditional hourly rate. The District would dispatch for service using the same company that we would be contracting with as an installer of these systems. This approach could save the District approximately $2,500 per month compared to the current maintenance and support model.

To put this in perspective, if we have no issues with our equipment for the next 5 years, continuing with our current provider, Access Master, would result in the District paying approximately $151,000 in maintenance and support fees over five years. In contrast, Maxxess would cost the District approximately $6,000 in software operation fees, over that 5 years, representing a significant long-term savings.

Strategic Consideration

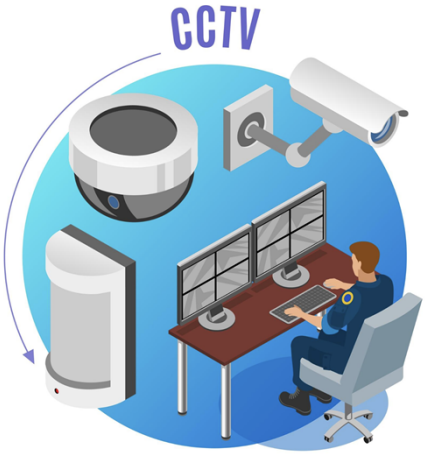
The District should weigh whether to maintain a status quo-style system like Maxxess at a much lower price point, or begin transitioning toward a more advanced and flexible system like Proxess. While Proxess would require upgrades at all buildings, it offers the ability to move to a modern, scalable solution with long-term benefits. With recent upgrades already completed at Rutledge Hall, and past improvements at Lincoln Hall, attention is now turning toward Todd Hall. This could present a timely opportunity to begin integrating new, future-ready access control technology across the District.

Financial Impact

From a financial standpoint, we believe that either of the proposed options can align with the District's long-term budget goals. While Maxxess presents a lower initial cost, it's important to note that the District would eliminate ongoing recurring fees currently paid to Access Master. By removing these monthly support and maintenance charges, the District could potentially save nearly $100,000 over the next five years. Any necessary service or maintenance would instead be handled at an hourly rate by a local company trained in these systems.

Although Proxess involves a higher upfront investment, implementation would span all three buildings. It's also important to recognize that this is only the first phase of a broader transition to a modern locking system, with further upgrades anticipated. Factoring in the removal of Access Master, the District would reach a break-even point with Proxess in just over five years—excluding any additional hourly service or support costs or future door installations that may arise.

Video Surveillance System: Current Reality



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 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.

Each building in the District hosts a dedicated **Network Video Recorder (NVR)** allowing centralized access to all video feeds from roughly all viewpoints from a single workstation or laptop.

Current System Costs

Over the past nine years, the server infrastructure behind this system has undergone a refresh cycle and these units are again due for replacement. Access Master, our long-standing vendor, has provided quotes for the new servers, each priced just under **$25,000**, bringing the total replacement cost to approximately **$100,000**. These costs reflect **server hardware only** and **do not include any camera upgrades**. In addition to capital expenditures for hardware, the District incurs the following annual camera licensing cost at $49 per camera, per year, as well as an annual Maintenance and support contract covering both camera upkeep and server-related support.
A detailed breakdown of our monthly and yearly pricing for this program is provided below.

Access Master Video Costs			
Maintenance and Support Per Month	12	$2,405.00	$28,860.00
IP Camera License Each	100	$49.00	$4,900.00
Total Yearly Costs			**$33,760.00**

Research into Alternatives

To explore more sustainable and modernized solutions, the District conducted a broad analysis, engaging with reputable vendors including CDW, Heartland Business Systems, Access Master,Kokomo 24/7 and RC Systems. Input was also solicited from peer Districts with recent experience in surveillance upgrades and new facility builds. Cost Comparison and Proposals The proposals below present a "like-for-like" replacement—retaining the current total of 98 lenses, and cameras but upgrading all units with 4K-capable devices to ensure maximum clarity.

From this research, **2 primary solutions** emerged:

Hanwha Vision System (Traditional Upgrade Path) This option represents a modernized version of our current setup, using high-definition cameras with improved optics and higher data transfer rates. Like our existing system, Hanwha cameras rely on PoE connections and interface with on-site NVRs. Hanwha Vision System also integrates new AI detections systems which can help with detecting people, cars and events.

Access Master provided designs and quotes for this solution. A key design shift proposed in these plans is consolidating from four servers to a single centralized NVR, helping reduce overhead and simplify infrastructure.

Hanwha Video Costs Access Master			
4x8 MP Multi Lens IP Camera	22	$0.00	$0.00
5 MP Single Lens IP Camera	27	$0.00	$0.00
DVR Digital Video Recorder	1	$0.00	$0.00
24 Port POE Switches	4	$0.00	$0.00
Labor			
Total Project Upgrade Costs			**$99,668.00**
Maintenance and Support Per Month	12	$2,500.00	$30,000.00
IP Camera License Each	49	$132.00	$6,468.00
Yearly Recurring Costs			**$36,468.00**

Rhombus Systems (Cloud-Based Video Surveillance) In contrast to traditional systems, **Rhombus** offers a cloud-based surveillance architecture in which each Rhombus camera is equipped with onboard storage via SD cards and cloud synchronization capabilities. 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.

Rhombus Video Costs CDW-G, RC Systems And Rhombus			
R200 Single Lens IP Camera	23	$281.28	$6,469.44
R400 Single Lens IP Camera	9	$732.22	$6,589.98
R600 Multi Lens IP Camera	17	$1,746.85	$29,696.45
Installation Parts (Lot)	1	$3,254.54	$3,254.54
Installation	1	$25,000.00	$25,000.00
Total Project Upgrade Costs			**$71,010.41**
Enterprise Camera License 5 Year	17	$1,262.66	$21,465.22

Professional Camera License 5-Year	32	$401.36	$12,843.52
5 Year Recurring Costs			**$34,308.74**

Recommendation

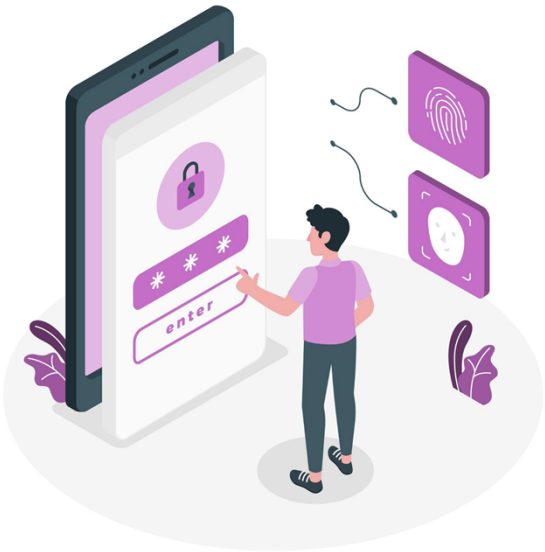
Given the clear advantages in flexibility, image quality, and overall cost, we recommend moving forward with the **Rhombus cloud-based video surveillance system**. It provides the District with a cutting-edge, scalable security platform that not only meets current needs but positions us well for future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

Financial Impact

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 Access Master 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 $34,000—resulting in a projected break-even point of just three years. Additionally, it's important to consider that continuing on our current path would eventually require a significant investment of nearly $80,000 to replace the aging network video server infrastructure.

Visitor Access & Raptor Safe System Overview: Current Reality

Visitor access is the process of vetting individuals before they enter a school building. It serves as one of our first and most critical lines of defense to ensure that only authorized individuals are allowed on campus.



Currently, we utilize the **Raptor Visitor Management System**, a trusted and established solution in this field. When a visitor arrives, they are asked to provide a government-issued ID that is scanned and cross-referenced against a range of national databases for security purposes.

Several companies sit in the visitor management space including Kokomo 24/7, Verkada, Raptor, and SchoolSafe, all offering similar services.

Many of these modern systems now include self-service kiosks, allowing visitors to scan their ID at an iPad and receive entry access without staff manually entering their information. Other features support streamlined check-in processes for large events or group gatherings through bulk badging, and some offer specific assign apps with rotating badges to use for those people who enter and exit a property quite often.

Our team reviewed units from many companies, however, after a thorough review and evaluation of Raptor's latest offerings we have elected to stay with Raptor and adopt their much improved Visitor Safe Visitor Management program. Raptor system upgrades will include substantial enhancement to our existing visitor management setup, with several key benefits including:

Self-Service Check-In:

- We can leverage our existing equipment in main offices while expanding the system using currently District-owned iPads.
- Raptor Safe allows for the deployment of up to 10–12 self-service kiosks.
- iPad kiosks connect to specific printers to print visitor badges. Multiple iPads can be linked to one printer.
- Visitors experiencing issues can still report to the main office for manual processing.

Raptor Pass Integration

- Visitors, vendors, or contractors, and certain personnel can be pre-authorized using the Raptor Pass app.
- The app regenerates a QR code on the visitor's device that can be scanned for quick, secure access.

Wearable Panic Button System

- Raptor Safe system includes a wearable panic button for each staff member
- Through a specific button press sequence, staff can indicate emergencies such as: medical assistance, soft lockdown, severe threat situations, etc.
- These alerts are received instantly by other staff running the Raptor software
- Alerts can be configured to send text or mobile notifications to specific users
- The system uses Bluetooth beacons installed in classrooms and offices to triangulate the distress location.

The final key feature of Raptor Safe is its emergency reunification system, designed to align with the "I Love U Guys" Foundation protocols. With our new reunification site ready to go, the District now can easily obtain a prioritized safe and organized family reunification system in case of any emergency.

Emergency Reunification System

- The system activates reunification protocols tailored to each building.
- Integration with our Student Information System (SIS) allows for real-time updates on student attendance.
- Staff roles such as runners, greeters, are assigned and tracked via the software.
- Parents arriving on-site use cell phones or iPads to sign in. Greeters are instantly notified of which students to bring forward.
- The process ensures orderly, documented, and efficient reunification in designated areas.

Financial Impact

Raptor has done an outstanding job delivering this comprehensive solution at a reasonable price point
A breakdown of costs—including annual recurring fees—is provided below.

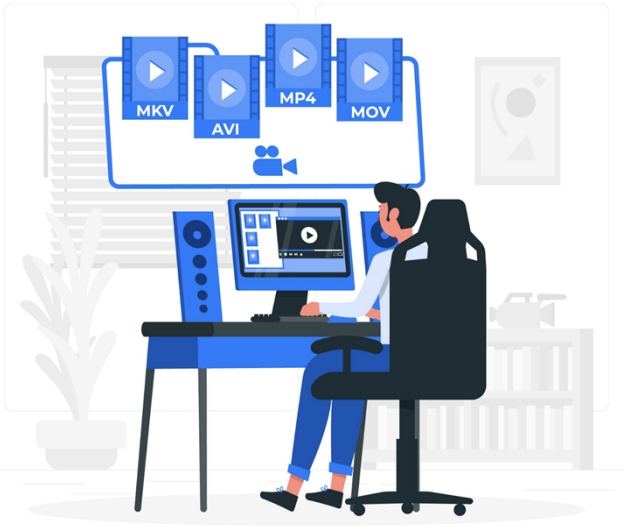
Visitor Management Upgrade			
Printer	4	$250.00	$1,000.00
Labels	4	$95.00	$380.00
Shipping	4	$44.00	$176.00
Total Project Upgrade Costs			**$1,556.00**
VS Tablet License	4	$299.00	$1,196.00
Visitor Safe	4	$660.00	$2,640.00
Yearly Recurring Costs			**$3,836.00**

Emergency Management Upgrade			
Shipping	4	$250.00	$1,000.00
Training	4	$1,000.00	$4,000.00
Implementation	4	$3,500.00	$14,000.00
Raptor Badge	4	$0.00	$0.00
Cell Bridge	4	$0.00	$0.00
Total Project Upgrade Costs			**$19,000.00**
Raptor Badge	4	$5,000.00	$20,000.00
Cell Bridge	4	$200.00	$800.00
Yearly Recurring Costs			**$20,800.00**

Recommendation

Given the advantages, we would recommend the Raptor Safe system because it offers a comprehensive, integrated solution that enhances the efficiency of our current visitor management; it offers staff and students the ability to call for help using the wearable panic buttons; and would provide the District and community with the correct tools to manage a emergency response, and reunification procedures.

Final Phase: Video and Signage Integration: Current Reality



The final phase of the project includes video. Currently, we have a variety of displays across all buildings. Over the past several years, we have used Apple TVs to present photos, and more recently, we have replaced and experimented with BrightSign, a commercial-grade signage software, to push out information.

This past year, the District was introduced to a product called Vivi, which functions similarly to a media player like Apple TV but also offers scheduling capabilities akin to BrightSign. It's a small wireless HDMI device that could serve as a powerful communication tool for the District. The Director of Communications could use this device to distribute targeted messaging and signage to individual buildings, directed at students, staff, or even visitors.

However, what sets Vivi apart is its capability for API integration, which opens up even more powerful communication features. For example, these devices have the ability to be connected with RaptorTech services and can be triggered by specific commands. For example, if there were a fire in one building, these could be programmed to instantly push a graphic message like "Please evacuate the building" and simultaneously display a map showing evacuation routes.

Beyond emergency messaging, Vivi can display daily content like lunch menus, announcements, or live messages from District leadership—all controlled via laptop or mobile phone. These devices can serve as tools for one-way communication, such as a message from the superintendent or another staff member being broadcast to viewers.

Financial Impact

Pricing details for Vivi devices are listed below. The initial investment for a device like Vivi is relatively low, and its ongoing costs are very affordable, especially considering its reliability, and versatility.

Vivi Video Upgrade			
Vivi Units	12	$159.00	$1,908.00
Raptor Integration	0	$1,000.00	$0.00
Total Project Upgrade Costs			**$1,908.00**
Vivi Unit	12	$159.00	$1,908.00
Yearly Recurring Costs			**$1,908.00**

Given the Power and feature set of these devices with such a small Financial investment we feel that these would be a great use in not only the display of educational Community material but also to be utilized in case of any emergency that could arise in the future thus continuing to reinforce our Safety and Security within the District.

Recommendation:

The Administration is seeking guidance and direction from the Facilities Committee regarding campus security upgrades as presented.