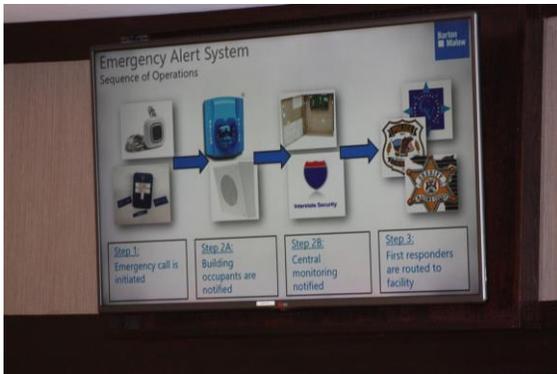


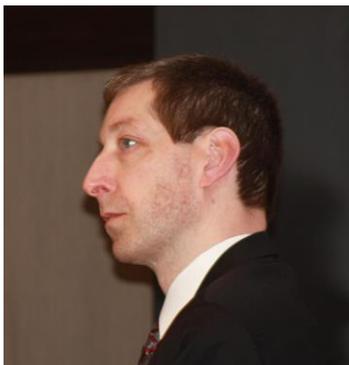
# Chippewa Valley board votes to install emergency alert systems in schools

## Board approves contracts over \$400,000 for system

- By Nicole Tuttle For MediaNews Group
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On Sept. 9, the Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education approved installation of an emergency alert system for each district building.



Chippewa Valley Schools Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Scott Sederlund brought a recommended motion to award districtwide safety and security upgrades contracts before the district's board of education on Sept. 9.

On Sept. 9, Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education Vice President Denise Aquino made a motion to approve awarding district wide safety and security contracts totaling \$420,969 to Master Electric Inc.

Chippewa Valley Schools buildings will have a new emergency alert system in all district schools by spring 2020.

On Sept. 9, the Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education unanimously approved awarding contracts totaling \$420,969 for safety and security upgrades. The contracts are with Master Electric Inc. for a security alert system. The motion was made by Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education Vice President Denise Aquino and seconded by Secretary Laura Cardamone.

"This project will install an emergency alert system within each building that can be activated at multiple points throughout the building," Chippewa Valley Schools Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Scott Sederlund said. "This will initiate an all call announcement using the existing public address system notifying occupants of a lockdown situation. The bids received are within the budget allocation identified for the 2018 bond issue program."

Information was reviewed with the building and site subcommittee and the project is scheduled to start in the early winter 2019 and be completed by the spring 2020, according to Sederlund. Douglas Madden, a senior project manager with Barton Malow construction company, discussed the details of the project with the board. The system is one of only five being installed statewide, Madden said.

"Everybody knows what a fire alarm looks like. The pull stations look pretty much identical to those except they are blue. And they will be identified as police. Same thing with the strobes. They will be blue so when they flash, they will flash blue instead of white like a regular fire alarm," Madden said.

In addition to the pull stations and strobes, each building will be allocated a certain number of lanyards to activate the alarm system, according to Madden. He said elementary schools will be allocated four, middle schools six and high schools eight. The district will designate who carries a lanyard, Madden added.

"Let's say a pull station was pulled. The third item over there is their control panel. The control panel has a digital dialing system. Once it is activated it will send a signal to the school. It can be a tone, it can be through the PA system, it can be an announcement that basically tells you, lets the occupants know what is going on," Madden said.

He added the district's security company, Interstate Security, will be simultaneously notified of the pull station activation.

"It is an addressable system so every pull station has an identifier attached to it. So it will tell Interstate Security," Madden said, adding that lanyards are identified by number rather than location.

Interstate will contact a 911 dispatcher and make a district notification, according to Madden. Monitoring will be \$6,600 per year Sederlund confirmed on Sept. 10.

Strobes will particularly be used in areas of buildings that are somewhat noisy, signifying that an announcement is coming and allowing students to quiet down to hear it. Pull stations are randomly placed throughout buildings, particularly near exits, Madden said. Building administrators will examine current plans and can request changes in locations or additional pull stations or strobes.

"We did include unit prices for all of the contractors, so we have unit prices for additional pull stations, additional strobes, and if there are repeaters that are part of this system," Madden said. "The

repeaters are basically there to pick up the lanyards, where the lanyards are, so they pick up that signal through the lanyard. So we can add or subtract if we felt the need."

Architects designed the new system similar to the way fire suppression system pull stations are installed according to code, Sederlund said.

"Because this is all brand-new there is no code," Sederlund said. "So it is kind of up to us to decide exactly where we want to have it go."

Also, on Sept. 9, the board approved an amendment to bond resolution 2019 refunding bonds. The board amended a prior resolution authorizing the issuance by the district of its 2019 refunding bonds, in order to refund and refinance all or a portion of the district's outstanding Michigan School Bond Loan Fund and Michigan School Loan Revolving Fund bonds. The board adopted the original refunding resolution on Aug. 19. Due to the significant fluctuations in the interest rate environment, the resolution clarified the maturity date parameters so that the district could receive the most interest savings at the time of refunding.