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District Wide Communications System

June 2015 Bond

Communications within the schools and out to the community is critical to student safety. During an emergency, efficiently and effectively delivering messages is vital in relaying and appropriately acting on information as needed while minimizing panic and unneeded stress.

Problem:

Existing telephone and intercom systems are obsolete and no longer supported by the manufacturers. A district wide replacement system is required to provide compatibility between buildings.

Proposal:

The proposed system includes telecommunications, intercom and bell features. Backup power and network upgrade costs are included within the estimated cost.

Elementary School – all schools

Middle Schools – CRA and HMS

Estimated Project Cost: 2,000,000

Estimated Completion Date: September 2018

Benefits:

The bond's District Communication System will provide a foundation for enhanced and new capabilities, such as:

- Replaces a phone communication system that is no longer supported or serviced by the manufacturer.
- Continues telephone communications during power outages, telephone company outages, and network equipment failures.
- Improves emergency 911 capabilities, including identification of caller's location down to the specific location in the building.
- Provides flexible and modular system that will not require a complete system replacement in the future.
- Coordinates emergency notifications via email, phone, mobile devices, digital signs, and paging systems throughout the district.
- Integrates with camera systems, access control, panic buttons, digital signage and overhead paging for increased security.
- Supports video conferencing for use between schools and to other entities, such as other schools outside of the Helena area, universities or research facilities including the ability for remote instruction for students physically unable to attend class.