

**PROPOSED AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN SPENDING
REVISION**

JANUARY 23, 2023

ORIGINAL PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN

- As part of the COVID relief grant monies allocated to our district, we received \$16,082,152 through the American Rescue Plan (ARP)
- Of this total, \$5,826,226 was allocated toward the improvement of indoor air quality in our school buildings as a result of community feedback
- Other components of the ARP grant monies were required to be spent on initiatives dedicated to address learning loss, summer enrichment, and afterschool programs
- Analysis of air filtration options was shared with the Board of Education and the community to upgrade our unit ventilators to include cooling features in addition to its heating capabilities
- Proposal was formulated to replace the unit ventilators in approximately 550 classrooms throughout the entire district
- In order to accomplish this equitably throughout the district, a \$45 million bond referendum would be required to supplement the ARP funds needed for this project

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY VOICE



- The bond referendum was presented to the community for a vote in October 2022
- The referendum was defeated by a vote of 560 votes against and 466 votes for the proposal.
- The community has made known their desire for security and safety enhancements to better safeguard our students and staff in buildings throughout the district
- Dr. Jones and her safety advisors have identified a number of products for this purpose including:
 - Replacement of our public address systems
 - Replacement and purchase of additional security cameras
 - Additional metal detectors and security wands
 - Alternative classroom door locking mechanisms

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS



- Critical means of communicating safety messages to all students and staff throughout the building
- Antiquated systems (many in excess of 20 years old) are becoming more expensive and difficult to maintain in several of our schools
- Medford Elementary system replacement is currently underway
- Replacing all of them at the same time will permit the District to better troubleshoot issues and standardize our operating procedures and may also secure better pricing through the competitive bidding process
- Estimated costs for remaining 10 school buildings is approximately \$2,000,000

SECURITY CAMERAS

- Cameras provide administration with the ability to witness emergency events unfolding or those that took place hours before when no one is present
- They provide the additional benefit of helping to resolve disputes and apply appropriate disciplinary measures where necessary
- Cameras that are no longer operational or are reaching the end of their useful life have been identified for replacement
- Newer cameras will provide greater resolution and coverage of identified areas
- Building walk-throughs have been conducted by building and district administration to identify potential locations for the installation of additional security cameras in all our secondary schools
- Estimated costs for all cameras is approximately \$500,000



METAL DETECTORS AND SECURITY WANDS

- Board of Education Policy # 5154.1 “Metal Detector Search Procedures” adopted October 2022
- Newly implemented student arrival procedures at PMHS include the use of portable metal detectors and security wands
- Portable metal detectors afford us the ability to use them at other events such as athletic competitions, musical concerts, and other after school events to safely screen visitors prior to granting admission
- More sophisticated metal detectors being considered to better manage the volume of students at arrival
- Estimated costs for all items is approximately \$800,000



ALTERNATIVE CLASSROOM DOOR LOCKING MECHANISMS

- The elimination of traditional door locks being replaced with card swipes is under consideration for all classrooms and main office doors throughout the district
 - Elimination of key dependency and security risks with keys being lost
 - Immediate granting and restriction of access
 - All classroom doors immediately lock during a lockdown situation
 - Controlled and logged access
 - Locked spaces when staff is not present providing a safer environment for students and staff
- Estimated cost is approximately \$1,700,000



OTHER SAFETY ITEMS



- Consideration for other security and safety related projects
- These could include such things as new fencing, gates, lockdown buttons, additional external door swipes, handheld radios, emergency strobe lights (interior and exterior), red button lock systems, golf carts, etc.



ARP GRANT UTILIZATION

- Changing the original proposed use of the intended use requires New York State Education Department (NYSED) approval
- Above items have been determined to be permissible uses under allowable uses of ARP ESSER Funds
- 30-day comment period <https://fs27.formsite.com/6XVsdb/icyucmahcv/index.html>
- File amendment with NYSED
- Bids issued for projects
- All projects must be completed, and funds exhausted by September 30, 2024



PROPOSED ARP FUNDING EXPENDITURES

ITEM	COST
Public Address Systems	\$2,000,000
Security Cameras	\$500,000
Metal Detectors and Security Wands	\$800,000
Classroom Locking Mechanisms	\$1,700,000
Other Safety Items	\$826,226
TOTAL	\$5,826,226

QUESTIONS?