SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOLS
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members of the School Board
           Lori White, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Darrell C. Reyka, Director of Safety and Security

DATE: February 10, 2014

SUBJECT: SAFETY AND SECURITY CAPITAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

This document is provided as a follow-up to discussion with the School Board during the October workshop session. An outcome of the workshop indicated direction supporting an increase in capital project funding to accelerate improvements to the districts programs of school safety and security and technology infrastructures. The following details outline recommendations by the School Safety and Security Department associated with specific safety and security initiatives and the associated capital budget funding increase of $1,200,000.

VIDEO SECURITY CAMERAS

Implementation of video security technologies in our schools began in 2005, with a phased in four year program that was designed to equitably provide video security at all schools. The project started with high schools in the first year, middle schools in the second year and elementary schools over the following two years. The systems have proven to be a highly effective resource in our program of school safety, helping to mitigate risks of property damage and assisting in the resolution of discipline and criminal activities.

Today over 3,600 strategically placed video security cameras are in use throughout the school district. As with any electronic equipment the systems are reaching an age point where operational maintenance and support is costly and system performance is at a risk of failure.

Our budget increase recommendation accelerates the replacement of all video security camera systems on the following project schedule:
- Refreshing video recording systems and cameras with IP technologies
  - Three middle schools and SHS East campus in 2014-2015
  - Four middle schools in 2015-2016
  - Three middle schools in 2016-2017
- Refreshing video recording systems with hybrid technologies
  - Eleven elementary schools in 2014-2015
  - Ten elementary schools in 2015-2016
- Refreshing video cameras with IP technologies
  - Two elementary schools in 2015-2016
  - Five elementary schools in 2016-2017
  - Fourteen elementary schools in 2017-2018

EVACUATION CHAIRS

As school design concepts began to change locally more of our school buildings became multi story structures. A review of our evacuation plans indicates a need to provide disabled or injured individuals on upper floors with a safe and efficient method of evacuation during an emergency.

Our budget increase recommendation provides for the strategic placement of seventy-four evacuation chairs in critical life safety areas district-wide throughout the district in 2014-2015.

FENCING

A critical component of our districts safety and security program is campus visitor management. Our newer schools have been designed following security best practices and CPTED principles, providing single or limited points of entry for visitors through the effective use of natural barriers, fencing, and gates. Schools designed with an open campus concept provide a wide ranging list of challenges in any attempt to limit visitor access.

Our budget increase recommendation accelerates the design and installation of perimeter fencing and gates on the following project schedule:
- Four middle schools (phase 1) and four elementary schools in 2014-2015
- Four middle schools (phase 2) and three middle schools (phase 1) in 2015-2016
- Three middle schools (phase 2), two middle schools (phase 1), one elementary school, TRIAD North, and SHS in 2016-2017

ACCESS CONTROL

It is widely accepted that keeping all external doors locked at all times and directing all visitor traffic to and from the school through a single entry point—usually the door closest to the school's office, is a school safety best practice. As a part of this effort, the school district is adding the resources of electronic remote entry systems. The remote entry systems allow the visitor to gain access to the office reception area, while someone within the school office (usually the secretary) must electronically unlock the door leading from the reception area to the student side of the school campus. Staff and authorized personnel may gain access to these areas using electronic proximity cards during designated hours. Access control may also be implemented in other vulnerable areas, i.e. food service storage areas, chemical storage areas, and high value equipment classrooms – and may incorporate the use of shatter-resistant materials on glass.

Our budget increase accelerates the design and implementation of access control technologies on the following project schedule:
- Ten middle and special education schools in 2014-2015
- Ten elementary schools in 2015-2016
- Two elementary schools and three high schools in 2016-2017
- Thirty-four system expansions in 2017-2018

SUMMARY

The recommended capital budget increase of $1,200,000 enables the Department of Safety and Security to accelerate critical infrastructure safety and security initiatives without reducing support of current initiatives.

Current capital budget funded initiatives include support of intrusion alarm systems, central station alarm monitoring, video security systems, staff and contractor identification badge processing, access control

operations, emergency alert/mass notification systems, first responder rapid entry systems, two-way radio communication systems, weather monitoring/notification services, shatter-resistant window treatments, and emergency management operations.

Providing a safe and secure learning environment for our students requires a balance of effective emergency management practices and physical security infrastructure systems. Lessons learned from senseless school violence incidents in Moses Lake, Washington (1996) to Newtown, Connecticut (2012), have caused schools and school districts to continually reassess their school safety and security plans.   Emergency drills must be practiced and evaluated regularly, and security system technologies must be reliable and sustainable.

Our school district continues to work closely with emergency management officials and first responder agencies to develop and implement effective and sustainable school safety and security emergency management planning.   The security system projects listed within the Safety and Security Department's capital budget add essential layers of security to our school campuses, enabling school officials to focus on academic achievement and student progress.