

Good afternoon Chair Loon and committee members. My name is Patricia Magnuson. I am the Executive Director of Finance and Operations for Osseo Area Schools. I am here today with Dave Moredock, Coordinator of Risk Management for Osseo Area Schools. Dave is a former police officer and security manager. He is also a Certified Protection Professional (CPP) with ASIS International and a member of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP). As our district's safety and security expert, Mr. Moredock is most knowledgeable about the safety and security investments that are needed in our schools.

Osseo Area Schools is the fifth-largest school district in Minnesota, serving nearly 21,000 students in all or parts of eight communities: Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Corcoran, Dayton, Maple Grove, Osseo, Plymouth, and Rogers. We have 32 buildings with original construction dates ranging from the early 1950's to 2002.

A key characteristic of an effective school is a safe and healthy work and learning environment. A safe and healthy learning environment is created when staff shares a vision for their work; when staff can build strong relationships with students; when instruction is responsive to the contemporary needs of students; and when the physical facility adequately protects learning spaces.

Point #1: Safety and security upgrades are urgently needed in our school facilities.

In the wake of the Parkland, Florida tragedy, families more than ever are asking us what we are doing to keep their kids safe. In the past few weeks, I have spoken to numerous concerned parents about school safety and security. The overwhelming theme of these conversations is "we need to be doing more to keep kids safe and we need to do it now."

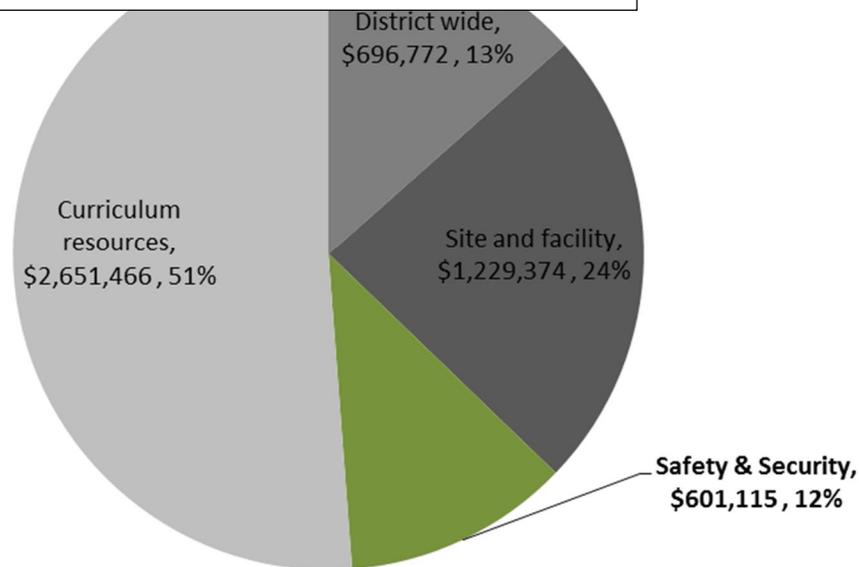
Parents and guardians entrust us with the safety and security of over 20,000 children. It is important that we do everything possible to ensure that our schools are a safe place to learn and work. In Osseo Area Schools, our proactive plan to improve school safety and security includes more than \$16 million of identified needs. The challenge we face is that at the pace of our safety and security investments within existing funding mechanisms, it will take 27 years to fund the plan as it exists today, not including the regular updates that will be needed over that same time frame.

We know what we need to do to improve safety and security. We also know that in order to pay for this essential work, we need more flexible funding mechanisms authorized by the legislature, because those safety and security investments are needed now.

Point #2: Essential needs such as curriculum resources, technology, maintenance and repair, and safety and security compete for the same limited funding within the current operating capital revenue mechanism.

1. For FY 2019, Osseo Area Schools has approximately \$5 million in operating capital revenue. Of that total, 51% is dedicated for curriculum resources and software licenses and applications. Another 24% is dedicated to site equipment replacement and site facility maintenance. Another 13% is dedicated to district-wide technology support (firewall, system back-ups, equipment, website, communication systems), administrative equipment (furniture, copiers), and assessment taxes. This leaves 12% of the funding available for safety and security needs. For FY 2019, we have dedicated the majority of these remaining funds to pay for the first year of a three-year plan to upgrade security cameras from analog to digital at five of our 30+ school sites.

FY 2019 Operating Capital Expenditures (budget)



Point #3: Because existing funding sources are inadequate to meet contemporary security needs, school districts must rely on voter-approved bond issues to fund necessary safety and security improvements.

1. In Osseo Area Schools we estimate it costs \$150,000 to run a special election. Finance elections are a strain on community volunteers who advocate for passage and on district staff members who are required by law to inform voters without advocating for a yes vote.

Point #4: Locally controlled funding mechanisms are in place, but their use is limited by current law. Safety and security does not have an adequate dedicated funding source.

1. The allocation of existing funds for safety and security is at the discretion of the locally elected school board, in that they approve expenditure budgets for those investments. Board members understand the needs of their school community, the condition of their facilities and are in the best position to ensure the safety and security of students.
2. For example, the safe schools levy of \$36 per pupil generates approximately \$800,000 for Osseo Area Schools. While this funding can be used to pay for “facility security enhancements including laminated glass, public announcement systems, emergency communications devices, and equipment and facility modifications related to violence prevention and facility security”, the majority of this funding is used to pay for our school resource officers. In addition, school districts do not have bonding authority for the safe schools levy, making it cost prohibitive to undertake the necessary investment under the category of safe schools levy. Large facility improvements are often funded over 10 to 15 years using bonding authority.
3. Other funding sources such as lease levy and long-term facilities maintenance (LTFM) are used for facility-related purposes and do have bonding authority. Lease levy cannot be used for non-instructional use (such as safety and security). It is often used to add instructional square footage to existing facilities or to lease instructional facilities to meet the needs of the current student population. LTFM funding cannot be used for facility upgrades (including safety and security) and the scope of its availability is inconsistent among districts statewide. LTFM can be used for limited purposes - primarily deferred maintenance and health and safety projects enabling school boards to protect the community’s investment in facilities. Both instructional space needs and deferred maintenance are important and often urgent. Safety and

security has long been important, and is becoming more urgent.

Expanding the LTFM program would be a logical way of funding urgent safety and security needs. If this is done, we would urge the State to also either:

- a. increase the per-pupil maximum of LTFM revenue from the current level of \$380 per pupil, or
- b. treat safety and security expenses like health and safety, for which districts can access additional revenue to fund state-approved critical projects.

If the uses of LTFM are expanded without expanding available revenue in either of the ways I just shared, districts will continue to grapple with difficult choices between safety and security and other critical facility needs each year.

Point #5: With a properly funded plan, schools can make significant and timely improvements in safety and security.

Schools are considered soft targets, as they rarely have the sophisticated security systems seen in the private sector. Target hardening helps deter, detect and deny incidents from taking place. Examples of school target hardening include controlled and secured entrances, door buzzer systems, intercoms, laminated safety glass, security cameras, and access control systems.

Our plan to harden the target in Osseo Area Schools would cost approximately \$16 million. These dollars would allow us to add secure entryways at our three high schools. It would also allow us to add physical security technology to assist staff in monitoring and controlling visitor access to the main office, and to detect when doors are propped or left open. We also want to look at ways to improve communication during emergencies. This would include moving from analog radio system to a digital radio system, and interfacing with new fire alarm equipment that would allow us to use voice evacuation and messaging in an emergency.

Rank	Project Description	Estimated Cost
1.	Hardened secured front entrances, laminated glass, and vestibule entrances at all three (3) high schools & OALC	\$4,000,000.00
2.	Improve hardened front entrances, laminated glass, and vestibule upgrades at four (4) middle schools	\$1,800,000
3.	Improve hardened entrances, laminated glass, and vestibule upgrades at seventeen (17) elementary schools, OEC, and ESC	\$2,000,000
4.	Digital camera system for seventeen (17) elementary sites and ancillary sites throughout district (850 cameras, wiring, servers, licensing)	\$1,700,000
5.	District wide digital visitor management system capable of verifying, tracking, and managing all visitors	\$200,000
6.	Interior door lock set replacement , double lock system that allow staff to lockdown interior doors from inside & outside	\$400,000
7.	Door access control systems for high traffic areas	\$250,000
8.	Security panels and door access sensors for all secondary sites to inform staff of propped exterior doors	\$1,000,000
9.	Security panels and door access sensors for all elementary sites to inform staff of propped exterior doors	\$1,500,000
10.	Integrated fire and lockdown pull stations with voice evacuation messaging at all schools	\$500,000
11.	Upgrade/replace alarm panel replacement at all seventeen elementary sites	\$100,000

12.	Replace aging analog single band radio systems to digital district wide radio system	\$2,000,000
13.	Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) improvements (lighting, landscaping, fencing, etc.)	\$500,000
14.	Build new safety and security office for district safety personnel	\$400,000
15.	Run, Hide, Fight phase II & III production, training, and implementation	\$75,000
	Total Physical Cost Estimate	\$16,425,000

Thank you for allowing us to share this information with the committee. We would be happy to entertain questions at any time, and will leave our contact information with committee staff.