



## Shrewsbury Public Schools

Patrick C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

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19 May 2020

To: School Committee

Subj: RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT SAFER SCHOOLS GRANT: \$50,000

### **Background**

In February 2020, the Governor Baker Administration announced a second round competitive grant program to improve school safety. We were successful in the first round in obtaining \$70,000 to replace and upgrade the Shrewsbury High School public address [PA] system and that work was completed last October 2019.

In the second round, we applied for a replacement emergency communications/public address system for Floral Street School. This is the same system that has already been installed at Parker Road Preschool, Coolidge School, Spring Street School, Paton School, Oak Middle School, and Shrewsbury High School. The system has the capability of placing the entire school into lockdown via the PA system with a push of button. That lockdown button broadcasts a pre-recorded lockdown message from the school principal and simultaneously notifies by text and email the School Resource Officers, Central Office administrators, all building principals that the school has gone into lockdown mode. Additionally, there is a web-based interface that allows Central Office staff to remotely [from our office] place one or more schools into lockdown mode if we have information that would warrant such action.

As we all know, in the event of an emergency seconds count in terms of the effectiveness of a response. This system shortens the time and allows multiple staff at each school to initiate a lockdown and notify multiple people simultaneously.

### **Process**

We completed the application in March 2020 and provided supporting documentation to justify our request. We showed the state that we had been installing this system over time in all of our schools but had not done so yet at Floral Street School due to lack of budget resources. The total cost of equipment, installation, and training is \$50,000. We were pleased to receive news in mid April that we had been awarded our full request of \$50,000. Contingent upon your acceptance, we plan to install the system this coming June 2020. This will afford us the time to receive funds, order equipment, and coordinate an orderly installation with no disruption to school operations.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the School Committee vote to accept the funds using the following motion:

*"I move that the Committee accept the \$50,000 Safer Schools Competitive Grant and use such funds for their intended purpose of improving safety and security communications at Floral Street School."*