

Security upgrades begin in Chippewa Valley this summer

Bids have gone out for some projects

- By Nicole Tuttle For MediaNews Group
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Security camera system upgrades will begin at Chippewa Valley Schools high schools such as Dakota in summer 2019. This is part of the implementation of the bond proposal approved by voters in 2018.

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Chippewa Valley High School and other high schools in the Chippewa Valley district are scheduled to receive upgrades to security camera systems in this summer.

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Projects promised as part of the 2018 bond are slated to begin in Chippewa Valley Schools this summer, and some bids have already gone out.

Voters approved a \$97 million bond issue. Billed as a "Safe Schools, Strong Schools" proposal, it called for financing of updated security technology in district buildings and equipment for the district's Career Technical Education center. Some specifics included upgraded wired and wireless networks, upgraded security cameras, new emergency alert systems, additional doors to secure lobbies and corridors, new busses and replacement of broken sidewalks, sections of roofs and floors.

Under the proposal, the debt millage rate in Chippewa Valley set to expire in 2035 would not increase, but would be extended to 2043. The district currently levies 8.64 mills for debt retirement. A mill is equal to \$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value. Taxable value is approximately one-half of a home's market value.

A bond projects schedule update dated Feb. 4 lists five phases of technology projects dating from 2019 to 2023. The first phase for technology lists projects for summer 2019 to spring 2020. Summer 2019 projects include:

- All buildings: Wireless network infrastructure upgrades
- High schools: Security camera system upgrades
- All buildings: 21st century classrooms, "pilot classrooms."
- Administration building: Data center equipment, partial
- All buildings: teacher devices, partial

Projects for the 2019-20 school year are set to include:

- Middle schools and elementary schools: Security camera system upgrades
- Administration building: Data center equipment, partial

The bond projects schedule dated Feb. 4 also outlines construction projects from 2019 to 2023. The schedule lists the design phase as November 2018 to April 2019, and bid awards from February to June 2019. Summer 2019 projects include:

- Ojibwa Elementary School in Macomb Township: Parking lot
- Dakota High School in Macomb Township: Cougar Drive
- High schools: Secure entry
- Iroquois Middle School in Macomb Township: Roof
- Dakota: North canopy

- High schools: Temperature control upgrade
- Iroquois: Electrical service
- Dakota: Pool lighting
- Chippewa Valley High School in Clinton Township: Band room lighting

Construction projects for the 2019-20 school year are listed as:

- Cheyenne Elementary School in Macomb Township: Office upgrade
- Middle and elementary schools: Classroom door hardware upgrade
- District wide: Install emergency alert system

Plans for furniture, fixtures, equipment and bus replacement were not outlined with specific dates in the Feb. 4 schedule, but listed as items to be scheduled throughout the bond program.

On Feb. 25, the Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education unanimously approved architectural design, technology design and construction management contracts for Wakely Associates in Warren, Metro Technologies Services in Troy, and Barton Malow Company in Southfield. Director of School and Community Relations Diane Blain said these three firms will handle all projects associated with the 2018 bond.

“Both high school entrances have been redesigned and work will begin this summer to complete that safety improvement,” Blain said.

High school classroom door hardware upgrades are also expected to be completed this summer, she added.

“When next school year starts we will be completing the remaining door hardware, adding additional door access controls and installing emergency alert systems in every office,” Blain said.

The district is currently in the design phase of many bond projects, and once this is complete phase one projects will be bid out in the spring. Blain said the companies approved on Feb. 25 will help the district design the bids that go out for each project, bids are accepted and reviewed by the purchasing department and then taken to the board of education for final approval. Blain said that bids have gone out for some projects but that every bid packet has not been received back.

“Final costs will be determined once the bids are in, reviewed and accepted,” Blain said.

Also on Feb. 25, the board approved a contract totaling \$2.02 million to Sentinel Technologies, Inc. for new wireless network and infrastructure equipment. The wireless network award is being paid out of 2018 bond dollars, but total cost may be reduced if there are E-Rate dollars available to the district.

The district participates in a federal program for schools and libraries to help them get discounts on internet service, according to Blain.

The district's website is chippewavalleyschools.org and bond project information can be found under Our District and 2018 Bond Improvements – Safe Schools, Strong Schools. Information there lists that once complete the page will include vendor information.