

North Kingstown School District

Background

North Kingstown School District of Rhode Island inspires and challenges its students to become intellectually active adults. The district engages, empowers and collaborates to ensure that they are providing their students and faculty with the tools necessary for success.

Challenge

Mary King, director of administration for North Kingstown School District, identified that the school district faced great challenges with their antiquated public address, access control and door monitoring systems. King stated "Some of the public address systems are over 20 years old. Wickford Middle School has been limping along for years with their system".



King also went on to mention that the unfortunate tragedy at Sandy Hook has highlighted the emphasis schools must place on process, procedures and equipment necessary to maintain a safe environment for students and faculty.

Solution

When Mary King started working for the school district in the spring of 2012, she made certain that efforts go into a capital improvement plan to keep facilities safe and current. The district prioritized their public address system upgrade because announcements and alerts are essential for implementing emergency procedures and the current system was decentralized. The school committee reached out to a few consultants and selected Integrated Security, Inc. because of their unique approach to the project. They demonstrated their understanding of the k-12 environment and brought to light some challenges and solutions that the school committee hadn't considered.

North Kingstown Schools looked toward the expertise of Integrated Security, Inc. to provide leadership to the district on upgrading their PA systems, door monitoring and access control. King stated " We didn't have the expertise that ISI could provide to manage this process. Working with them provided me with a comfort level that the system installed and managed here will not hand tie us. Their management has focused us toward a system that we can expand on in the future that is open ended". King went on to explain that handling the bid process internally would have yielded 100 bids that may have appeared sufficient to her and her staff. "The expertise, focus and guidance they provided is priceless for the school district".

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Solution cont.

Integrated Security, Inc. conducted a needs assessment to the school district that included a complete review and analysis of existing conditions at each school, interviews with each school's principal and interviews with the local law enforcement. The deliverable included pre-design and budgetary figures for access control, video surveillance, public address, alarm systems, communications, emergency lockdown and door hardware solutions that would collectively improve the physical security of the district.

"ISI brought organization, professionalism, dedication and expertise to the project" King said. "I like the flexibility that ISI delivered to us. They understand how we work and how we need to operate." She went on to explain that each school operates differently and handles specific situations uniquely. Integrated Security, Inc. understood that it was important to uncover each unique operation by conducting interviews with each school's key staff

members to understand how the system would have to function for them.

Mary King also stressed that "For projects like this, all key players and leaders need to be involved and on the same page. As difficult as it may be to get everyone in the same room, it is

the only way you can do it right." Integrated Security, Inc.

delivered on her key point that a system is only as effective as how it is being operated by its users and interfaced with North Kingstown School District's key players and end users to provide a security system design that

meets today's needs and allows for expansion to meet future requirements.

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