

School Security Improvement Project



*Middle School “Aiphone”
Intercom/Camera*

In the wake of the Newtown tragedy, the Wellesley Facilities Maintenance Department (FMD) accelerated security upgrades planned as part of future capital projects. Working closely with Superintendent David Lussier, a plan was developed to immediately improve school security by first locking all exterior doors during the school day. Because only three schools had access control equipment, such as intercoms with door buzzers, this change in protocol required school staff to manually open and close the main entry doors for all visitors and staff during the school day, so a permanent solution was needed quickly.

The scope of this project was to install access control equipment at the schools which did not have any devices, including: Bates, Fiske, Hardy, Hunnewell, Sprague, Upham and the Middle School. The equipment selected is the same type as used in the new High School and consists of intercoms/cameras at the main entry and color monitors/intercoms in the main office. The office equipment also includes a switch to remotely release the door lock allowing access, after proper identification has been provided. Thousands of feet of communications cabling and wire, 14 intercoms and 12 monitors were installed as part of the project. “Aiphone” devices were selected based on their reliable, quality and compatibility with the High School equipment. The installed equipment also has the future capability of reading proximity cards, which will be implemented in

the next phase of security upgrades, the design of which was recently approved at the 2013 Town Meeting.

Initial conceptual costs estimates for this project were in the \$80,000 to \$90,000 range. Using a conventional approach of design-bid-build with outside architects and contractors would have meant that the upgrades wouldn't have been completed until June 2013. The FMD saw this project as an opportunity to take advantage of the capabilities of its in-house Maintenance staff. Working with manufacturer technical representatives, it was determined that we could purchase the equipment at discounted rates from State bid contracts, and perform the vast majority of on-site labor with the FMD's staff. This approach also eliminated the need to engage an architect to prepare design documents and the need for a lengthy public bid process.

The benefits of this in-house approach were dramatic. ***The project was completed at the end of March 2013 – at least 2 months ahead of the traditional out-sourced approach. Equally important was the fact that using in-house labor and purchasing discounted equipment saved the Town a minimum of \$35,000!***

This project is a good example of the capacity, expertise and value of the new Facilities Maintenance Department, and our ability to respond quickly to critical situations.



*Fiske School “Aiphone”
Monitor*