

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

September 26, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Technology for School Safety (08-30-18-06)

Question

Mrs. Smondrowski requested information regarding the outcome of conversations with the company that wanted to install new technology that would scan a general area for certain safety concerns.

Response

Dr. Andrew M. Zuckerman, chief operating officer, and Mr. Robert B. Hellmuth, director, Department of School Safety and Security, met with Global Protection Systems representatives on June 14, 2018, to learn about new technology that is being developed in the security field. Global Protection Systems utilizes a security technology, ThruVis, which relies on thermal imaging technology to detect weapons. Each system costs between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

The informative presentation pointed to the types of future technologies that may be beneficial in the school safety arena. Currently, ThruVis remains untested in the education sector and is not specifically designed for school environments. As the school safety field continues to evolve, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will closely monitor emerging technologies and best practices for potential application in MCPS schools.

Depending on resource availability, MCPS may consider issuing a Request for Proposals for various categories of safety technology in the future, in addition to the camera systems, access control systems, and visitor management systems currently in place in all schools. MCPS staff may engage with vendors consistent with applicable laws, Board of Education ethics policy, and MCPS procurement processes, which limit direct engagement with vendors beyond informational meetings such as the June 14, 2018 meeting with Global Protection Systems representatives.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Andrew M. Zuckerman, chief operating officer, at 240-740-3050.

JRS:AMZ:sro

Copy to:

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| Dr. Navarro | Mr. Civin | Mr. Turner |
| Dr. Statham | Dr. Johnson | Mr. Hellmuth |
| Dr. Zuckerman | Ms. Diamond | Mr. Ikheloa |