

District 201U OKs security system for new high school

July 19, 2007

BY **LYNDA J. HEMMERLING** The Star

Not so much because of past vandalism but primarily for the safety of students and the general school population, a security system will be installed at the new Crete-Monee High School, officials say.

The District 201U school board unanimously approved an electronic security system purchase from Stanley Security Solutions, which has provided a similar interface system for Monee Elementary and Crete-Monee Middle schools, officials said.

Director of facilities management Daniel Bolm said the \$15,677 intruder alarm system is standard for this size building and includes a five-year monitoring service.

The 320,000-square-foot building will house about 1,500 high school students.

During discussion, board member Nancy Colletti asked if the district planned to reduce the lighting at the high school once the new system was installed.

The building was vandalized between Jan. 6 and 8 and Colletti said she thought the additional lighting was for security purposes.

Board president Tom Verbeke said 201U is not yet paying the electric bill at the building and that he asked Bolm to turn on additional exterior lights so taxpayers could admire the new building at night.

Colletti said she will be glad to pass the information to residents who were concerned about the increased lighting and related costs.

Board member Tom Hysell said some of the lighting could be reduced when the new security system is installed.

Verbeke said once the district is footing the bill, the lighting will "definitely" be reduced.

"We're very, very close to getting it done and we're very, very excited," Verbeke said. "People are asking when they can come see the building because it looks so beautiful."

Bolm said the building has not been vandalized since the January incident which caused about \$20,000 in damages. New fences and other security measures were added to prohibit similar problems.

No one has been charged with the crime, Crete Police Chief Paul VanDeraa said, and there have been no similar, subsequent incidents of vandalism.

Bolm said the intruder alarm system will interface directly with the district's access control system and is primarily for internal use.

"The district will have more control over who has the ability to arm or disarm the building," he said.

Verbeke said it seems like a good system. "It sounds nice," he said.

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