

## SUMMER 2020 FACILITIES PROJECTS

# Meeting the needs of safety, security and functionality

By Trish Yerges

The La Grande School District’s bond and facilities manager Joseph Waite has a schedule of upgrades, repairs, remodels and installations that will be performed during the summer break. All of these projects are important to the safety, security and utilization of the district’s facilities.

Top on the district’s list of priority projects is the door-networking district-wide, as well as hardware upgrades at the Willow Street district office building. This project was started at the end of February and will be completed prior to June 30, 2020

“As part of the bond, the district added stand-alone card readers at all perimeter doors at all schools to increase safety and security to all schools,” said Waite. “In the new schools and buildings, including Central Elementary, the high school’s CTE building and Island City Elementary, they were equipped with networked card readers.”

The difference between stand-alone units and networked doors is that the stand alone units require a manual upload to program the credentials for allowing access to card holders, whereas with the networked doors, the information is sent virtually and updated within seconds.

“It was always the intention of the district,” he added, “to upgrade the stand-alone locks. Funds for this project were obtained through E-Rate rebates. Originally these funds were denied due to a technicality

during processing of our application.”

However, business manager Chris Panike tenaciously stuck with the process of appeals and persisted in frequent communications with the E-Rate managers until

they accepted the district’s application and provided the district the rebate work of about \$118,000.

This project includes building a separate network within each building that ties into our card access

software housed at the Willow Street district office. This will allow the district to respond much more quickly to security needs.

“Lost cards can be deleted from the system,” he said.

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