

New Brunswick Board of Education



YOUR FIRE AND SECURITY SOLUTION

AFA provides innovative security solution
to New Jersey school district



CASE STUDY

The New Brunswick Board of Education (New Brunswick Schools) oversees a Public School system consisting of neighborhood elementary schools, a middle school and New Brunswick High School. In those 15 facilities, there are collectively more than 10,200 students and nearly 2,000 certified teachers and professional support staff members. New Brunswick Schools, wanting to proactively heighten their security protocols at all 15 of their facilities, turned to their trusted fire alarm and security vendor, AFA Protective Systems, Inc.

SCHOOL BOARD WANTED ENHANCED CONTROLS OVER ALL ENTRY POINTS

Since 1998, AFA Protective Systems had been providing fire alarm monitoring and inspections to the New Brunswick Schools districtwide. As the partnership between New Brunswick Schools and AFA grew throughout the next decade, so did the scope of services AFA provided. Appreciating AFA's responsiveness and competency, New Brunswick Schools asked AFA to provide burglar alarms as well as camera systems to select schools across the school district.

In 2012, a grim trend of shootings became a national headline in the United States. The most chilling of these shootings were those occurring in grade schools. The New Brunswick Schools wasted no time contacting AFA to come up with a solution that would increase the security of their schools from unwanted intruders.

The key issue for New Brunswick Schools was to have knowledge and control of everyone who was entering each building. Each school had many people (eg. parents, vendors, deliveries) entering every day for various reasons with no identification. "There was no way for us to control who was coming in and from where," said Richard Jannarone, New Brunswick Board Administrator.

Furthermore, the New Brunswick Schools did not want to use keys or an access control system in order to control the flow of non-students and teachers into their schools. Since accountability was a crucial factor, they did not want to issue any object that could possibly be lost.

AFA PROVIDES CUSTOM SOLUTION FOR EACH SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT

With safety of the school children and staff being the primary focus, Jim Maraday and his team at AFA went to work to develop a security system and protocol to account for any visitor. "We went into each school to identify critical doors and access points," said Maraday. "This exercise provided us with the baseline to discuss the best way to help the individual schools enhance their security."

Following AFA's internal analysis, Maraday and his team determined that the best way to have control and oversight of school visitors was to create a central entry area where visitors would have to be authorized by school security to enter the premise. "We developed a system to herd visitors into one or two entry points for each building," said Maraday. "The only way for a person to get into the building was for a school security guard to recognize you and then manually let you in."

The customer agreed to implement a central communication and security checkpoint for visitor entry at various schools. Maraday and the AFA team were able to develop the system by installing an iPhone intercom unit at each location and connecting it with a Maglock for entry. The school security guards could now have complete control over entry points. The intercom system gave guards the ability to see, hear and speak to any visitor. If verified, security guards would also be able to press the release button and grant access.

AFA's operations team was tasked with installing the new security systems at all 15 schools. The main obstacle for AFA's installation was the need to work around normal school hours. AFA was able to schedule around class times to do all wiring and device installations after 2:30pm. Despite the scheduling obstacle, the work was completed on time.

AFA HELPS SCHOOL BOARD ENHANCE CONTROL AND OPERATIONS

AFA was able to install 15 systems across New Brunswick Public Schools District, enhancing each facilities security and awareness of visitors. "Since AFA installed and organized our entrance protocols, each building's security has been much easier to manage," said Jannarone. "The checkpoint security system allowed each school to free up and utilize their security personnel in more critical areas around the outside and inside of the premise instead of having them concentrated or stationary at each of the school doors."

A decade after the installation of their checkpoint security solution, New Brunswick Schools continues to rely on AFA Protective Systems to provide fire alarm and security services to the school district.