

New emergency call system approved for Maury schools

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The need for a new emergency call system was sounded during a Maury County School Board meeting.

The school board voted Thursday to replace the existing emergency phone system with an upgraded system. A bid from Reliance Communications Inc. of Santa Cruz, Calif., has been accepted in the amount of \$18,975, based on a three-year contract.

The existing system costs about \$1.75 per student, School Board Chairman Shaw Daniels said.

“We were looking at a different service that offers a few more options, and as it turns out, the new system will be more cost-effective as well,” Daniels said Friday.

The new system, SchoolMessenger, offers several social media and accessibility options, including text and email notifications, Facebook and Twitter integration, iPhone support, interactive messaging, the ability to perform automated phone surveys and translation capabilities.

An internal memo within the school system said the new system will also have the ability to integrate with the cafeteria student account management systems.

Kim Doddridge, communications specialist for Maury County Public Schools, said she’s glad the new system is coming.

“As a heavy user of the system, I’ll welcome the change,” she said Thursday. “It will help us to better communicate with parents. We have many parents who do not use English as their first language, and the new system will help us to better translate for them, which is something the current system doesn’t offer.”

Daniels said he’s not sure when SchoolMessenger will be installed, and that date depends on the end date of the contract with the existing system, One Command.

Original Link:

http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2011/09/12/top_stories/05emergency.txt?sessinfo=5f2270eb49fcfa95f68943c1b49edaeca7a6c73189607e8f7e5fbf27421d2a9d2bf9303442da7b1960e80109bc697bad78c5434c3fcdcf55e078bc61399071749dff889188aaf08e6759ede16b069609b8e2d11a0e97e7602406a3f79502e5eebd4618a3bb977b4f7a3537577c12b942c2626193e803349722d5b164d169cea539639ac78f863b8380d0b19c4c93685c6d70f8b7d97d7b3001e972ed8ec15dea6260cff4b405419ce96f9e332cc6917918d5f327e24c4f9728a6f7b576d10459f5df7953b2f11adc15b3af1166902b262358072c747d6ece5a13cdc36483f8257a755fc6ef1856446d1acd4cd85be361bb3012cae74f474f78984ef5d1125e