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Union CSD Explores Technology Programs to Boost Safety

LA PORTE CITY, IOWA — Union Community School District is considering new safety technology programs as part of the projects that could be funded by a \$20.5 million bond referendum on Nov. 5.

District officials are evaluating two security programs — Centegix and ZeroEyes — that have been recognized for their role in assisting schools amid dangerous situations.

[Centegix](#) is a technology company that supports school districts by providing badges to staff members that can activate a school's doors, intercoms, and lights while alerting colleagues and law enforcement in emergencies. The system was used as a shooting happened at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia on September 4.

[ZeroEyes](#) uses artificial intelligence-based technology to detect weapons through security cameras, notifying staff and security personnel of potential threats.

"Keeping students safe is the top priority of any school district," said Superintendent John Howard. "We are always seeking ways to enhance security and ensure our schools are prepared for emergencies. These technologies are among the potential investments we could make with bond revenue."

"With the realities of school violence and school shootings becoming more prevalent across our nation, we are obligated to use any and all available resources to give our officers, children and teachers any and all advantage, advanced warning, and tangible resources to prevent these occurrences from becoming a local nightmare," Black Hawk County Sheriff Tony Thompson said. "It is a pleasure to recognize that our local school districts are responding to these pressing issues in a logical, proactive, and pragmatic way to leverage every technology so that our schools can focus attention on teaching in as safe an environment as possible."

"It's really uplifting to see the Union Community School District stepping up to prioritize the safety and security of our students and staff," said Tama County Deputy Casey Schmidt. "It's essential for school districts and the communities they serve to recognize that safety in our schools is a top priority. I'm truly impressed by the proactive measures our local school district is taking to protect our children. The use of advanced technology will greatly enhance our school safety and it's exciting to see how we're incorporating these tools to support both students and staff."

Voters in the Union CSD will go to the polls on November 5 to consider a \$20.5 million bond referendum that would provide the district with financing for a variety of improvements at all of its schools in Dysart and La Porte City, including structural upgrades and these safety enhancements.

More information about the bond referendum can be found at <https://www.uknighted4u.org>.

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