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Lockdown and more with one push of a button



Long Island school district helped develop new solution
by: [Amy Canfield](#) - Friday, April 18, 2014

MASSAPEQUA, N.Y.—The superintendent of the Plainedge School District is confident in the effectiveness of a one-button lockdown system that will soon go live in the high school here. He should be. He helped develop it.

Superintendent Edward Salina worked alongside Lee Mandel, owner of Long Island-based systems integrator and manufacturer IntraLogic Solutions, to create the add-on software solution, ILS One Button Lockdown.

When Salina, who has a background in engineering and tech, took over running the school district about three years ago, there were no cameras in place. "It was basically an open campus district-wide. Anyone could walk in," Salina told Security Director News.

He started interviewing companies about what they thought the district needed to secure its students and staff.

Among those he met with was Mandel, whose company was already monitoring the district's fire and burglar alarm systems. He told Mandel he wanted an automated, full-fledged security system.

"What can we do when an event happens that requires a reaction? What and who will be involved? How can we expedite this," Salina recalls asking Mandel.

Salina, also a former school principal, wanted reactions to be simultaneous if a serious event occurred at one of his schools. "You think of all things that have to happen. There's no way humanly possible that you can do all that and make everyone happy."

Mandel and Salina came up with a solution that with one push of a "panic button" will within one minute:

- Alert law enforcement that there is an event at a school that needs immediate attention.
- Secure the perimeter by locking all exterior doors and disabling access control cards, and also by incorporating a feature that alerts if a door has not been automatically locked because it has been propped open, for example.
- Send out a prerecorded audio message within the building that the school is in lockdown. The message, recorded by a principal or district official, can also be sent to multiple school buildings if the situation warrants.
- Activate strobe lights on the exterior of the school to alert that the school is on lockdown and no one should try to enter.
- Put a lockdown message on every computer screen, smart board and IP phone in the building.
- Send text messages to parents about the situation.

The system also has the capability to push out to local law enforcement officers' laptops and other mobile devices the exact location where the lockdown was initiated and provide digital, interactive floor plans of the building and live access to surveillance cameras. That's a facet Salina hopes local law enforcement soon will embrace.

"Police have the ability, but they still have to make the investment in technology. We're not quite there, but we still have that vision to provide that access to the 911 center," he said.

In addition, ILS provides Vital Sign Monitoring of One Button Lockdown to ensure the system is always up and running so there will be no surprises in the event of an emergency.

At the 1,083 student, 100 staff-member Plainedge High School, those who will have access to the system will be trained over the next few weeks. Access will be available through strategic points inside the school and from authorized users' mobile devices.

Rollouts at the district's four other schools will follow.

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Mandel, who has been in business for 10 years, has a patent pending on ILS One Button Lockdown. ILS started out only as an integrator, then began to manufacture some of its own products, including DVRs and OEM cameras. One Button Lockdown, however, is the first of its manufactured products that it wants to franchise and/or certify other integrators to install, he said.

"In the local area we do it start to finish, from manufacture to install," he said, "but we don't want to push other integrators out elsewhere in the country."

He and Salina, who has no financial connection to ILS, presented the technology at a meeting of the National School Board Association last month in New Orleans.

Reception to the product was great, Mandel told Security Director News, due in part to the fact that "it sits on top of a current (security) platform and works in tandem with it."

"About 80 percent of schools have cameras and access control, but we can take what they have and make it all work together," he said. There's no need for new equipment, just the software.

Added Salina, "Every second counts" in an emergency at a school. "This allows us to manage the situation and focus on the safety of individuals in the buildings."

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The image shows a vertical scroll of three tweets. The top tweet is from Kenneth Trump (@safeschools) with 1 million retweets, mentioning a stabbing incident at a high school. The middle tweet is from Amy Canfield (@SDN_Editor) with 39 million retweets, discussing school lockdowns. The bottom tweet is from SSN_Editor (@SSN_Editor) with 13 hours of activity, talking about ADT's plan for small businesses.

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