

Axis provides crash course on school security with network video.

Long Beach High School deploys surveillance system in 45 days.



Organization:
Long Beach School
District

Location:
Long Beach, New York,
USA

Industry segment:
Education

Application:
Remote monitoring of
school premises

Axis partner:
A+ Technology Solutions

Mission

With graduation ceremonies less than two months away, Long Beach, New York school officials were concerned that minor scuffles might escalate into a serious incident. The Board of Education and the district superintendent mandated that a security system be installed at the high school before commencement to help administrators, faculty and staff head off problems. They expected surveillance in the remaining school district buildings to be up and running by the start of the new school year.

Solution

In just 45 days, A+ Technology Solutions, a Bay Shore, NY-based security integration firm, designed and installed an effective deterrent system based on network

surveillance technology. Leveraging the district's existing wide area network, A+ Technology deployed several models of network cameras from Axis Communications in strategic locations throughout the school and its environs.

Result

School principals can now monitor activity within their buildings, on their playing fields and their parking lots from consoles in their offices. Using two-way radios, they are able to share their observations with security personnel patrolling their facilities who can quickly intercede in minor problems before they get out of hand.

"It's a very proactive surveillance solution that helps everyone prevent minor problems from blowing up into full-scale incidents."

David Antar, President and CEO of A+ Technology Solutions.

Leveraging the existing network

Since the high school already had a robust wide area network (WAN) supporting the district's voice-over IP, Internet access and other technology, adding an IP-based video surveillance system was relatively easy. A+ Technology installed short runs of CAT-5E cable from the network cameras to the closest network closets, avoiding the lengthy homerun of coax cables and extensive drilling into cast concrete walls that would be required of an analog security system. "We were able to leverage existing raceways," explains David Antar, "which made the job feasible in such a relatively short timeframe."

Keeping close watch

A+ Technology Solutions chose several models of Axis network cameras to heighten security throughout the high school. "These cameras transmit incredibly crisp, high-resolution images," says Antar, "which is critical in helping administration and security personnel clearly identify individuals."

The security integrators selected AXIS 216FD Network Cameras for the hallways, stairs and larger areas where students congregate, such as the music room, gymnasium, pool and cafeteria. They mounted tamper-proof and vandal-resistant AXIS 225FD Network Cameras on the exterior walls of the building. To cover a larger area with fewer cameras, they placed AXIS 215 PTZ Network Cameras on light poles in the parking lots and playing fields.

The high school installation also included three analog cameras running on a DynaPel video analytics appliance that automatically maneuvers those cameras in specific exterior locations. An AXIS 241Q four-port video encoder digitizes the video coming from those analog cameras so they can be viewed over the network.

As the surveillance system expands to include the district's four elementary and one middle school, as well as administrative and transportation building, the recording component remains centralized in the high school, which contains the core of the WAN. "Our deployment leverages the local area networks within buildings and the high bandwidth of the wide area network between locations," shares Antar. "This gives all authorized personnel the same viewing capabilities from any security console."

The IP-based system, which is built on an open standard platform, is extremely scalable. Additional network cameras and security features can be added to the video surveillance system with minimal disruption. With IPVideo's DynaView NVR (network video recorder) security management platform, the school district can easily integrate video surveillance, IP intercoms, video analytics, building management systems and text messaging alerts into a single unified solution. There are also plans to incorporate an access control system that will send an e-mail or text message alert to authorities if someone attempts to use a security keycard to gain access to a room they are not authorized to enter. This system can also direct the Axis PTZ cameras to a preset position during a security breach or alert.

The decision to combine the school district's existing WAN infrastructure with network cameras, short-run Power over Ethernet cabling and remote management, has saved the district thousands of dollars over an analog surveillance solution. In addition, the IP-based system gives the district the scalability to expand surveillance to new buildings or add network cameras to an existing site without having to install extra cables and wiring.

