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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Community Schools, Thriving Students

Memo

To Facilities Committee

From Tadashi Nakadegawa, Acting Deputy Chief, Facilities Planning and Management

Committee Meeting Date January 10, 2020

Subject Health & Safety-Fire Extinguisher Compliance

Action Identify potential sources of additional support for fire extinguisher compliance

**Background/
Discussion**

Fire extinguishers are an essential element of our fire safety protocol. Up through 2018 we had and maintained approximately 4500 fire extinguishers. Most school sites have had fire extinguishers in the common areas and distributed through the site. Up until 2017 we had been complying with building code requirements as cited by the Oakland Fire Marshal. Following the tragic "Ghost Ship Fire" in 2016, the Fire Marshall staffed up in 2017 and started more detailed enforcement of code sections not previously cited. The inspectors are now requiring us to have extinguishers in almost twice as many locations. To comply with this, the District purchased 4,100 fire extinguishers during last fiscal year.

Another factor affecting costs is increased scrutiny by the County of Alameda Williams inspection team. As the Williams team focused in detail on fire extinguishers, we had to authorize additional services to correct deficiencies not previously identified.

The District has delivered all extinguishers required by the Alameda County Williams Compliance FIT Inspections, as well as to 90% of all Middle Schools and High Schools. The remaining schools will receive extinguishers by the end of February.

The cost of maintaining the required yearly service for inspection, repair, recharge, and/or replacement will be increasing as additional extinguishers are delivered.

Malicious discharge of fire extinguishers is also an ongoing cost issue. These incidents tend to be sporadic and unpredictable and while we have had good results with communication on classroom management, the presence of more extinguishers may lead to an increase in costs for clean up and repair.

The yearly costs for fire extinguisher repair and maintenance will be increasing with requirement of more units in place. In 2017/2018 the cost was \$30,000 In 2018/2019 Fire Extinguisher expenditure was \$64,000 (this increase was to correct the highest priority fire extinguisher Williams deficiencies). In 2019/2020 the cost is projected to drop to \$45,000 and is currently projected to stabilize for 2020/2021 as the new extinguishers will not have to be serviced for two years. Our next cost increase will be in 2021/2022 and is projected to be approximately \$86,000 with another \$5,000 to \$10,000 increase yearly from that point on for replacement of extinguishers no longer serviceable.

Recommendation

We recommend that Business Services work with us to identify the additional funding necessary to comply with all regulations.

Fiscal Impact

Projected need for \$5,000 - \$10,000 additional fire extinguisher repair and replacement funds year over year

Attachment

N/A