

# AN EDUCATED

## PELCO PRODUCTS SECURE THE MICHIGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

By Kathleen Rhodes, Marketing Communications Writer



Schools are a space for students to grasp knowledge, question ideas and expand their understanding of the world they live in. But in order for students to feel comfortable enough to embrace new ideas, they need to be in an environment where they feel secure. Pelco has developed video security solutions that are ideal for protecting students and teachers. From single-building complexes to multi-facility institutions, Pelco offers reliable, high-quality, cost-effective security solutions that deliver peace of mind.

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In Auburn Hills, Michigan, the Avondale School District was in search of a way to protect the people and property on the district's seven campuses. When voters in the district approved a bond measure to finance increased technology, the Avondale School District turned to Pelco for a solution that would assist in protecting the children of their community. Project manager David A. Elya of Wright & Hunter designed the system, and D/A Central, Inc. was brought on board as the system integrator.



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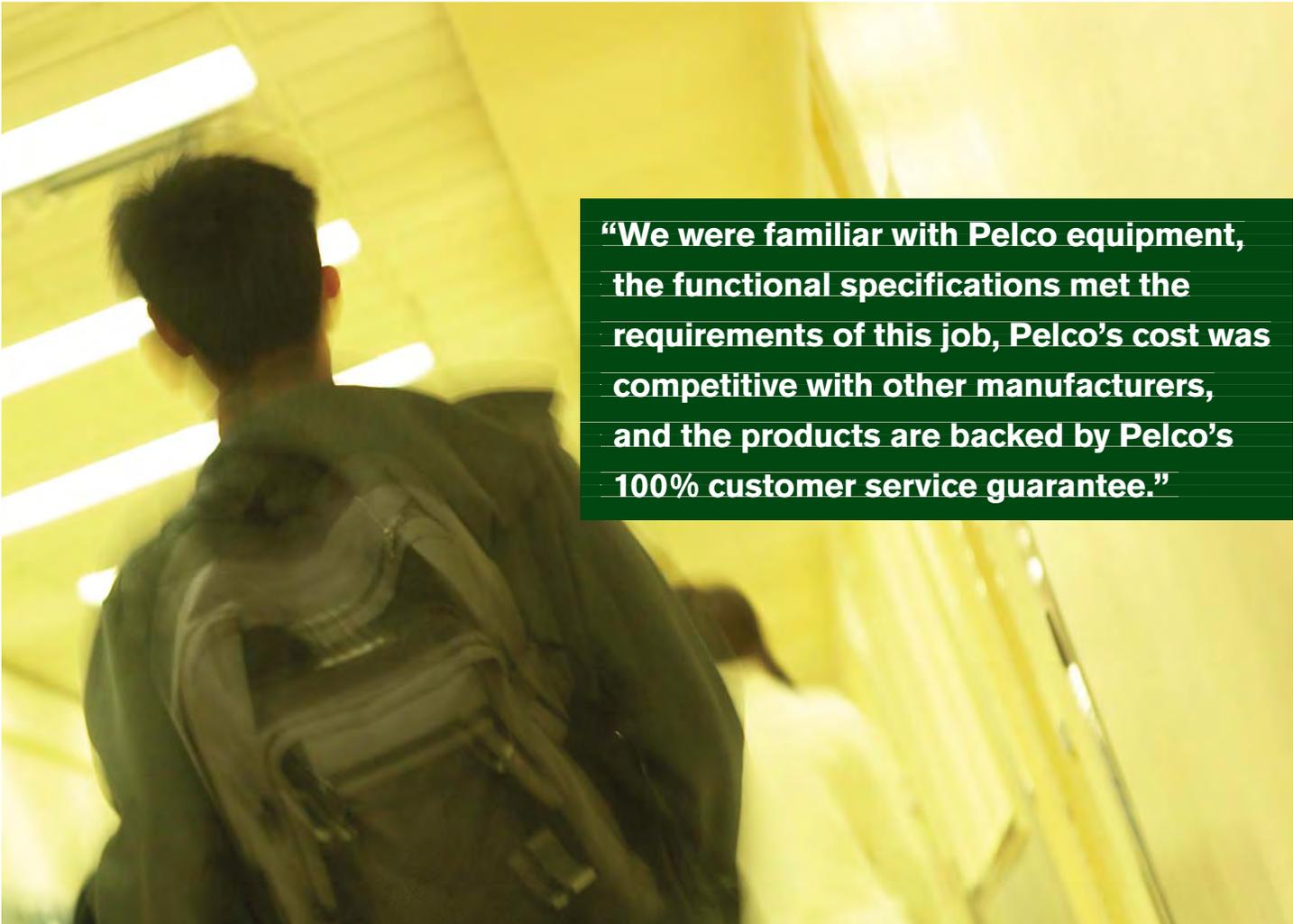
According to Chris Chlebek, the district’s Interim Director of IT Services, the district looked at other video security manufacturers but found there were many advantages that came with a Pelco security solution. “We were familiar with Pelco equipment, the functional specifications met the requirements of this job, Pelco’s cost was competitive with other manufacturers, and the products are backed by Pelco’s 100% customer service guarantee.”

#### **Total Buy-In**

The community was in favor of installing video security on campus, but some teachers and students were apprehensive that the system could be used to encroach on their privacy. To help address these concerns, Wright and Hunter designed a system that did not include cameras inside of classrooms.

“We needed to be sensitive to privacy issues,” says David Elya of Wright and Hunter. “One of the main challenges was creating an understanding with the teaching staff that the video security system was there to protect students and facility, not to correct them.”

A number of Pelco cameras were installed throughout the district, including Spectra III dome systems and DF5 Series Fixed Mount Dome Camera systems. “Our primary goal was student safety, thus the majority of the cameras watch the interior locations of the doors and hallways,” explains Elya. But he says it was also important that the system keep watch over the exterior grounds, especially the student drop-off and pick-up points. “Those exterior cameras provide a greater awareness of what is happening around the school.”



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Video is recorded at each campus on Pelco DX8000 digital video recorders. Featuring sharp image quality, immense storage capacity and server-to-server connectivity with control, the DX8000 is the perfect choice for securing the schools of the Avondale School District. The administrative office on each campus is home to its own workstation, enabling staff members to monitor live video from anywhere on the campus, and review recorded video. When incidents occur that involve the local police department, the DX8000 makes it easy to share recorded video with authorities. Administrative office personnel praise the system for its reliability and ease-of-use.

School officials say the Pelco video security system has met their expectations, successfully detouring vandals

and helping to resolve conflicts on and around campus. But the system has also delivered some unexpected benefits. “The system was not envisioned as a risk management benefit prior to the project, but this has become an obvious added benefit,” says Chlebek. Cameras are also capturing other unexpected events that occur on campus, helping authorities to conduct more comprehensive investigations.

Now that the Avondale School District has experienced a Pelco security solution, they plan on expanding the system by adding additional cameras. District leaders say the Pelco system has helped to make Avondale District schools safer and more secure, which consequently enables both teachers and students to focus on what is most important – learning.