2019-2020 changes/upgrades:

-Simpson Elementary has the fast paths system throughout the building and staff has been trained on the system. The cameras have yet to have the names changed to match, but this is in the works. Every classroom has been updated to have fast path visuals in the classroom as well as new tornado shelter/fire exit visual with updated information.

-The staff is getting use to keeping the doors locked. All magnets have been removed. All special education teachers and paraprofessionals have master keys to help with transitions and keeping doors locked. In addition, each classroom has a spare key that is now checked out when we have a substitute teacher to help with locked doors.

Improvements that still need to be made:

-With legislative changes, we now have doors that are not appropriate due to the changing of language in the law. Because instruction takes place in our gym, we need to change/adapt at least five doors in order to be able to lock and still exit in the event of an emergency. We have the same issue in the library. We need four doors that we could lock due the fact that they currently don’t and instruction does take place in this space. In addition, we need the door changed in Mrs. Caudill’s room because it can be locked, but it can’t be exited in the event of an emergency without manually unlocking the core. We could maybe make some exceptions to save on the total expense, but this is an essential change due to the legislation. This is a continuing request and has even been noted by a door expert that the district brought in. I checked, and this has been an issue that has been noted dating back to our last school security and vulnerability assessment completed in 2006.

-The gate that opens off the playground and has a caster will needs to be looked at again. Maintenance has put a wheel on, but over time the wheel has sagged and the gate has gotten to be more flimsy. This is a concern, because this is the primary exit in the event of an active shooter within the building and students that were on the playground would have to exit.

-There is a tree that appears to be dead that is hanging over the playground fence. This tree needs to be removed/trimmed. Also, I have put this request in before, but the trees that hang over the fence are starting to top themselves. I have had multiple reports of limbs almost hitting children as they are on the swings.

-The entire back section of the playground fence has come loose from the pole. This is a concern because the fence can easily be lifted and a student could enter or exit the playground. Again, this is almost the entire back section of the playground fence.

-There is a hole in the front of the building that continually opens up. I have put the request in multiple times, but it has never been adequately fixed. Last summer, maintenance put 350 pounds of quickcrete in the hole, but some washed out and the hole is starting to open up again. As even more time has gone on, the quickcrete is starting to bust up into large clumps that could be thrown.

-I would like to have the openings between each classroom to be blocked off. Only Mrs. Dixon and Mrs. Phillips couldn’t have their connections blocked off since their rooms don’t open into a hallway. This helps to slow an intruder down in the case of an active shooter. As it stands now, if an intruder gains access to one room, they have access to two rooms even if the doors were locked properly. If you would still like to have access between the rooms, you could still block up, but add a door. I did check with a local contractor and he gave me a quote of $900 per enclosure (this wouldn’t include a door if you chose to put a door between the classrooms). If we enclosed without a door, we could only do this to four sections for a total cost of $3,600. If we added doors, we could do this to six sections and would have the added cost of a door.

-There are two doors between Mrs. Halcomb, Mrs. Phillips, and Ms. Tucker. These doors open into one another and in the case of an emergency, there could be a bottleneck. It would help if the doors opened in the opposite direction of how they open now.

-Some type of visual obstruction that could be put on our playground fence that faces the parking lot. Many sporting venues have this type of obstruction to block the view of a game. We would like this to limit the view of students on our playground to help keep them protected.

-It was pointed out to me that our cafeteria provides potential for a mass shooting without even having to enter into the building due to the windows that are in the front of the building. Is there any type of visual obstruction that could be provided for our cafeteria that would make an active shooter at least shoot blind if they were trying to shoot into the building from the outside?

-Also, I would like to have our front office secretaries protected with bullet resistant glass rather than what is currently in place with just regular panel glass.

-We would like to have the angle of one of the floodlights shifted to point more at our dumpsters so our night custodial staff isn’t going out into the darkness to dump trash without a clearer line of sight. Also, during our last school play, many parents complained about how dark the walk was from the side parking lot to the front of the school. We would like another flood light added that would point to the sidewalk that connects the side parking lot to the main parking lot.

-A piece of siding has come off the pavilion on the playground. We often have issues with wasps around the pavilion. If we don’t get this closed off, in the spring we will have more access for the wasps.

-The sidewalk next to our FRC has started to get water under it and soil has been washed away. This is a concern because this is a fire exit from the building.

-There is a rusting piece of metal that is sunken down into our sidewalk under the flagpole. This not only is an eye sore, but could be a tripping hazard in our main walkway.

-We have scrap that needs to be removed from our playground.

-We need a new chain and lock on the gait that faces our soccer/softball complex. This has completely rusted out. Also, on the back side of the playground by door 19 needs to be replaced with a chain and lock that could be tightened rather than the chain that is currently in place. Also, the lock is currently frozen and is a safety hazard in the event of a need to exit from the playground.