



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF

**South Orange
& Maplewood™**

Department of Information Technology

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To: Jason Bing, Superintendent
From: Keith Bonds, Director of Technology
Date: June 11, 2025
Subject: CHS, MMS, and SOMS Auditorium - Board of School Estimate Work

As requested, below is an outline of the work pending on the auditoriums at our secondary schools. Please note that the pricing for replacement lighting at SOMS and MMS are not included. This information will be provided once price quotes are received by the district.

Columbia High School - Auditorium Work - Phase 2 (Lighting)

Cost: \$1,124,278

Proposal: [CHS Lighting \(Click Here\)](#)

The auditorium work at CHS consists of two phases. Phase 1 focused on the rigging in the CHS auditorium. During this phase, the existing lighting system and components were removed from the rigging and reinstalled once the rigging was replaced. Phase 2 focuses on replacing the entire lighting system and electrical components. The district will continue to obtain feedback from various stakeholders on the configuration of the lighting system in the CHS auditorium, similar to what was done with the rigging system. Work will start on the lighting system shortly after the rigging is complete.

Maplewood Middle School - Auditorium Work

Cost: \$218,133

Proposal: [MMS Rigging \(Click Here\)](#)

Maplewood Middle School is in need of significant rigging work. There have been a number of inspections done by ETCP-certified inspectors that have recommended the rigging be replaced. The system is well past its designed functional usefulness and should be replaced as soon as possible. Below is an outline of the work to be performed on the rigging:

- All the rigging points and loft blocks are mounted to 3-4" pipes used in place of supplementary steel. Pipes are on 10' centers (max allowable is 8'0"). Some of these are supported into the concrete-encased beams, some through the proscenium and rear



walls. The existing rigging points are a mixture of dog chain, rusted chain, open S-hooks, and wire rope that has been improperly terminated. All of this does not meet the ETCP standard and should be replaced. The proposed scope of work entails demo of the existing 'grid' and replacement with supplementary steel properly spaced and mounted via new rigging points.

- The hand winches and counterweight sets are worn out, unmaintained, and do not meet minimum rigging standards. Hand winches are not designed for overhead lifting because of the physical effort required to rotate the handle to move the pipes. The rope locks are not holding the undersized hemp rope accordingly. The proposed rope will convert these sets to dead hung (fixed). These sets will no longer 'fly' but will become safe for a reasonable amount of work.
- Coupled plumbing pipes have been used. These are proposed to be replaced with 1 ½" schedule 40 pipe battens sleeved.
- The "guts" on the tracks are very outdated and require replacement. The quote proposes replacing only the "guts," i.e., floor pulley, upline, live and dead end pulleys, carriers, and master carriers. The existing track will be reused.
- Curtains are very old and dry-rotting and proposed to be fully replaced.

The lighting system is also in need of replacement. There have been a number of incidents over the past few months that have required repair. Unfortunately, the system is no longer supported by the manufacturer, which makes sourcing replacement parts difficult. The district is waiting for preliminary quotes for a replacement lighting system. A replacement system was previously quoted at \$70,000. Updated pricing pending.

South Orange Middle School - Auditorium Work

Cost: \$583,607

Proposal: [SOMS Rigging \(Click Here\)](#)

South Orange Middle School is also in need of significant rigging work. There have been a number of inspections done by ETCP-certified inspectors that have recommended the rigging be replaced. The system is well past its designed functional usefulness and should be replaced as soon as possible. It is a complex system composed of two different rigging types. A complete teardown and rebuild of the rigging and associated components are recommended by the rigging company.

South Orange Middle School - Little Theatre Auditorium Work

Cost: \$93,019

Proposal: [SOMS Little Theatre Rigging \(Click Here\)](#)



South Orange Middle School Little Theatre is an ancillary theater in the school that is used for various performances. While not as extensive as the school's main theater, SOMS Little Theatre needs significant work performed on the rigging. Below is an outline of the work to be performed:

- The valance & main are old and should be replaced. The upstage curtains are new and are to remain.
- The "guts" from the tracks for the main and rear travelers should be replaced. This consists of carriers, pulleys, operating line, and floor pulleys. The tracks are in decent condition and will remain.
- None of the rigging points (the rigging between the tracks/pipes and the building structure) meet the ETCP code standard. Dog chains and open S-hooks are not code compliant and require replacement using 1/4" proof coil chain and forged anchor shackles.
- Undersized plumbing pipes have been identified and are also not code compliant. The quote proposes replacing them with 1 1/2" schedule 40 pipe battens.
- The Roto-Draper is worn out and not working properly and will also be replaced.

The lighting system is also in need of replacement. There have been a number of incidents over the past few months that have required repair. Unfortunately, the system is no longer supported by the manufacturer, which makes sourcing replacement parts difficult. The district is waiting for preliminary quotes for a replacement lighting system. A replacement system was previously quoted at \$70,000. Updated pricing pending.