

# Ellwood City Ledger

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## **Ellwood City Area School Board awards secure vestibule contract for Hartman, Perry schools**

By Patrick O'Shea

Posted at 4:00 AM

ELLWOOD CITY — Work is expected to start this summer on secured vestibules at Hartman and Perry elementary schools.

The Ellwood City Area School Board agreed Thursday to hire Thomas Construction of Grove City to construct the improved entrances for \$241,768.

The board has been working on the project since last fall as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance safety and security at the district's four buildings. The entrance at North Side Elementary also is being improved as part of ongoing renovation work there.

In the wake of a series of school shootings in the nation, including one last week in Colorado, the board is aggressively looking into ways to make the district as safe as possible. Superintendent Joseph Mancini announced last week that the district will be getting two armed school police officers starting next school year after getting a two-year \$156,400 grant from the state.

One officer will be stationed at Lincoln High School, and the other will float among the three elementary buildings during normal school hours.

The board also now has a permanent security committee, and high school assistant principal John Sovich has been named the district's safety and security coordinator.