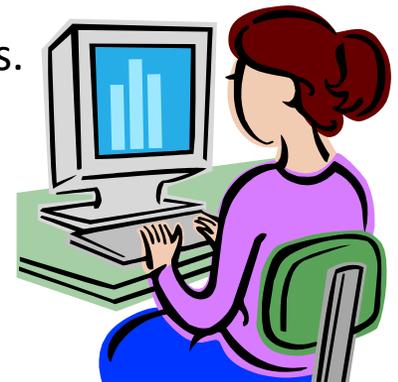

SMART SCHOOLS BOND COMMITTEE

PRELIMINARY PLAN – OCTOBER 2020

What is the Smart Schools Bond?

- ❖ The Smart Schools Bond Act was approved by New York State voters in 2014. It authorized \$2 billion to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure in schools.
- ❖ The Office of Educational Design and Technology reviews Smart Schools Investment Plans submitted by districts wishing to utilize Smart Schools funds for educational technology-related purchases.
- ❖ These purchases may include:
 - ❖ infrastructure to improve high-speed broadband or wireless internet
 - ❖ learning technology equipment, such as computers, tables, interactive whiteboards, and 3-D printers; and
 - ❖ technology related to school security, such as surveillance cameras and keyless entry systems.



How Does the Bond Work?

- ❖ Smart Schools Bond funds work as a reimbursement. Funds must first be expensed by the district, and then the expenditure is reimbursed by the State.
- ❖ The first step to accessing the funds is forming a district committee to develop a plan.
- ❖ This preliminary plan is presented and must be posted on the district website for 30 days. Feedback is given during this time.
- ❖ After 30 days, the Board of Education conducts another hearing allowing public comment on the plan.
- ❖ The final plan must then be approved by the Board of Education by resolution.



Where Are We?

Over the past five years, we have upgraded our network infrastructure to support high-speed traffic requirements for online productivity and assessments, including increased bandwidth. We have monitored the traffic on our system carefully. New York State Education Department recommends 100 Mbps per 1,000 students.



Islip's internet connection is 500 Mbps, or Megabytes per second, an industry term used for describing the speed at which your computer performs. Per the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), a broadband internet connection has a minimum download speed of 25 Mbps and a minimum upload speed of 3 Mbps. This gives us a baseline for determining fast and slow internet speeds. Speeds much faster than a standard broadband connection are generally considered “fast” internet.

What Do We Need? Mobile Devices

- ❖ We have been purchasing carts of laptops each school year. Each cart contains about 30 devices. They are designed to be used within the school network. We have also been purchasing PCs.
- ❖ Once the pandemic hit, and remote learning became necessary, mobile devices were needed. This year we purchased approximately 600 devices. We still need more.



What Devices Are Being Considered?

New vs. Refurbished

Pro

- Cheaper



Con

- Harder to find a three-year warranty
- May not have the same RAM as a new device
- The hard drive may not be as robust
- Life span is shorter-replacement cost consideration

Chrome Book vs. Dell

Pro

- Less expensive
- Very fast boot-up time



Con

- Must use Google's cloud storage system
- Very little memory
- Must purchase a new platform license
- Need to train staff

Security Cameras



Old Camera



New Camera

The image on the left is our old camera. The image on the right is the new camera we are proposing.

Most of our security cameras were installed in 2007 with funds from the Excel bond. While they were state of the art at the time, they are now dated, and no longer adequate for their purpose. While the exact replacement camera recommended may vary based on location, our IT department is recommending cameras we have used most recently, which we believe is an appropriate model for most general-purpose indoor use.

Recommended:

- Axis P3228-LV – Approximately \$800/each
- 4K resolution
- Built-in infrared for low-light use
- Proposed purchase of 30 new cameras

Funds and Timeline

In order to apply for funds, budget lines must be identified from our current budget. School districts are required to separately identify these funds within their current financial accounting framework.

Another possible funding source is to take advantage of the reserve fund usage bill signed in August. Chapter 157 permits school districts to pull funds from restricted reserve funds for COVID-related expenses. If a district chooses to do so, the district must pay the funds back to the reserve fund within five years, at a minimum of 20% of the withdrawal per year.* In addition, the district must also add a reasonably expected interest rate of return to the pay back. This legislation effectively provides the legal authority for a school district to loan itself funds, at a cost.

Year 1 (current school year)

\$150,000 – 250,000

*(payback \$50,000 per year)

(approximately 450 devices)

Year 2 (July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022)

\$250,000



Suggestions and Comments



PLEASE SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND
COMMENTS TO:

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Conclusion

THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SMART SCHOOLS BOND COMMITTEE:

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