Smart Schools Investment Plan

Phase 1

Tupper Lake Central

School District

April 4, 2016

Smart Schools Investment Plan Overview

The Smart Schools Bond Act was passed in 2014 by a statewide referendum. The Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) supports educational technology and infrastructure to improve teaching and learning. It focuses on four main areas of funds: construct or modernize educational facilities for pre-kindergarteners, install high-speed broadband or wireless, install high-tech security features and acquire technology equipment.

All District plans approved by the school board and submitted to the New York State Education Department must meet the required elements including demonstrating students' needs, minimal speed requirements for internet connectivity, professional development, technical support, and sustainability. As part of the process, districts are required to submit a District Instructional Technology Plan survey in compliance with the Education Law and Commissioner's Regulation. The Instructional Technology Plan survey outlines the current and future plans of the district as it relates to infrastructure, devices, staffing, and professional development to improve teaching and learning. The Instructional Technology plan was approved by New York State Education Department on October 1, 2015.

Over the course of several months the use of Smart Schools funding as outlined in this plan was developed and presented to the school board during regular public meetings leading up to the approval for our current Capital Improvement Project. This current draft was presented to the school board on March 14, 2016 for approval. Now that preliminary plan has been approved by the school board, it will be posted on the district website and a public hearing will be conducted to enable stakeholders to respond to the preliminary plan. After the hearing, the district will prepare a final plan for school board approval. The approved plan will be submitted to the New York State Education Department and will be posted on the district website. The planning process will include consultation with parents, teachers, students, community members, any non-public schools located in the district, and other stakeholders.

The district has been allocated $799,842. At this time the district is seeking approval of $452,000 in the budget categories outlined below.

Budget Category	Tupper Lake Central School District Sub-allocation	Non-Public School Sub-Allocations
School Connectivity	$452,000	
Classroom Technology		
High-Tech Security		
Unallocated Funds	$347,842	

School Connectivity (Wireless)

The Tupper Lake Central School District wants to ensure that it can support all its students, teachers and administrators with a robust, reliable and secure high-speed network infrastructure for wireless access both within the District and out to the global internet. The District wants to use the Smart Schools Bond funds to build a robust wireless network to support student learning and professional development for staff.

Use of Funds to Support Wireless Connectivity

Critical to creating a wireless network infrastructure will be adding three key capabilities:

1) Upgrade of a high-speed switching within and between all the wiring closets in all District school buildings. This will require the purchase of new network switches;

2) Enhance existing cabling between wiring closets to support additional bandwidth within the network, as well as access to the Internet;

3) Additional and upgraded wireless access points throughout the District to provide both ubiquitous wireless coverage in buildings and sufficient wireless bandwidth capacity per access point in classrooms to allow for large-scale use. Additionally, add wireless controllers for access points, and <u>outside wireless</u> capabilities for select school buildings;

Robust Network

The District wants to ensure all teachers and students have wireless access when they need it. To this end, the District closely monitors and manages network traffic to ensure high throughput. In order to meet usage demands with the appropriate level of wireless access, every classroom will have at least one WAP and larger instructional spaces will be outfitted with multiple WAPS.

District Instructional Technology Plan

The Smart Schools Bond investment will allow us to expand learning opportunities for all our students beyond the four walls of a school building. This funding is directly linked to and supports our District Instructional Technology Plan. Some of the major initiatives in our Technology Plan are:

1) **Google Apps for Education** - a pilot program was implemented during the 2014-15 school year with several of the high school ELA classes. Staff trainings began during the summer and fall of 2015, and students were given access to Google Drive, gmail, and other Google Apps such as Google Classroom during the 2015-16 school year. This allows our district to provide 24/7 access to student files as well as improving student access to teachers and resources.

2) **Wireless devices** - not only is the district upgrading our existing desktops throughout both schools, we also added eight carts of chromebooks and a cart of iPads for classroom use in the fall of 2015. Training took place in the fall of 2015. Access to these wireless devices dramatically improved student access to technology and digital resources.

3) **Infrastructure upgrades** - the district is upgrading our infrastructure [through the Smart Schools Bond Act] to provide dramatically enhanced access to wireless networks throughout the district. This will improve student and staff ability to use the district's wireless devices, as well as bringing their own devices. The goal for installing the upgrades is by the summer of 2016.

4) **Digital recording studio** - the district has installed a digital video recording studio in the fall of 2015. This allows students to learn 21st Century skills such as videography, digital editing, sound recording and editing, public speaking, and producing digital content. This is provided as part of a digital recording course currently being offered. Our goal is for all of our daily announcements to take place via video starting in the fall of 2016, as well as getting students ready for 21st Century post-graduate careers.

5) **Professional development** - our district's technology staff will provide professional development in-house to teachers and staff in the use of the new Google apps and devices.. In addition, our technology staff will continually provide professional development in the use of information technology resources throughout the school year. Staff is encouraged to attend professional development opportunities outside of the district as well (via BOCES or other organizations) in order to improve their familiarity with technology and digital resources.

6) **Data-driven instruction** - Staff members meet on a monthly basis throughout the school year with their instructional teams within the district to discuss and monitor data-driven instruction. Tools include DIBELS, SRI, SMI, and other test results. This is an ongoing district initiative to monitor student growth and outcomes throughout the year.

7) **Student/parent portal** - Students and parents in grades 7-12 currently have access to their grades, attendance, and testing outcomes via our Infinite Campus program. This informs parents and teachers about student progress. Our goal is to extend the parent portal to our elementary school parents in the near future

8) **Library** - our library websites and resources are available to students and staff 24/7 in order to provide a wide range of assistance with finding and using information.