

POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

599 Bedford Road Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591

Pocantico Hills Guiding Principle #2

“Technology should be a tool that supports the growth of reasoning skills and critical thinking.”

PLAN OVERVIEW:

In order to meet Pocantico Hills Guiding Principle #2: “Technology should be a tool that supports the growth of reasoning and critical thinking skills,” our NYSED Approved Technology Plan Survey included some major decisions regarding instructional technology. Our students need sufficient technology skills and competencies to ensure they are college and career ready and this includes the ability to work in a collaborative, dynamic and secure on-line environment. After exploring different options, Microsoft Office 365 was selected as the platform to best deliver content and instructional technology in the classroom. To build capacity for this change, there was a need to upgrade our infrastructure. This summer we have upgraded our server to a virtual server environment which will benefit the district in cost, scalability, and reliability, increased the internet bandwidth coming into the building from 30 MB to 50 MB, changed our TLC circuit coming into the building to a one GB fiber-optic line, reorganized student work on the server under a uniform name directory convention, added cabling, installed eleven new switches for our network, rewired the computer lab, and added seven additional wireless access points. We have also purchased fourteen new security cameras, and one hundred and eighty-five Latitude 11 “learning devices,” with individual carrying cases for all teachers, teacher assistants, and students in grades five through eight.

JUSTIFICATION OF NEED:

We began the transformation of our IT infrastructure to support instruction this past summer. However, more is needed, our current infrastructure of classroom workstation computers and classroom interactive whiteboards are coming to their end of life. Our District Technology Plan includes a five-year replacement cycle.

Therefore in alignment with this goal, we will use the Smart School Funding to procure approximately 100 new classroom workstations and five new interactive Whiteboards to support instructional with technology and computer based assessments.

PRECONDITIONS:

As per NYSED Smart Schools Bond Guidance a precondition to utilize the incoming funding is that the district has adequate internet access of at least 100 Mbps per 1,000 students to supply for the increased number of devices in the classrooms.

This plan is in direct alignment with our NYSED approved Technology Plan Survey 2015-2018 Vision and Goals for Technology for Instruction.

PURCHASE PLAN:

The District plans to purchase approximately 100 Dell OptiPlex 9020 workstations and five new SMART SPNL 6065 Interactive Whiteboards. These workstation units will have eight GB of RAM and solid state hard drives. These devices are top of the line and will serve the District for many years. The New Smart Interactive Whiteboard is a flat panel all in one unit with multi-touch interactivity, multiple students can work together or independently at the panel with fingers or a pen. The 6065 recognizes multiple pen users, so two users can write and draw in different colored digital ink, simultaneously.



ALLOCATION OF FUNDS:

Category	Sub-Allocation
Interactive Whiteboards	\$21,145.00
Computer Servers	0
Desktop Computers	\$80,000.00
Laptop Computers	0
Tablet Computers	0
Other Costs	0
Sub-Total	101,145

PLAN GOALS:

The purchase of these 100 new classroom workstations and five interactive whiteboards will significantly increase student access to technology, online access, and collaborative student-centered learning opportunities. Students in a particular class can access independent content and contribute at their own pace to classroom discussions and activities. Teachers and students will be able to leverage online content that appeals to the individual abilities, need, and interests of each student as each student will have access to their own device during a class sessions. Additionally, students will be able to share findings and thoughts in a collaborative environment in real-time.

This year the State Education Department has asked districts to volunteer to participate in mandated field testing of the math and ELA state tests on-line beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. Consequently, the District needs to work toward becoming compliant with incoming computer based testing (CBT). This expenditure plan will help us to meet this mandate.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

The District recognizes the importance of ongoing and sustained professional development for staff and students and subscribes to the LHRIC (Lower Hudson Region Information Center) Model Schools/Emerging Technologies Service. This contract provides for two professional development specialists to work with teachers in our school for a total of two and half days every week for the entire school year. These specialists will work collaboratively with teachers, employing new pedagogy and strategies such as the SAMR Model (Substitute Augment, Modify and Redesign) which is a technology education framework to help teachers integrate technology into the curriculum. All these efforts will ensure all our teachers, school administrators and staff will be empowered to best utilize these new technologies for instructional purposes.

SUSTAINABILITY:

The District will integrate the Smart Schools Bond purchases into the existing district's equipment replacement cycle. Each year the district allocates funds for the normal repair cost of a percentage of the total learning devices in the district. In addition, we have contracted with our BOCES/LHRIC for ongoing technical support for our IT Infrastructure and devices.

TIMELINE:

Once the **Investment Plan** is approved by the State, equipment will be purchased in accordance with the District's purchasing policies. Once the work stations and SMART boards arrive the technology staff will set them up as per the district's specifications and deploy them as per the plan. The district will include this new equipment in its existing inventory database and monitor it to ensure equipment is securely maintained in its designated locations. The District's comprehensive asset insurance policy will be updated to reflect the additional equipment as well.

This document has been posted to the District's website as required by the Smart School Bond Implementation Guidance by the New York State Education Department in order to invite public input prior to the adoption of this plan by the Pocantico Hills Central School District Board of Education. Public input can be submitted to the following e-mail address: smartschoolbond@pocanticohills.org.