

Smart Schools:

The Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) was included in the 2014-15 Enacted NYS Budget and the referendum approved by NYS voters during the 2014 General Election. The NYS Education Department expects that by the year 2020, all NYS testing (Grades 3-8 and Regents Exams) will be 100% computer based. The Smart Schools Bond Act authorized the issuance of \$2 billion of general obligation bonds to finance improved educational technology/infrastructure to improve learning and opportunities for all students.

Specifically the financing is restricted to the following:

- Replace temporary classroom trailers and construct classrooms to accommodate pre-kindergarten programs
- Install high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity
- Acquire learning technology equipment, with replacements sustainable in future years
- Install security features in school buildings and on school campuses, to include items such as video surveillance, emergency notification systems and physical access controls

Our district was allocated \$612,573 for these types of improvements.

To date, our District's Technology Committee has reviewed and inventoried the existing systems and equipment to determine the overall condition and remaining useful life. The District's Smart Schools Committee was formed in 2015 and has met several times to develop an appropriate spending plan. We have also surveyed the students and staff to solicit their feedback and ideas.

Based on the Smart Schools Committee's findings and the feedback from student and staff surveys, the list below is what was determined to have the most positive future impact on education, safety and security in our school district.

Technology:

- Core and cabling infrastructure for the internal data network
- New servers
- Network security
- Improve wireless network in main building
- Replace classroom teaching station hardware/equipment

Security:

- Replace and add security cameras
- Replace interior classroom doors
- Digital exterior clocks
- Exterior door contacts

Parents and other community members are welcome to provide feedback on the District's use of the SSBA Funds. Please submit your comments to pggrimm@edmeston.net by April 30, 2016. All relevant feedback will be considered by the SSBA Committee for inclusion in the Committee's recommendation to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Submitted by:

Edmeston Central School District Smart Schools Committee