Devices

Smart Schools Bond – Phase II

Babylon School District
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Acknowledgements

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Planning Process

The Smart Schools Bond Act was passed in the 2014-15 Enacted Budget and approved by the voters in a statewide referendum held during the 2014 General Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. The Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) authorized the issuance of $2 billion of general obligation bonds to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure to improve learning and opportunity for students throughout the State. The SSBA requires that a Review Board review and approve districts' Smart Schools Investment Plans before any funds may be made available for the program. Additional information regarding the Smart Schools Bond Act can be found at:

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart_schools/

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.

School District Information

The Babylon School District encompasses grades K-12 within one grade school, one elementary school, and one junior-senior high school.

Current Enrollment:

Elementary School: 323 students
Grade School: 473 students
Junior-Senior High School: 789 students
District Total: 1,585 students

Budget Cycle: The Babylon School District budget cycle is from July 1st through June 30th of each year.

Phase II – Devices Plan

During the 2017-2018 school year the district will begin the rollout of a one-to-one initiative starting with the district instructional staff and administration. This initiative will give each teacher a Microsoft Surface Pro 4 with the Windows 10 operating system. This will integrate seamlessly with our transition over to the Office 365 line of products. This will be purchased through the 2017-2018 budget cycle.

The following year our goal is to provide one-to-one devices for our student population. These devices will also run the Windows 10 operating system and seamlessly integrate with the Office 365 line of products. The devices for students in grades 9-12 will be purchased through the 2018-2019 budget cycle, while the devices for students in grades K-8 will be purchased through the Smart Schools Bond Funds.

The Babylon school district has an allocation of $836,086 from the Smart Schools Bond Act. During the 2015-2016 school year, an initial plan to upgrade the wireless access points within the district was submitted to the state for review. At present, the plan has not been pushed through the review process. As a result, the district needed to make alternative plans to implement Wi-Fi access for the initial rollout of our one-to-one devices for administrators and staff, through the 2017-2018 budget cycle. With that plan off the table, it has allowed the district to look to make a device purchase for a larger number of students than originally anticipated.

A goal of the Babylon school district will be to transition away from our current VDI system running Windows 7 by July 2017. Each instructional environment will have a microtower PC connected to either a SMARTBoard or projector, depending upon the instructional needs, as well as the ability of the instructor to connect their device (Microsoft Surface Pro 4) wirelessly. These instructional devices will all be running Windows 10 Education. With the addition of student devices in the 2018-2019 school year, students and staff will interact seamlessly within the same platform.

With that reference point, we will be purchasing 895 HP ProBook x360 11 G1/G2 - Education Edition* devices to address the needs of our K-8 students. These devices will also be running Windows 10 Education and will be joined to our current active directory environment. Running Windows 10 Education gives Babylon significant advantages over other platforms including:

- It allows our current group policies to be implemented on every machine;
- It allows seamless integration with Office 365, Azure AD, and InTune for device management and security;
- It allows for a proxy of our web-filter software;
- It gives students the ability to work offline at home if access to the Internet is not available;
- It gives teachers and students the exact same "experience," on any Windows 10 based device, at school or at home.

In order to implement these devices in the lower grades, the district will be purchasing one Anywhere Cart AC-Slim Cart for a secure charging location within each classroom. The devices for each student will

be transitioned from classroom carts year to year until the student reaches 7th grade, at which time they will be able to take their devices to and from school.

In the Jr./Sr. High School, students will be permitted to take their devices back and forth from home to school each day to extend the classroom beyond the walls of the school. To make sure student devices are charged for instructional time, a charging station will be setup in the cafeteria to allow students to charge tablets during lunch, as well as additional chargers for classroom settings.

Enhancing Instruction

Instructional technology purchased for the classroom environment will enhance instructional practices for teachers, as well as the comprehension and retention of material by the students. The devices to be purchased by the district will have a wide-range of impacts for differentiated instruction, English language learners, and students with exceptionalities. In addition, these devices will provide new opportunities for learning, both inside and outside of the classroom environment.

The timeline for comprehension and application of instruction is not the same for all students. With this in mind, schools can utilize technology in order to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students. Implementing a one-to-one device within the elementary and grade school classrooms will provide teachers with tools to enhance and supplement instructional materials, so that all students can be successful.

This technology will provide teachers the ability to target each individual student's needs through web-based subscription services. Instructional tools that help monitor students' progress within ELA and Math, such as STAR testing, can be done on a monthly basis with minimal impact on instructional time. This will allow teachers to continuously monitor student growth over time, and alert them to any changes in student progress. With this breadth of data at a teacher's fingertips, they can make instructional adjustments to ensure their students can apply the skills and information they are learning. Other web resources can be utilized to enhance instructional practices when "real" objects are not available. Teachers can utilize an abundance of instructional resources, such as videos, animations, webcams. and interactive digital games so students can visualize what the teachers are saying. This will help build comprehension skills, especially for those students who have been identified as English language learners.

In addition to these web-based services, the device software also provides additional tools that can help English language learners. Through Skype, students will have the opportunity to use "real-time" translation into their native language, as well as translation services on web-based or document-based instructional material. These tools will help build the confidence the students need in order to empower their investment into their own education. These tools can also be used to narrate documents their teachers have shared with them. Students can use this aide in order to advance their reading comprehension skills. This can also be done for students who have a hard time verbalizing what they are thinking through the use of dictation tools, thus allowing students to express themselves in ways that they had previously been limited.

Additionally, these technology tools can be used to enhance the comprehension of material to those students who are achieving higher levels within a subject matter. These students can be given alternative projects that provide an additional outlet for them to demonstrate their learning through application. This can be done with a video story, a presentation, or a graphic journal; the possibilities are endless with technology in their hands. These projects also provide opportunities for students who are struggling to understand the material or demonstrate their understanding in multiple medias. Finally, it creates a collaborative community within the classroom between the students and the teacher.

Communication is a key component of an instructional space as students enter junior high. In these classrooms students will also have the opportunity to communicate with teachers and classmates through the use of email services, either locally on an Outlook client or through the Office 365 web-based portal. Students can participate in collaborative spaces in Microsoft Classroom and Class Notebook. These tools will allow teachers to let students help drive the instruction and take ownership of their learning. It also fosters parent engagement, allowing students to share what they're learning at home. Thus creating a truly collaborative environment between the three stakeholders of a classroom; the parent, the teacher and the student.

Babylon is continuing to evaluate technology tools that can improve and enhance classroom instruction and student learning. With the implementation of a one-to-one initiative for students, any available tool that can be utilized to help students within the classroom can be implemented. Through the use of the Smart Schools Bond, Babylon will be able to reach over seventy-five percent of the student population.

Enhancing Communication

Through the use of Office 365, Babylon is creating an instructional environment that is cloud based, and can be accessed from any location around the world as long as there is an Internet connection. This will allow our parents and students a constant connection to their classroom, their teachers, and their instructional material.

Although being present in school is vital to the success of the student, through Microsoft Classroom and Class Notebook tools, teachers can share information with students instantly to their devices. This information can be prepared in advance or notes taken in class. This will give students the ability to refer back to class notes while working independently at home, as well as reference material from classes which they were not present for.

Through these two resources, parents will also have the opportunity to collaborate with teachers and help their student with their school work, based on instructional material they are the student is seeing in the classroom. Again, creating an environment where all classroom stakeholders can all be involved.

Professional Development

Professional development will be a vital component of the one-to-one initiative at the Babylon School District for teachers, administrators, and staff in three phases.

Phase I – 2016-2017:

Introduction to the Windows 10 environment and the integration into the compatibility of the Office 2016 and the Office 365 suite for all teachers, administrators and staff. This training will introduce everyone to the environment and the tools available for collaboration and communication throughout the educational environment.

Phase II – 2017-2018:

Tablet distribution to the teaching staff with continued professional development and integration of Office 365 into the classroom. Teachers will begin to digitize their curriculum into OneNote Notebooks for preparation of a student one-to-one and integration into Microsoft Classroom.

Phase III – 2018-2019:

Continued professional opportunities will be made available to the staff as the one-to-one rollout is implemented within all classroom environments, grades K-12. These professional development opportunities will focus on how to combat technical issues that arise throughout the initial rollout.

*The number of devices, and devices to purchase (G1 & now G2) were adjusted based on costs and availability during the 30 day public commentary.