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**Newfane Central
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Press Release

Board of Education hears Smart Schools Investment Plan presentation

Smart Schools Grant worth \$1.6 million to District

Newfane, New York, January 17, 2017: On Tuesday night, the Newfane Central School District Board of Education heard the recommendations of the Smart Schools Investment Plan Task Force on how the District should begin to spend the more than \$1.6 million allocated to Newfane under the Smart Schools grant program. Superintendent Michael J. Baumann presented the spending plan to the board, a plan that was nearly a year in the making. “The Task Force began meeting in February 2016,” Baumann said. The Task Force, which includes teacher, students, parents, administrators and members of the Newfane Community, met monthly to develop the plan that was presented to the Board Tuesday night.

Spending Plan identifies 3 “waves”. The grant monies, which can be used to finance improved educational technology and the infrastructure necessary to improve learning opportunities in schools, can only be accessed after a District submits a “spending plan” to the NYS Education Department. SED has to review and approve the plan before the District can begin tapping into the money. Newfane’s plan outlines a two pronged approach to be implemented in three “waves”. “The Newfane spending plan focuses on enhancing our district wide infrastructure and providing updated technology for use in the classroom,” according to Baumann. The first wave includes installing wifi access points in all instructional areas in all four District schools, updating some components of the technology already available in the classrooms (display panels and desktop computers), and providing focused professional development to teachers on the use of instructional technology. The second wave includes continuing to update classroom technology and professional development, but also includes providing 1:1 technology in pilot programs in at least two grade levels in the middle and high school and in identified classrooms at the elementary level. The third and final wave would see all classroom technology updated, and full implementation of a 1:1 instructional technology environment in the middle school and high school.

According to Superintendent of Schools Michael Baumann, there are still a number of questions the Task Force has to address. “Their job is far from being done,” he said, “but the spending plan they have completed will allow us to begin the approval process with SED so we can continue to move the District forward.”

For Immediate Release

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To see the District presentation, [click here](#).