

There will be a Public Hearing on Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) Funding for the Neil Hellman School at the next Northern Rivers Board of Directors meeting:

Tuesday, October 1, 2019
5:00 p.m.

Administrative Building H, Hudson Room
60 Academy Road
Albany, NY 12208

We encourage our school community to submit written feedback on the Neil Hellman School Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP). Please email Paul.Stamas@northernrivers.org by Wednesday, September 25, 2019.

To learn more about the Smart Bond Act Guidelines go to:
http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/documents/SSBAGuidancefordayandresidentialschools_final.pdf

Background to the Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA)

The SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT OF 2014 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. In conjunction with the Smart Schools Bond Act, the 2014 Budget in Chapter 54 and 55 of the Laws of 2014, authorized the issuance of a one-time \$5 million bond to finance educational technology capital projects to improve learning and opportunity for students with disabilities in Special Act School Districts, State-Supported Schools, and approved private special education day and residential schools (also known as 853 Schools) throughout the state. The \$5 million in Smart Schools funding will support students enrolled in these schools by funding capital projects including:

1. Classroom Technology: Acquire learning technology equipment, including but not limited to interactive whiteboards, computer servers, and desktop, laptop, and tablet computers;
2. High-Tech Security: Install high-tech security features in school buildings and on school campuses, including but not limited to video surveillance, emergency notification systems, and physical access controls;
3. School Connectivity: Install high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity for schools; and/or
4. Classroom Trailer Replacement: Construct, enhance, and modernize educational facilities to provide instructional space to replace classroom trailers.

Introducing Our Smart Schools Bond Act Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP)

The Neil Hellman School has been allocated \$47,368 from the Smart Schools Bond Act to finance educational technology capital projects to improve learning and opportunity for students with disabilities.

Neil Hellman School is certified as a special education facility by the NYS Education Department. The school serves residential and day students with serious emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges. While the security and safety of our students, staff and community have always been a priority at NHS, we believe that security camera will enhance our capability to protect everyone at school and on school grounds.

Based on recommendations of our Educational Technology Committee, funds will be used to purchase security cameras (High-Tech Security category) that will monitor building internal and external doors and hallways in the building and school grounds. Cameras will be placed in all vulnerable areas inside and outside the school to monitor and limit outsiders entering the building or to detect unwanted disturbances. Additionally, despite intensive staffing ratios, and intensive staff training, we have students who wander and sometimes run away from school. Strategically placed cameras will provide us with the capability to more quickly locate and secure the safety of those students.

Security cameras will seamlessly integrate with our other efforts to increase safety and security at the school. We plan to redesign the school's front entrance and lobby, which will transform underused space by creating a new reception office and waiting area, providing a more welcoming environment to school visitors. This area will be secured by swipe-access controlled doors to enhance security.

Because expenditures for this project will be through an existing New York state contract, we are not required to secure competitive bids. Project execution is planned for 2020, contingent upon state approval of the release of funds.

Budget: \$47,367.90

Purchase 15 security cameras at \$3,157.86 each = \$47,367.90