



DRAFT INITIATIVES: 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Putnam Valley Central School District

Dr. Frances Wills

Superintendent of Schools

*Child First and Foremost : Building a Foundation
for the Future*

Guiding principles

- 1. Foundation for the future: furthering students' learning opportunities to promote educational advantage in their choice of future endeavors.
- 2. Fiscal responsibility: budget impact retains adherence to state imposed tax cap.
- 3. Proposals continue to strengthen the District's educational program and learning community.

High School

- Year 2 of the authentic science program. Current sophomore students will present to the Board in March to share their projects and their assessment of the program. Program will be introduced to freshmen. There is a possible addition of .2 science section based on number of interested students. A second teacher has already been trained.
- Introduce WISE program: internship option for seniors in second semester of senior year. The program incorporates writing, speaking, presentation skills and serves to provide ½ credit of English and Participation in Government. Costs will include reinstatement of .2 social studies teacher. Some stipends to provide advance work on placements will need to be negotiated.
- STEM-D (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics-Design) project-based class at high school. Reinstatement of technology section (.2). Mr. Fiore has developed a course description to attract students who are interested in computer science, engineering, robotics, programming, video-game design, and/ or architectural design using CAD and 3-D printers. The program will be open to all students and may be taken for one year or all four years of school. There will be science or math credit. Students will work on individually developed projects.
- Other potential needs for additional sections: French 2 (.2 if needed- reinstatement of .2 teacher)
- Writing study that is in progress may result in some budget impact.
- Technology support: Currently there is a BOCES employee working four days per week to keep the technology in order and manage the lap-top program. There is a need for a more robust instructional technology presence at the high school to ensure that teachers can effectively implement the technology in their classroom practice. We are looking at the addition of either a BOCES employee or our own employee (based on cost comparison) to support high school staff.

Middle School

- Additional quality support at the middle school in ELA and replacement of .2 math support with reinstatement of technology .2. (Impact is .8) Middle school has been implementing a successful AIS and RTI program. To ensure that the program has the required rigor, additional personnel are needed. The math support has been very successful with short time as-needed assistance on a continuous basis. A more intensive ELA support program is recommended to continue to strengthen response to higher standards.

Elementary School

- Apprentice teachers through Manhattanville Partnership
Up to six apprentices will work with our elementary staff in the classrooms. There will be no budget impact as our federal grant will be written to incorporate these positions. This is a two year program, that provides a Master's Degree, experience and certification to graduate students at Manhattanville. We will pay Manhattanville \$10,000 per apprentice through our grant. We participate in the interview and selection process.

Pilot Instructional Support Specialist

- We are proposing to include in the budget up to .6 FTEs of instructional support specialists (.2 at each school). This year, our administrative interns have served very effectively to support our staff as part of a grant we received from Bank Street. They have been instrumental in the implementation of a number of initiatives associated with APPR and Common Core, including the authentic assessments, instructional technology, reading and writing strategies. Other districts effectively utilize this type of coaching research-based model. This is a non-evaluative role to support teachers and administrators as teachers practice new approaches to promote student engagement. We would like to pilot this process next year on a very small scale. We plan to use grant funds to support at least part of this initiative.

Role of the ISS

- Designing and delivering professional development for teachers and related service providers
- Collaborating with classroom teachers to co-plan lessons, review and utilize student data to inform instruction, and implement instructional strategies
- Teaching and co-teaching with staff to demonstrate instructional best practices
- Assisting with RTI strategies and recommendations
- Assisting principals in facilitating grade level meetings
- Participating in Board and PTA meetings
- Assisting in test administration and program evaluation and development



Other personnel requirements

- Additional Special Education teacher required based on student population.

Assistant coaches

- Boys and Girls Soccer, Baseball and Softball

Total budget impact: \$16,000-\$18,000

A full report on this request will be provided by Mr. Nemecek during his budget presentation. The lack of assistant coaches for these teams has been a concern based on safety and effectiveness.

There is also a request for an assistant coach for Varsity Cross Country based on the large number of participants.

Smart Bond Act initiative

- Repurpose current facilities to create imagination labs or maker spaces in each building incorporating technology to develop interdisciplinary student projects supported by the funds provided by the Bond Act. The district is entitled to receive \$916,000 which focuses primarily on technology.
- Funds should be used for self-sustaining projects that will not require additional personnel and continuing budget obligations.
- Mike Hanna is the lead administrator in collaboration with Pat Bellino and the technology committee. Mike is facilitating the organization of subcommittees in each building to plan the development of projects. Subcommittees will consist of teachers and support personnel, interested community members (including parents), students, administrators, and Board members.

Building the foundation

- The proposed initiatives align with the District's mission and goals
- The initiatives provide both support and challenge to teachers and students, the elements needed to promote student achievement and success.
- Administrators will discuss the initiatives in detail during their presentations on February 12.