

Education Foundation Presents \$100,000 to Pelham Schools

Funds to Provide 21st Century Learning Tools in Classrooms

The Pelham Education Foundation, using funds raised during its annual spring fundraising campaign, has made grants to the Pelham school district aggregating over \$100,000.

The contributions, accepted by the Board of Education at its May 18 meeting, "were made possible by the incredible generosity of the Pelham community," said Foundation President Jeanne Radvany. "Not only did we exceed our fundraising goal for this year's campaign, but we received a much broader level of support from local residents and businesses despite the uncertain economic climate."

The largest grant will fund the first phase of the multiyear "21st Century Teaching and Learning Tools" project. The initiative is a collaborative effort between the Foundation and the Pelham school district with a goal of providing high priority 21st century learning tools in every K-12 classroom. Those tools initially consist of "classroom kits" composed of a SMART Board (an interactive whiteboard with a touch-controlled screen that works with a projector and a computer), a document camera (a real-time image capture device for displaying objects to a large group) and a laptop computer for the teacher. The classroom kits will be provided to teachers trained in their use to help students acquire skills such as creativity, flexibility, critical thinking, collaboration, project-based learning and cultural awareness that they will need to succeed in an increasingly competitive global society.

A grant of \$97,048 from this year's PEF campaign will fund the purchase of 18 SMART Boards, 34 document cameras and 26 teacher laptops. The school district expects that all of the equipment will be purchased, installed and ready for use in elementary school classrooms by September. The 2009-10 district budget includes funds to purchase and install classroom kits for the 13 High School classrooms scheduled for renovation this summer.

In addition to the technology grant, the Foundation also made two smaller gifts using restricted funds it had received. A \$3,500 donation from The Junior League of Pelham's "Pelham Loves to Read" project will fund an assortment of nonfiction books for the Middle School library. A \$3,505 gift of funds donated in memory of Jeanne Serocke-Stavola and Joseph Stavola will fund physical education and occupational therapy materials to enhance the district's special education program.

The Foundation accepts donations year round. Checks may be mailed to The Pelham Education Foundation, Inc, 18 Franklin Place, Pelham NY 10803