

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Pentucket Regional School District

HELEN R. DONAGHUE SCHOOL

2008-2010

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS
2008-2009

PRINCIPAL **Robert C. Harrison, Co-Chair**

TEACHERS **Elizabeth Wisniewski**
Laura Buckley

PARENTS **Sharon Pacenka, Co-Chair**
Chris Fluet

COMMUNITY **TBD**
MEMBER

EDUCATION IS A TEAM EFFORT

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MISSION

The Pentucket Regional School District collaborates for the continuous improvement of student learning based on kindness and hard work.

School Committee Strategic Planning Goals

Curriculum

Implement a PreK-12 curriculum that insures all students build the capacity to use their minds well by balancing powerful content, appropriate academic skills and universal habits of mind in a participatory student-centered environment that differentiates to guarantee all students learn at high levels.

Staff

Recruit and retain effective school personnel who continually improve their practice through professional development which is aligned to district, school and individual needs, in an environment that supports best practice, collegiality, and collaboration.

Assessment

Develop Professional Learning Communities in each district school that support standards based curriculum, instruction and assessment through a data driven research cycle that identifies academic content, teaching strategies and formative/summative assessment that leads to high academic achievement for all students

Finances

The Pentucket Regional School District shall maintain transparent accounting of all appropriated, grant, and revolving fund revenues and expenses, never again to have unknown deficits in any areas, budgets which are easily understood by the public and presented at the level of detail necessary to make well informed decisions for our schools and subject to commendable results by local, state, federal, and private auditing processes.

Community/Communication

Build community support for the schools through effective communication and community participation that will develop trust and lead to a common understanding of the educational needs of the district.

INTRODUCTION

The Education Reform Act that was passed in June, 1993 is based on the belief that there must be active involvement by teachers, school administrators, parents, and community members in the establishment of goals and standards for the local schools and the school district. These stakeholders in educational improvement are viewed as vital partners in educational reform who must work together to identify and achieve the school community's educational goals for its children.

The School Council meets regularly with the principal of the school to “assist in the identification of the educational needs of the students attending the school, in the review of the annual budget, and in the formation of the school improvement plan.”

In April 2006, the school council conducted a parent/staff and community survey, to assist us in formulating new improvement goals. The council will conduct the survey again in April 2009. Progress on goals is assessed throughout the year.

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ABOUT OUR SCHOOL AND TOWN

The Helen R. Donaghue School houses 405 students in grades 3-6 in the picturesque rural town of Merrimac, thirty miles north of Boston. The town continues to grow due to its small town appeal and its strategic location to Routes 495 and 95. The school was built in 1968; a new addition was completed in 1994.

The school has five sections in grades 3, 4 and 6, and four sections in grade 5, a fully automated library a computer lab, an art room, a music room, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria. The school operates a tuition based Before and After School Program. All classrooms have computer workstations and Internet access.

The school has an active School Council, a strong and enthusiastic PTO and a large parent volunteer program; these organizations all promote family involvement, cultural arts and educational partnerships in our school.

At the Helen R. Donaghue School, we have a strong commitment to providing a quality program that helps children develop reading, writing, and critical thinking skills in order to enable each child to achieve success. We intend that our children leave our school not only with a good foundation in basic skills and knowledge but also with attitudes and values that foster ongoing learning.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- Student- Classroom Teacher Ratio is 22.4:1
- Five Interactive White Boards
- Three wireless laptop computer carts for classroom use
- Up-to-date Computer Lab
- Computer Integration Specialist to work with teachers
- Modern Automated Library
- Inclusion/Co-Taught Model for Special Education
- Instrumental Music, Gr. 4, 5 & 6
- Chorus/Band for grades 5 and 6
- Environmental Outdoor Education Program, Gr. 6
- Enrichment Math/Science, Gr. 3, 4, 5 and 6
- Destination Imagination Program
- Percussion Ensemble for grades 5 and 6
- Cultural Arts Programs
- Enthusiastic PTO
- School Adjustment Counseling Support
- After School Exploration Program
- Active Parent Volunteer Program
- Before and After School Day Care Program
- Strong Community Involvement