

2009-2010

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
CENTRAL SCHOOL
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Submitted by
Central School Site Council
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2008 – 2009 Central School Site Council

Mary Celli	Community	StonehamBank
Michael Davis	Parent	
Richard Emmel	Parent	
Kathleen Judge	Faculty	
Lawrence R. MacElhiney	Principal	
Elizabeth Orphanos	Parent	
Nancy Sotis	Faculty	
Elizabeth Wendt	Faculty	

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Stoneham Public Schools
is to develop students who:

- Are creative, critical, and independent thinkers
- Have respect and tolerance for self and others
- Know and apply communication and computation skills
- Are healthy and responsible contributors to society

*CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
VISION FOR EXCELLENCE*

“ACCEPTING DIFFERENCES”

We believe:

The home, school and community work together to foster a positive learning environment where all members of the school community are held to high expectations.

Our leaders, teachers and students are life long learners whose individual accomplishments and differences are celebrated and respected.

All children are capable of learning and it is our responsibility as educators to match our teaching strategies to our students' learning styles.

The promotion of learning and literacy is woven throughout each grade in all subject areas to prepare our children to become better educated citizens of tomorrow.

The development of the whole child embraces academics and the arts coupled with an awareness and support of our children's health and physical education needs.

We honor and model our core values of kindness, respect, responsibility, accountability and hard work.

Access to resources, materials and technology is vital for our students' preparation for the future.

A collaborative atmosphere provides all members of our school community many opportunities to share in the decision-making process.

CENTRAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

EVALUATION OF **2008-2009** GOALS

Parent involvement at Central School helps make many programs more effective. Among the many ways that parents assist the school are as volunteers in classrooms and in the library. They serve as guest readers and helping hands for special projects. Parents help coordinate our walk to school program and teach about economics through *Junior Achievement*. The Central School PTO provides additional opportunities for parent investment of time, energy, and resources. The PTO sponsors field trips for each grade level and provides cultural enrichment opportunities for the whole school. The PTO also provides free and low cost evening events for families to enjoy including a school wide Halloween party and an ice cream social. Grade specific events held in the evening or after school include Bingo nights, a magician, a story teller, and the annual fifth grade trip to RollerWorld. Ever mindful of the economic reality, there has been a concerted effort to reduce the number of fund raising events by the PTO this year.

StonehamBank participates in a local business partnership with Central School. StonehamBank employees serve as guest readers in classrooms and a bank representative serves on our Site Council. Third grade students learn about banking through the ***Savings Makes Cents*** program. The bank financially supports the Homework Club, an after school program that provides students in grades 3, 4, & 5 with one-to-one and small group homework assistance three nights per week. This relationship between Central School and StonehamBank continues to benefit the students of Central School in many different ways.

This year the academic program is focused on a few important initiatives. As a result of Central School not achieving Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind statute, there has been a concerted effort to improve MCAS scores in all areas by putting focus on teaching students how to answer accurately and completely the open response type questions. The adoption of a new mathematics curriculum has progressed with the help of several Central School

teachers who were able to pilot the two mathematics programs under consideration. Our effort to meet the needs of each learner has been enhanced by the faculty's involvement in redefining the role and function of the Teacher Assistance Team (TAT). We are moving closer to assimilating a Response to Intervention (RTI) model which will help us to better help students learn within the regular education setting. Teachers continue to use DIBELS scores to tailor learning activities toward individual needs. Improvement in student reading fluency has been possible through use of the READ NATURALLY program. It is duly noted that many Central School teachers have stepped into leadership roles at the building and district levels to further these initiatives. The entire staff wishes to acknowledge the work done by Anne Patriquin on many of these initiatives and to thank her for her support and leadership for the past three years.

Maintaining a safe school environment took on new meaning this year with the need to keep students with life-threatening food allergies safe. The broadening of categories of food that may cause a reaction as well as the increased severity of the allergic reaction has caused the school to reexamine the Food Allergy Protocol established by the district last year. Childhood obesity and a lack of fitness among students are additional health related concerns that we face. Parents and staff members have helped Central School adapt to the health needs of all students. Through their participation and input on *ad hoc* committees, Central School has been able to create a food-safe learning environment for all students. For instance, food treats were no longer allowed for birthday celebrations as of January 2009. More work needs to be done in order to achieve a balance between the reality of food in school and health needs of all.

The 2008-2009 school year will end with the retirement of fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Marlene McArdle as well as the principal, Mr. Lawrence MacElhiney. Mrs. Sharon Bird has been hired to take over in September 2009 as the third principal of the new Central School.

Central School Improvement Plan Goals for 2009-2010

In accordance with the Massachusetts Education Reform Act, the Central School Site Council submits this School Improvement Plan for the 2009-2010 school year to the Stoneham School Committee for their consideration and approval.

ACADEMIC GOALS

- 1. Implement the new mathematics curriculum:** As Stoneham adopts the *Everyday Math* program, teachers will receive training to implement the new program with a goal of improving instruction. There will be on-going efforts to provide parents with an orientation to this updated approach to teaching and learning mathematics.
- 2. Improve student performance on standards based tests:** MCAS results from 2009 will be analyzed to determine the effectiveness of the faculty focus on improving student performance on open response (OR) questions. Key concerns would be whether the OR scores improved and whether any improvement increased the number of students who scored beyond the *warning (W)* and/or *needs improvement (NI)* levels.
- 3. Analyze the impact of the MCAS Academy:** MCAS test scores of students who participated in the 2009 MCAS Academy improved their low MCAS scores in reading comprehension and mathematics better than students who did not participate. This information will be used to help define the program for the 2009-2010 school year and help to justify funding.
- 4. Provide opportunities for coordinated instructional blocks and grade level groupings for instruction:** Primary grade teachers will modify and improve their delivery of instruction using DIBELS scores to help organize instructional groups based on test scores across the grade level to help facilitate learning.

5. **Improve reading fluency:** There will be expanded use of the Read Naturally fluency program spanning all grade levels.

TECHNOLOGY GOALS

1. **Use technology to enhance the learning experiences of students:** Efforts will continue through the technology department to enhance the learning experiences of students working in the computer lab. A recommendation will be put forth to develop a scope and sequence of computer and technology skills K-5. Included could be a school district listing of educational resources for families and students to use at home.
2. **Increase the use of Smartboard technology:** Faculty will be offered training to use Smartboards as an instructional tool. There are plans to spend money from the federal economic stimulus package to add hardware that will improve classroom access to this new technology.
3. **Make effective use of Survey Monkey:** Central School will begin to use of Survey Monkey to help assess the wants and needs of the school community on a variety of topics.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. **Implement instruction using Everyday Math:** Beginning in the summer of 2009 and continuing into the 2009-2010 school year, there will be an orientation to the Everyday Math program and on-going professional development to help teachers effectively implement the new mathematics curriculum.
2. **Complete staff training in Open Circle:** Using in-house facilitators, complete staff training for Open Circle.

PARENT, BUSINESS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT GOALS

1. **Work effectively with the PTO:** The Central School PTO will work with teacher representatives and the principal to help assure effective communication and to facilitate school events.
2. **Work effectively with the Site Council:** The Central School Site Council will help monitor the effectiveness of the School Improvement Plan and work to improve the academic programs and social atmosphere of the school.
3. **Continue business sponsorship:** StonehamBank will be asked to provide financial support to fund the after school Homework Club, the Savings Makes Cents program and the MCAS Academy. The bank will continue to supply guest readers at all grade levels.
4. **Support Junior Achievement:** The lessons from this volunteer led program help students to better understand the workings of a community and of financial institutions. Parent *volunteers* will continue to teach financial concepts to students in grades 1 through 5.
5. **Continue to recycle:** The school community will continue to look for ways to expand this effort to “go green.” The Central School fifth grade students will continue to lead in the effort to recycle paper.

SCHOOL HEALTH & SAFETY GOALS

1. **Create a healthy and safe environment for all students:** Central School will implement the Health Protocol as well as directives from the district Health Advisory committee to help provide a safe school environment. Epi-pen training will be provided to all staff. Restrictions will be placed on food use during the school day, with a focus on providing alternatives to eating sweet treats at parties.
2. **Monitor maintenance and safety issues:** As the seasons change, attention to maintenance (e.g. clearing sidewalks of snow, sanding icy patches, sweeping up sand off of the playground in the springtime) will help eliminate common hazards

and reduce the number of injuries to students and staff. The custodial staff and DPW will be informed of safety concerns as necessary.

3. **Study traffic patterns:** Extending the elementary school day by ten minutes presents the potential for additional traffic problems at dismissal. This situation should be monitored and modified as needed.
4. **Continue to implement the *Open Circle* curriculum:** Central School has declared itself to be an *Open Circle* school. As such, all staff will be trained and students will be coached to develop social skills including anti-bullying strategies.
5. **Expand efforts to encourage walking, carpools, and bicycles:** The *Safe Routes to School* program, sponsored by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation's MassRIDES supports the school's efforts to increase the number of students who walk, ride bicycles or carpool to school. Central School will continue to provide second grade students with pedestrian safety lessons and encourage all students to walk to school on a regular basis.
6. **Continue CORI checks:** All adults who work with children at Central School must agree to have a CORI check done to insure the continued safety of the students and staff.
7. **Review and rehearse the School Crisis Plan:** At the start of the school year, the entire faculty will review the School Crisis Plan. Procedures and practices during a lock down drill will be reviewed. Building security will be continuously monitored.

SCHOOL CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT GOALS

1. **Reassess needs with a changing student population:** As our school population changes, there should be an examination of space use and staffing needs based upon student profiles. Planning for the next school year should occur by the mid-point in the school year.
2. **Refine and support behavioral expectations for the Central School students:** *Open Circle* will help to create classroom and school-wide behavioral

expectations. Particular attention will be focused upon maintaining confidentiality as well as creating an inclusive environment for all learners within the school.

GOALS FOR MEETING DIVERSITY IN LEARNING

- 1. Promote respect, acceptance, and inclusion of all students:** Through discussions at Open Circle classroom meetings students, faculty, and support staff will promote in an age-appropriate manner acceptance of every individual as part of our learning community. Adults will model inclusive strategies and help foster respect for all.
- 2. Support changes to the TAT (Teacher Assistance Team) program:** Central School faculty members will continue to modify the Teacher Assistance Team (TAT) to reflect RTI expectations.