

**Acton Public Schools  
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District**

**Merriam School**

School Improvement Plan Report 2007-2008  
School Improvement Plan 2008-2009

**Acton Public Schools  
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District**

**Merriam School**

**Part One: Background and Rationale**

Members of the Merriam School Council

Sandra Wilensky	Principal	
Maryann Ayers	Teacher	2nd of 3-year-term
Colm McDermott	Teacher	3rd of 3-year-term
Linda McMullon	Teacher	2nd of 3-year-term
Pramod Sundaram	Parent	3rd of 3-year-term
Virginia Taylor	Parent	3rd of 3-year-term
Luke Zhang	Parent	2nd of 3-year-term
Trish Underwood	Parent	1st of 3-year-term

Merriam School Council Meeting Dates 2007-2008

October 9, 2007	January 16, 2008
November 13, 2007	March 11, 2008
December 18, 2007	May 13, 2008

After introducing new members to the role of the School Council, the Merriam School Council began the 2007-2008 school year organizing the plans/strategies for the School Improvement Plan and developing global plans for the school year. The teachers, parent representatives and principal on the School Council reported progress on the work toward meeting the goals at each meeting. Along with ongoing work on School Improvement Goals, the School Council worked with the PTO to vary their meeting days and times, and to provide childcare for several meetings. Those meetings were very well attended.

This spring, the School Council reviewed, reflected on and discussed the 2007-2008 goals.

## **Part Two: Evaluation of Current School Improvement Plan 2007-2008**

**Goal One:** Continue our work encouraging parent participation that is more fully representative of our diverse community

Strategies:

- 1) Develop homework support strategies (that may involve library, classroom and computer lab resources) to enable parents and students to participate more in student work
- 2) Present and distribute Merriam School Parent Involvement Brochure to the school community at the September 2007 Open House
- 3) Develop a Parent-Resource area
- 4) Develop Teacher-Resource area in the Merriam curriculum room to support teachers in communication with parents
- 5) Faculty will support this school goal with professional development during the school year

Responsible parties: Principal, Merriam Faculty, School Council

Outcome: Increased participation in student learning activities and school events by a full spectrum of families in the community.

Target Date: May 2008

Assessment: The Merriam faculty presented and distributed a Parent Involvement Brochure in the fall of 2007. A Parent/Teacher Resource area was developed in the PDB library. The Merriam Community Newsletter introduced and highlighted this area of the library to parents. A Homework Forum was held to gather parent ideas about homework and to learn how teachers can support parents in helping their children with home assignments. Year long professional development supported this work. As the result of these efforts, an R and D was written and approved to write a Homework Guide for Merriam parents. The Homework Club will provide homework support for those families who need/want this kind of support.

**Goal Two:** Develop a plan to provide teachers with curriculum resources in order to support students with language-based learning needs.

Strategies:

- 1) Develop an end-of-year Assessment Summary Document for ELL students
- 2) Gather materials and create curriculum plans (social studies and science major units) for classroom teachers of grades 1-6 to support the varied language needs of students
- 3) Faculty will support this school goal with professional development during the school year

Responsible parties: Principal, Merriam Faculty, School Council

Outcome: Merriam faculty will have more “tools” to teach social studies and science to students who have language needs. The end of the year Assessment Summary Document will more explicitly demonstrate growth for ELL students.

Target Date: May 2008

Assessment: An Assessment Summary Document for ELL students was written and will be piloted at Spring 2008 conferences. Curriculum Unit Development took place on all grade levels for all major units in science and social studies. CUD work resulted in written templates for all units that explain the essence of the unit and the most essential concepts for all students regardless of their knowledge of the English language. Materials will be purchased to support these units. The Staff Study group met all year to support and lead the work on this goal.

### **Part Three: School Improvement Plan 2008-2009**

**Goal One:** Continue our work encouraging parent participation that is more fully representative of our diverse community

Strategies:

- 1) Develop a homework guide to enable parents to support their children more with student assignments at home. This will be distributed at Open House in September
- 2) Homework will be a focus of grade level presentations to parents at Open House
- 3) Parent Resource area in the library will be highlighted in the community newsletter throughout the year
- 4) The Curriculum Unit Development for language learners will be piloted
- 5) The ELL Assessment Summary Document will be piloted during the school year 2008-2009 as a guide to language development, and at the end of the year to assess the progress of ELL students

Responsible parties: Principal, Merriam Faculty, School Council

Outcome: Increased participation in student learning activities and school events by a full spectrum of families in the community.

Target Date: May 2009

**Goal Two:** Pilot Everyday Math as new math program at Merriam

Strategies:

- 1) Participate in professional development to enhance understanding of program
- 2) Faculty meetings will be opportunities for grade level sharing and consultation on the program
- 3) Increase parent awareness of the new math program

Responsible parties: Principal, Merriam Faculty, School Council

Outcome: All teachers will understand the new program and their role in the scope and sequence of math at Merriam

Target Date: May 2009

**Goal Three:** To have teachers increase skills with the new laptop computers and increase the opportunities for integrated use of technology

Strategies:

- 1) Study Group meetings will be dedicated to learning about multimedia classrooms
- 2) Classroom teacher meetings will be dedicated to learning how to maximize the use of integrated technology in the curriculum
- 3) Teacher sharing of technology practices will begin every faculty meeting
- 4) Increase parent awareness of new technology

Responsible parties: Principal, Merriam Faculty, School Council

Outcome: All classroom teachers will be more proficient in the use of multimedia technology in the classroom

Target Date: May 2009