

Annual Report of the
Runkle School Council
May 2010

**Runkle School Improvement Plan
2010-2011**



Submitted to the Superintendent of Schools June 2010

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2010-2011 School Council Members

Name	Position	Status	Term Expires
Vanessa Beauchaine	Principal	Permanent	NA
Jim Stoddard	Vice Principal	Permanent	NA
Teresa Gallo-Toth	Teacher	YR3/3YRS	Jan 2011
Michelle Schweiger	Teacher	YR3/3YRS	Jan 2011
Danielle Halwick	Teacher	YR2/3YRS	Jan 2012
Kayla Myerson	Teacher	YR2/3YRS	Jan 2012
Rebecca Kemp	Teacher	YR2/3YRS	Jan 2012
Ben Chang	Parent	YR3/3YRS	Jan 2011
Rosemary McElroy	Parent	YR3/3YRS	Jan 2011
George Sopel	Parent	YR2/3YRS	Jan 2012
Susanna Stern	Parent	YR2/3YRS	Jan 2012
Jennifer Shapiro	Parent	YR1/3YRS	Jan 2013
Amy Hummel	Parent	YR1/3YRS	Jan 2013
Judy Katz	Community Rep	YR1/3YRS	Jan 2013

Runkle School Mission Statement

We, the students, teachers, staff, and families of Runkle, are a community that values a love of learning, academic achievement, and knowledge in a broad range of subjects. Respect, hard work, responsibility, tolerance, empathy, and honesty serve as the basis for our relationship to each other. The Runkle community has these goals:

- To promote academic excellence and a love of learning through the development and mastery of basic skills
- To promote an environment of responsible, respectful, and disciplined behavior
- To promote a strong and positive sense of self, valuing best effort
- To promote an attitude of life-long learning built upon curiosity, creativity, and a willingness to explore new ideas
- To promote a generous, participatory community spirit that respects diversity

The Runkle School Council Statement of Purpose

The Runkle School Council was formed after the passage in 1993 of a law mandating that every public elementary, secondary and independent vocational school in the Commonwealth establish a school council.

The Runkle School Council will meet regularly and will assist in the identification of the educational needs of the students attending the Runkle School, make recommendations to the principal for the development, implementation and assessment of the curriculum accommodation plan required by the state guidelines, and will assist in the review of the annual school budget and in the formulation of a school improvement plan.

The Runkle School, in consultation with the School Council, will adopt education goals for The Runkle School consistent with the goals and standards, including student performance standards, adopted by the Massachusetts Board of Education and consistent with the educational policies established by the Town of Brookline. The council will formulate an annual school improvement plan to advance such goals, to address such needs and to improve student performance.

Summary 2009-2010 Goals

The Runkle School Council met regularly throughout the 2009-10 school year. Meetings were posted and members of the public were welcome to attend. Annual elections were held in January, 2010. Two open three-year terms were filled by the re-election of Jennifer Shapiro and the new election of Amy Hummel. Neighbor and parent of former Runkle students Judy Katz joined the Council in the role of Community Member, also for a three-year term. The Council recognizes that many members will need to attend any FY11 training that is offered.

We made good progress across the Strategic Areas of Focus set by the Public Schools of Brookline. Highlights include:

Goal 1: Academic Excellence

- Teachers are reporting greater familiarity and comfort with the K-5 Think Math curriculum. There is much enthusiasm for the program.
- Impact Math has been implemented in grades 6-8 with teachers indicating a more challenging curriculum.
- There is greater presence of curriculum resources and remediation/practice sites for the Runkle community via runkle.org. Examples include the *I Can Read* game (Grade 1 Literacy) and a National Library of Virtual Manipulatives (Gr. 6-8 Math).
- CFG & CST groups are continuing
- Runkle Achievement Program (RAP) is ongoing and expanding to reach more students in need of academic and social bonding.
- MCAS Boost program was expanded to include Grades 4-6, providing coverage for triple the number of students that were able to participate last year.
- X Block implemented once per week in Grade 7 in order to give greater time for remediation and enrichment in Mathematics and Language Arts.

Goal 2: Eliminating the Achievement Gap

- Continuing to focus on minority students' connection to Runkle School via the Runkle Achievement Program (RAP)
- MCAS Boost program provides additional support for many minority students. Groundwork laid, with Oscar Lauriero, to provide data-driven analysis of the effectiveness of this program over the coming years.
- Continued success of the Kids-to-Kids program – Older students reading to younger students after school one day per week.
- Young Early Arrivers (YEA!) program – Bussed students and other early-arriving students supervised daily, reading stories, doing puzzles, playing games.

Goal 3: Thriving in a Complex Global Society

- Continued use of and increase the enthusiasm for Responsive Classroom in Gr. K-5. Teachers in Gr. 6-8 will investigate the benefits of expanding Responsive Classroom into their grade level by potentially introducing Development Design in 2011-2012. A PTO Grant will assist with this year-long research.

FY11 John D. Runkle School Improvement Plan Grid Summary

The Runkle School Council considered the need to support existing efforts as well as undertake new initiatives in the FY11 School Improvement Plan. Careful thought, as well as consultation with incoming Principal, Dr. Vanessa Beauchaine, was given to the Actions we propose taking in support of the Strategic Areas of Focus.

Continuing Efforts

We will continue our efforts in the areas of: implementation of Think Math and Impact Math, Critical Friends Groups (CFG), Child Support Teams (CST), and Responsive Classroom (RC). In addition, we will continue to offer and expand the Runkle Achievement Program (RAP), the MCAS Boost program and the Young Early Arrivers Program in our efforts to close the achievement gap. Finally, a clear priority for the coming two years is to continue the effort to inform and involve all Runkle School stakeholders in the School Building project and transition to the Old Lincoln School.

New Initiatives

- In recognition of the district-wide Autism Spectrum Disorder Program being located at Runkle, we have proposed an Action to promote student awareness of Autism across all grades, but with a particular emphasis in the lower grades when students' understanding and awareness of the condition is emerging.
- Develop and implement professional development support strands that provide teachers with opportunities to investigate and to expand their classroom use of Differentiated Instructional practices, particularly in the area of Mathematics. The effort would utilize the Runkle School ECS Staff and resources to offer math enrichment learning opportunities to include Think Math Extension Menus in K-5. It would also involve the implementation of the town-wide Honors Challenge Option in grades 7 & 8.
- After many years of particular attention to Mathematics through the program review and subsequent implementation of Think Math and Impact Math, the Council proposes an Action that would look at questions of Writing and Literacy through a similar lens and make improvements in those areas.
- Expand Responsive Classroom (RC) to include Grades 6-8 through the study and investigation of *Developmental Designs: A Responsive Classroom Approach in Grades 6-8*. A PTO Grant will assist this initiative.
- Review and revise the Runkle School Code of Conduct, including the development of an anti-bullying plan in conjunction with the town-wide Social Competencies efforts. Such a plan would include a definition of bullying, as well as plans for prevention and response.
- Increase Fine Arts opportunities students by implementing an after-school Grade 6-8 Chorus Program.