

# The Innovation Agenda

A Design for Excellence  
in the Cambridge Public Schools

School Committee Presentation  
February 1, 2011

# Innovation Agenda

- A Design for Excellence in the Cambridge Public Schools
- Expect More
- Academic Excellence and Social Justice

# WHY?

- Inequitable Middle Grades Experience for Students, both Academically and Socially
- Uneven Preparation of Students Entering Cambridge Rindge and Latin School
- Limited Professional Learning Communities for Teachers

# WHY? (Cont.)

- Inequitable Treatment of Special Populations
- Ineffective use of CPS Resources
- Student Achievement **MUST** Improve

# The Process Thus Far...

- Blue Ribbon Commission Findings
- School Committee Team Reports
- Community Involvement and Input
- Best Practices from Inside and Outside Cambridge

# Values Underlying the Design

- Preserve Cambridge's History and Tradition of Strong School Communities
- Identify and Extend Current Best Practices
- Extend the Challenges for our Highest Performing Students
- Close the Achievement Gaps

# A Design for Excellence

- Strengthen the Instructional Core
- Develop and Implement Innovative Educational Elements
- Achieve Socio-Economic Status Balance in Schools
- Provide a Long Range Plan to Upgrade our Facilities

# Specifics of the Design

Creation of Four Upper Schools Across the City

**Innovation Agenda District Configuration**

**One High School Program With Four Learning Communities**

*Located in One School Building*



*One Upper School Program and a Network of Four Campuses*

*Located in four larger school buildings*



*Twelve Elementary Schools*



*With consistent feeder patterns to upper school campuses*





# Upper Schools Feeder Pattern

<b>Upper School Campus Location</b>	<b>Elementary School Communities Assigned</b>
<b>Cambridge Street</b>	<b>Cambridgeport Fletcher Maynard King Open</b>
<b>Rindge Avenue</b>	<b>Baldwin King Peabody</b>
<b>Spring Street</b>	<b>Amigos Kennedy-Longfellow Morse</b>
<b>Vassal Lane</b>	<b>Graham and Parks Haggerty Tobin</b>

# The Instructional Core

- Consistent, Coherent, College-Bound Curriculum
- Teacher Quality
- Instructional Leadership
- Building on the Best of CPS
- Increased Academic Rigor
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

# Components of an Enhanced Program

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)
- World Languages
- Arts
- Developmentally Appropriate Electives
- Health and Wellness
- Student-Staff-Family Relationships
- Technology
- Consistent Start and End Times for Out of School Time Programming

# JK-5 Program

- Strong School Communities
- Child Centered Programs
- World Language, Arts
- Three (3) Special Opportunities:
  - Martin Luther King School-Chinese Language Immersion Program
  - Kennedy-Longfellow/Lesley University Technology Partnership
  - Fletcher Maynard Academy/Area 4 Wraparound Zone

# Facilities Plans

- Close Collaboration with City Manager
- Renovation to Existing Buildings
- Possible New Construction

# The Road Ahead

- February 1<sup>st</sup> – Superintendent’s Presentation
- February 3<sup>rd</sup> – School Committee Roundtable Discussion
- February 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> -Town Hall Meetings
- February 15<sup>th</sup> –School Committee Public Hearing
- March 1<sup>st</sup>- School Committee Vote

# The Road Ahead (Cont.)

- 2011/2012 School Year
  - Staff/Parent Working Teams
  - Transition Teams (Activities)
  - Upper School Project Manager
  - SPED Program Evaluation
  - Interdisciplinary Projects
  - Math Curriculum Review Cycle
  - Partnerships
  - Community Building
  - Professional Development for Upper Schools Teachers
  - Performance Assessments
  - Early Childhood