

# Charles H. McCann Technical



## School Improvement Plan 2009-2010

**Charles H. McCann Technical School Administration**

James J. Brosnan – Superintendent-Director

Kathleen Millard – Principal  
Justin Kratz – Assistant Principal  
Marylou Accetta – Director of Student Services

### **2008-2009 School Council**

Kathleen Millard– Principal – Co-Chairperson  
Bonnie Anderson– Parent  
Peter Chenail - Parent  
Perry Burdick – Information Technology –Parent  
Nancy Cook – Cabinetry Instructor - Faculty Member  
Sarah Hadley - English Instructor – Faculty Member  
Adam Kozik– Instructor- Math  
Alexander Segala – Student – (Class of 2009)  
Hannah Nuvalie – Student (Class of 2009)  
Sara Simonetti (Co-Chairperson) - Student (Class of 2010)  
Alison Borey – Student (Class of 2010)  
Nicole Burdick – Student (Class of 2011)  
James Nowak –Student (Class of 2011)

### **School Committee**

Richard Alcombright – North Adams  
Richard Bernardi – Clarksburg  
Susan Reinhartt – Savoy  
James Gazzaniga – Williamstown  
Michael Hernandez- North Adams  
Aaron Dean – Adams  
John Hockridge – North Adams  
Alice Houghtaling – Monroe  
Jana Hunkler-Brule - Florida  
Thomas Mahar – Williamstown  
Daniel Maloney, Jr. – Adams  
Joseph Allard – Adams  
George Canales – North Adams  
Paul Gigliotti – North Adams

**Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District**

## **School Council**

The administration believes that the school is the key unit for educational improvement and change and that successful school improvement is best accomplished through a school – based decision making process. By involving those directly affected by any action or decision of the school council in the process of determining that action or decision, it helps to strengthen the commitment to those decisions by those most affected by its implementation.

The principal shall have primary responsibility for the management of the school. Decisions which are made at the school level must be aligned with the budget, policies, curriculum, and long range and short-range goals adopted by the school committee. In addition, decisions must comply with any state and federal laws and regulations and with any negotiated agreement of the school district.

As enacted by the state legislature in the Education Reform Act of 1993, a school council shall be established in each school to advise the principal in specific areas of school operation. The principal, except as specifically defined in the law, shall have the responsibility for defining the composition of and forming the group pursuant to a representative process approved by the superintendent and school committee.

The following guidelines define the role of the school council:

The school council shall meet regularly with the principal of the school and shall assist in:

1. Adoption of educational goals for the school that are consistent with state and local policies and standards.
2. Identification of the educational needs of the students attending the school.
3. Review of the building budget.
4. Formulation of a school improvement plan that may be implemented only after review and approval of the superintendent and the school committee.

The following policy for the length of term for members of the School Council will be as follows:

Parent Representative	Teacher Representative	Community Representative	Student Representative
<p>A parent representative to the School Council may remain on the Council for as long as the parent has a child at McCann Technical School. A two year commitment to the Council is suggested.</p>	<p>A teacher representative will serve a two year term. The terms will be staggered so that there will be greater consistency to the Council. The representatives will be elected to the Council by the faculty.</p>	<p>A community representative will be appointed by the Chair for a two year term.</p>	<p>A student representative will be elected to the Council by the student body for a maximum two-year term. Student representatives may serve on the Council for additional terms if reelected. A senior may serve the Council for a one year term, if elected. If no member of the student body comes forward to seek a position on the Council, the principal will seek individuals to serve.</p>

## Conduct of School Council Business

The principal shall, by law, serve as co-chair of the council. The second co-chair will be elected annually by the council members at its first meeting of the school year. The co-chair will be responsible for the preparation of the agenda for the council meetings.

The school council shall meet at least once monthly during the school year. Meeting will be held outside of school hours. At its first meetings of the school year, the council will set its calendar of regular meetings for the year. Where circumstances warrant, the council can choose to call additional meetings.

Consensus shall be used by the school council as the primary method to resolve issues and to formulate recommendations. Votes by majority may be taken at the discretion of the principal and Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail if there are any questions of procedure.

All meetings of the school council shall conform to the Open Meeting Law, section 23 A, B, and C, which stipulates that all meetings be open to the public, that meetings be posted at least 48 hours in advance, and that minutes of the meeting shall be maintained as required. The scope of the school council does not require, and therefore does not qualify for executive session.

The superintendent shall receive agendas and minutes of all school council meetings. The superintendent shall provide copies of these materials to members of the school committee for information.

## **Mission**

The mission of McCann Technical School is to graduate individuals who are technically skilled and academically prepared to meet the challenges of a global economy.

## **Vision**

McCann Technical School is dedicated to being the recognized leader of quality technical education in the Commonwealth.

## **Educational Philosophy**

The educational philosophy of the McCann Technical School is to create a learning organization of school and community leaders, teachers, parents, and students that sustains a culture of continuous improvement through the use of student assessment and program evaluation.

School community members will:

- Create a learning environment that motivates and actively engages all students in mastering rigorous academic and technical curricula.
- Accept nothing less than accountable, high quality academic and technical student performance.
- Actively participate in professional development activities that advance professional and organizational goals, develop educational leadership, and honor accomplishments.
- Provide academic and career/technical education that is aligned to state and national standards and relevant is to business and industry.
- Strengthen partnerships and alliances with business, industry, and higher education.

## **Goals**

- To achieve and maintain adequate yearly progress (AYP) and to increase the percentage of students performing at the proficient and advanced levels as measured by the grade 10 MCAS test and the grade *12 High Schools That Work Assessment*.
- To implement an integrated curriculum that is aligned to the academic and technical Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and to the HSTW recommended curriculum.
- To align technical programs to national standards and accreditation requirements, allowing students to obtain relevant licensure/certifications.
- To create systems that support school leaders, teachers and counselors in implementing the HSTW key practices.
- To increase involvement in school and community collaboration.

It is the policy of the Charles H. McCann Technical School not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, creed, color, national origin or handicaps in its educational programs, activities, or employment opportunities.

## **Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District**

### **School Improvement Plan**

The principal, in conjunction with the school council, shall be responsible for preparing a written improvement plan annually. This plan shall be written with the advice of the school council and submitted for approval to the superintendent and the school committee. The plan should be drafted with the following in mind:

1. The educational goals for the school should be consistent with the goals and standards, including student performance standards, as adopted by the Massachusetts Board of Educational and by the school committee.
2. An assessment of the needs of the school in light of the proposed educational goals.
3. The means to address student performance.
4. Professional development for the schools professional staff.
5. The enhancement of parental involvement in the life of the school safety, and discipline.
6. The development of means for meeting the diverse learning needs of every child.
7. Any further subjects as the principal, in consultation with the school council shall consider appropriate, except that:
  - a). The school council shall have no authority over matters that are subject to Chapter 150E, the collective bargaining law and
  - b). The council may not expand the scope of its authority beyond that established in law or expressly granted by school committee policy.

If the school improvement plan is not approved by the superintendent and the school committee, it shall be returned to the principal with specific comments as to the reason(s). The principal shall revise the plan in cooperation with the school council, and resubmit it for approval.

### **Strategic Goal – Number One**

**To achieve and maintain adequate yearly progress (AYP) and to increase the percentage of students performing at the proficient and advanced levels in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science as measured by the grade 10 MCAS test.**

**Strategies:**

All students will read a minimum of four supplemental reading books throughout the school year. Students will read two supplemental reading books in English, one supplemental reading book for Science, one supplemental reading book for Math, and one supplemental reading book in honors History.

Supplemental reading books will be assigned based upon the following schedule:

Quarter 1: Science  
Quarter 2: English  
Quarter 3: Math  
Quarter 4: English

- Teachers will maintain a Collins writing folder with samples of the different types of writing assignments.
- Continuing the Collins Writing program across all disciplines.
- Department heads with administrators and teachers will review MCAS data, when received, to determine programmatic and student strengths, weaknesses, and learning gaps.
- Teachers will use formative and summative student assessment data to match instructional practice with students needs.

**Secondary Goals:**

- To implement in all disciplines, the restructuring of assignments and assessments to include short answer questions, open response questions, and to promote higher order thinking skills.
- To improve student learning through the use of multiple forms of student assessment data to develop instructional strategies and techniques.
- To develop specific interdisciplinary instructional units that are standards-based and consistent with school improvement plans

**Strategic Goal Number Two:**

**To implement and utilize the “SMART GOAL” model as a means to making educational improvements throughout the school.**

**Strategies**

- The “SMART Goal” methods, implemented during professional development sessions, uses data to help faculty identify areas that need improvement, create an action plan, and measures the effectiveness of the changes implemented.

**Strategic Goal Number Three:**

**To improve the existing school emergency plan to ensure that all staff, faculty, and students are familiar and comfortable with carrying out the proper procedures.**

**Strategies:**

- The emergency team will be reassembled, and a plan will be put in place to schedule emergency practice drills.
- The school emergency plan will be practiced a minimum of twice a year with each practice session including different scenarios.
- Debriefing and brainstorming of all participants will occur after each practice session

**Strategic Goal Number Four**

**To improve student and faculty school pride by facilitating spirit-building activities**

**Strategies:**

- Plan an activity quarterly that will be fun and may provide healthy competition while also helping to instill a sense of pride for students and faculty.
- Form a sub-committee to plan activities and evaluate activities for participation.

**Strategic Goal Number Five:**

## **To increase school and community collaboration.**

### **Strategies:**

- A McCann community improvement project will be established annually. Cleaning, repairing, or revitalizing public spaces in the local area is the desired outcome. School council members and volunteers will choose the annual location.
- McCann guidance department will seek to establish connections with institutes of higher education in order to provide students with the most articulation opportunities possible.

### **Secondary Goals**

- To create a community awareness team to develop guidelines for promoting the school.
- To continue to develop and expand existing articulation agreements with institutions of higher education.
- To create innovative programs that uses the school as an expanded community resource.