

**Wayland Public Schools  
Office of the Superintendent**

**To:** School Committee  
**From:** Gary A. Burton  
**Date:** January 19, 2007  
**Re:** Core Values

**DRAFT**

As a number of committee members have asked for an update on the administrators' work with Dr. Irwin Blumer, I share the following with you and will be happy to explain where we are in our efforts to clearly and succinctly express the core values of the Wayland Public Schools. The information and statements below are in draft form and require further clarification before this document will be presented for public reaction and additional revisions.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

The WPS believes that the teaching and learning of all children is the fundamental goal of its educators. The WPS will work to:

- Support instruction that expects mastery and leads to lifelong inquiry
- Create a learning environment in which all students are appropriately supported and challenged
- Create and sustain a culture that empowers educators to make decisions on instruction
- Provide opportunities for educators to reflect and actively participate in the advancement of their craft

**COLLEGIALITY**

WPS will establish, maintain and nurture a culture in which collegial relationships, risk-taking and mutual support is encouraged. The WPS will work to:

- Support collaboration, planning and professional conversations about teaching and learning.
- Provide opportunities for educators to participate in peer observations to improve instructional practices and expand professional skills
- Create structures for educators to share expertise in various leadership roles (lab classroom teachers, teacher mentors, curriculum leaders, professional developers, etc.)

## **RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIFFERENCES**

Wayland Public Schools values the full range of human differences. The WPS will work to:

- Invest in training and staff development opportunities that help educators understand and accommodate the different ways in which children learn
- Institute practices and supports that recognize and address the range of conditions in and out of school that affect learning and achievement.
- Offer and actively promote opportunities outside the school day that allow diverse students to explore interests, refine skills and receive the academic support they need.
- Narrow the gap in performance between various racial groups as well as the performance between students with special needs and those without.
- Continually examine and our expectations of student performance, while considering the different ways in which students of diverse backgrounds receive and understand instruction.
- Incorporate differences in race, ethnicity, culture, language, socio-economics, gender, sexual orientation and learning styles, as well as the fundamental similarities of the human family into our curriculum.

## **COMMUNITY**

WPS recognizes the importance of the individual's place in and responsibility to community, including his/her place as a member of family, classroom, school, town and the world. The WPS will work to:

- Model a positive environment for all people, regardless of age, sexual orientation, race, gender, culture or religious beliefs.
- Demonstrate that concern for the well being of others is part of one's civic obligation. Create a safe physical and emotional environment for our students, staff, families, and residents.
- Engender in the individual a sense of responsibility to family, school community, the town and the world at large, including the environment.
- Maintain effective internal and external communications for receiving and providing timely information to the school community.
- Maintain and enhance local political and financial support for high quality public education.