

# Middle and High School Planning Proposal

Board of Education Meeting  
March 15, 2007

## MAIN TENETS:

- The proposal for middle & high school planning is a comprehensive plan.
  
- It is built on elements that:
  1. Exist within the school system.
  
  2. Will exist within the school system.
  
  3. Are new opportunities for the school system.

## Here's what we know :

1. Goals for student success:
  - Eliminate the achievement gap in 4 years
  - 100% graduation rate
2. In 2008-2009 middle school enrollment decreases (2 middle schools, 1 K-8 school)
3. In 2008-2009 the State Accountability System requires restructuring for Philip Livingston Magnet Academy and Hackett Middle School).

## Here's what we know:

4. Educational program design for Albany High School has supported the concept of smaller learning communities for the past 7 years.
5. Reducing student enrollment at Albany High School has evolved as a need.
6. High school facilities reconstruction maintained as a District goal (includes Athletic Master Plan and other Phase II projects).

## Here's what's new:

### 1. Federal Magnet Grant RFP

- Seen as opportunity to comprehensively address pending closing of Philip Livingston Magnet Academy as a middle school in 2008-2009.
- Opportunity to create an off-campus smaller learning community for Albany High School.

### 2. UAlbany's College of Nanoscale Science & Engineering Partnership

- Opportunity for creating and developing a themed academy of nanoscale science, technology, and environmental science.

## Magnet Program Development

1. Provides basis for comprehensive program design/drives education outcomes.
2. Establishes a system of rigorous evaluation.
3. Expands opportunities for school choice
4. Revitalizes middle school academic program
5. Revitalizes middle school faculty and staff with extensive professional development
6. Develops a thematic approach to curriculum focusing on more rigorous coursework in support of academic achievement
7. Incorporates strong plans for sustained parent and community involvement
8. Identifies outcomes based on measurable objective-based student academic achievement.

## What's Needed to Proceed?

1. Board of Education acknowledgement of 2 middle schools in 2008-2009 (Hackett Middle School and Myers Middle School).
2. Board of Education approves development of Magnet Grant proposal for 2 themed middle schools and 1 themed high school academy (nanoscale science, technology, engineering, and environmental science).
3. Board of Education endorses submission of grant proposal.

## Steps in the Process of Developing the Magnet Programs:

### Immediate:

- MLE Task Force continues work on Profile of a Middle Level Learner.
- Thematic Curricular Development Teams established for each area (Humanities and Fine Arts, Research Science and Technology, and Nanoscale Science, Engineering and Research Science) to build thematic approach.
- Magnet Enrollment Committee established.

### Up and Through Week of April 9:

- Once teams/committees are established, project proposal development.

### Week of April 16:

- Community presentations.

### April 19:

- Board of Education presentation at Roundtable.

### Week of April 23:

- Compile cohesive grant proposal (written document)

### April 27:

- Grant proposal submission.

## Staff, Parent, Community Involvement:

- Membership on Middle Level Education Task Force.
- Membership on themed curricular teams.
- Ongoing presentations/feedback forums.

- Feedback to date

# Principal's Summary

- Expanding successful program
- Smaller learning communities
- Benefits of magnet and/or themed opportunities