

ANOVA

The Massachusetts School  
of Science, Creativity and  
Leadership

*Seeking Approval from Melrose School Committee  
To Open in Melrose, Fall 2010*

# AGENDA

- The Need
- Our Mission & Model
- Team
- Private School Approval
- Students
- Admissions
- Curriculum & Culture
- Teachers, Staff & Specialists
- Operational Details

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The needs of gifted students are not being met within existing Massachusetts public schools.
  - Massachusetts ranks 48<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states in supporting gifted & talented students.
- We will open a non-profit parent cooperative school for gifted students for the 2010-2011 school year.
  - 39 students in three class groupings.
  - Multi age classes for grades K-2, 2-4, 5-6.
  - Interdisciplinary, thematic, project-oriented learning.
  - Flexible, ability based groups across ages.
  - Align mentors and customize Independent Learning Plans.
- Our long-term goal is become a publicly funded school.
  - Not a Commonwealth Charter School.

# OUR MISSION

## Mission:

- Create a K-12 school that serves high ability students and promotes learning based upon ability and motivation, not age.
- Enable students to reach their full potential and develop the next generation of scientists, mathematicians, creative thinkers, and leaders.

## Statement of Intended Impact:

- We will assure an appropriate education for gifted students and enable them to realize academic achievement gains and social and emotional growth that is higher than like ability peers who are not part of a specialized program.
- Long-term, we intend to become a model for effective education which incubates the launch of other schools and programs for gifted students and inspires innovative new practices in general education. Through professional development offerings, we will catalyze positive education reform and enable achievement of school districts' goals.

# LAUNCH TEAM

- Meredith Benedict, JD *Georgetown Law, Harvard School of Public Health*
- Pat Bentley, PhD *MIT, MIT Sloan Business School Lecturer of Leadership*
- Courtney Dickinson *Dartmouth, Teacher, Consulting, Leadership Development*
- Josh Dobbelaar *Worcester Polytech Institute, Technology*
- Julia Dobbelaar *Boston University, Child Development, EMT*
- David Grayzel, MD *Harvard Medical School, Biotech, Industry Partnerships*
- Heather McAvoy, MEd *Boston College, Teacher, UConn Coursework /Gifted Ed*
- Suzanne Morris , MBA *Boston University, Technology Consulting*
- Fareed Behmaram-Mosavat *Brown University, Pixar, Technology & Creativity*
- D'lynne Plummer *Marketing Strategy & Public Relations*
- Diane Rich, MBA *Wharton School of Business, Strategic Planning*
- Molly Swanson *MIT Physics PhD, Teacher & Secondary School Model*

# PRIVATE SCHOOL APPROVAL

- “A private school. . . must obtain the approval of the school committee of the city or town in which the school is located. The Massachusetts compulsory school attendance law, General Laws c. 76, § 1, sets the standard by which school committees must evaluate private schools.”
- The pertinent section follows:
  - “For the purposes of this section, school committees shall approve a private school when satisfied that the instruction in all the studies required by law equals in thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein, that in the public schools in the same town. . . .”
  - "A school committee's approval under G.L. c. 76, § 1, means that Massachusetts children attending the private school may do so without violation of the compulsory attendance law. School committee approval is neither an evaluation of program quality nor an endorsement of any particular school. The decision to enroll a child in, or to withdraw a child from, a particular private school is one that parents must make."

# OUR MODEL

## We Are

- A Parent Cooperative School
  - Parents are actively involved in the operation of the school.
  - Parents are required to contribute both time and talent.
- A magnet for G & T students within Massachusetts.
- A school that engages area resources with emphasis on creativity, arts and sciences. (perhaps MIT Media Lab, Museum of Science, lab school for area Education School, others).
- An extra-curricular resource center for student programs in arts and sciences.

## We Hope to Become

- A publicly-funded school
  - Not a charter school
- An incubator for innovative schools to serve gifted students
- A center for dissemination
- A resource for professional development in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Best Practices
- A model which can be replicated
- An inspiration for educational reform in general education

# ANOVA PROFILE

## Students

### Student profiles

- Academically Successful
- Creative but Challenging
- Underground Talent
- Twice Exceptional

### Admissions

- Reflect theory of multiple intelligences
- Focus on achievement *and* potential
- Leverage wide range of inputs including standardized assessments, creative assessments, work samples, leadership capability, neuropsych evaluations, parental feedback

## Curriculum

- Interdisciplinary
- Multi-age
- Eclectic Pedagogy
- Individual Learning Plans
- Flexible Groups
- Montessori methods; time to go deep
- Experiential & Project Learning
- Themes
- Focus on Complex Thinking
- Mentors
- Teaching for Understanding model

## Culture

- Freedom, Not Pressure
- Community
- Openness
- Innovation
- Curiosity
- Integrity
  
- Parent cooperative model which aligns parent talents with school needs

# CURRICULUM

- Museum of Science Engineering is Elementary
  - Each problem is set in a country, launching interdisciplinary and project learning about culture, geography, history, language arts
- Singapore Mathematics
- Destination Imagination and/or FIRST Lego League
- Writer's Workshop, Book Club, Creative Writing
- Music / Performance
- Art and Creativity
- Physical Education
- Leadership Development
- Independent Projects

## Assessment

- Begin year with above grade level TX or CA state assessment to inform ILP creation. This assures a high enough ceiling so that teacher truly knows the ability level of each child.
- End year with ERB Testing at grade level
- Reference MA Frameworks
- Narrative progress reports; not comparative or competitive

# MULTI AGE CLASS STRATEGIES

- **Individual Learning Plans**—Collaborative, flexible plans that serve as a students' roadmap for the school year. Created with input from high ceiling assessments, parents, teachers, and student.
- **Differentiated instruction and flexible groups**—Utilize preassessment, differentiated materials, and curriculum compacting. Students grouped with like ability peers for small group, teacher centered instruction.
- **Mix of independent and guided work**—Students create independent projects based on their passions and abilities and also participate in collaborative groups and guided learning groups.
- **Use of themes**—Enables learning within a wide ability range.
- **Individualized menus**—Students work at their own pace on different topics throughout the day and learn to manage their own time.
- **Partner with mentors**—Matched based on each child's specific talent or interest to foster development.

# TEACHERS & STAFF



- Heather McAvoy, M.Ed. Boston College
  - K – Grade 2 & ILP Parent Liaison
- Heny Taraz, M.Ed. Gifted Education
  - Science Teacher & 2e specialist
- Elaine McCarthy, 37 years teaching
  - Music & Teacher Mentor (part time)
- Molly Swanson, Ph.D. MIT Physics
  - Science & Mathematics (part time)
- Two other teachers to be hired
- Courtney Dickinson, Dartmouth
  - Director
- Julia Dobbelaar, Boston College, EMT
  - Health & Administration
- Michael Connell, M.Ed. Harvard (HGSE)
  - Curriculum Advisor

# SPECIALTIES: IN HOUSE & CONSULTANTS

## Health

- EMT on staff
- Contract nursing services available
- Sexual Education Counselor / OBGyn

## Counseling

- Behavioral
- Social/ Emotional
- Psychologist

## Specialists

- Dyslexia Tutor
- OT
- Curriculum Design
- Twice Exceptional
- Multiple Intelligences Strategies

## Subject Experts

- Music & Performance
- Physics & Astrophysics
- Life Sciences
- Mathematics
- Art

# SCHOOL CALENDAR

- We will follow the public school calendar of the school district in which the school resides.
- The public school approach will be replicated for the following:
  - Snow Policy and School Closings
  - Holidays
  - School Vacations
- Our opening day for Year 1 will be September 8

# SAFETY

- We have a detailed policy to ensure the safety of our students.
  - Pick Up/ Drop Off
  - Students to teacher Ratio, 9-12:1
  - Nursing/EMT is additional staff on site
  - CORI Checks
  - Confidentiality re: Student Records/Information

# FUNDING

- We will operate as a privately-funded, not-for-profit corporation.
- Tuition for the 2010 – 2011 School Year: \$10K per student.
- We have a multi year financial plan.
  - We will grow based upon need, adding 1 – 3 classrooms per year.
  - We will maintain high quality while we grow
- We will rely on the Parent Cooperative Model for contributions of time and expertise.
- We will fundraise for capital projects, special programs and tuition assistance.

# COMMUNITY

- We hope to collaborate and to give benefit to the community
  - Mentor talks, open to others
  - Professional Development
  - After school & summer enrichment opportunities which complement and augment current offerings
  - Draw people from other towns

## **A Future Together Brings Options**

- Private School: Long term lease of Beebe School
- Public School: Create Anova Innovation School
- Mutually beneficial paths can be explored together