



2016 ~ 2017
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Boyden School nurtures confidence and a desire for learning in each child's pursuit of excellence.

Boyden School

School Council Membership 2016-2017

Karen Bourn	Parent
Brendan Dearborn	Principal
Cheryl Ivatts	Grade 4 Teacher
Caroline Kiessling	Citizen Representative
Casey Leary	Guidance Counselor
Amy Norwell	Parent

INTRODUCTION

As outlined in the Education Reform Act of 1993, the Boyden School Council is comprised of representatives from the parent body, the school staff and the community at large. Elections are held to insure that all parents and staff have a full opportunity for representation. The council has specific responsibilities that include, but are not limited to, examining class size and its impact on student achievement, the school budget, school climate, safety and discipline, parental involvement and professional development, as well as the development of an annual School Improvement Plan.

Boyden School's mission, vision and core values continue to direct school-level practices and decision-making. Our school remains committed to continuous improvement as we strive to develop, implement and reflect upon educational practices that best support all of our students. A dedicated staff, committed community and well-prepared student body are dominant factors for student and school success.

Each school year, the Boyden School Council develops a School Improvement Plan which is designed to improve student achievement, address new challenges and maximize the strengths within our school community. Research and our collective experiences suggest that issues such as culture, environment and expectations are at the center of successful schools. The Boyden School mission statement, Boyden School nurtures confidence and a desire for learning in each child's pursuit of excellence, articulates our promise to the students, families and community which we serve. The 2016-2017 School Improvement Plan is the blueprint that puts the ideals of our mission statement into action.

The 2016-2017 School Improvement Plan focuses upon supporting and improving student achievement and providing our students with a physically and emotionally safe learning environment. The main goals are: 1) To improve student writing K-5 across the curriculum; 2) To improve student achievement in Science, Technology and Engineering 3) To maintain a safe social emotional learning environment amongst the Boyden Community; These goals are the foundation for specific actions and initiatives that align with our vision for Boyden School's future.

The Boyden School Council realizes the challenges in our global society. We are cognizant of the demands being placed upon individuals and families during current times, but also realize that our mission and purpose remain clear and strong. We understand that students do not achieve at high academic levels unless their emotional and social needs are met. The 2016-2017 School Improvement Plan is designed to focus on a variety of academic, social and safety goals. We understand the need to not only collect data, but to filter and use it to improve instruction and learning.

Any improvement endeavor for our students cannot be achieved by our school alone. We are fortunate to have partners who assist in our students' growth. The responsibility to help our students learn and develop extends throughout the community and into our homes. We understand and nurture the essential partnership between families and our school on behalf of children's learning. Families are our school's strongest allies in helping students achieve and thrive to their fullest potential. Open and active communication with families cultivates a relationship between home and school that places families directly on our team as we support students.

The Boyden School Council determined priorities and worked to anticipate and react to change in a proactive manner. We encourage all members of our community to be active participants in our continuous pursuit of excellence. The 2016-2017 School Improvement Plan was created through the development of a shared vision to plan a school environment which unites all members of the Boyden School community in a sense of belonging, commitment and growth.

Walpole Public Schools

District Goals

Goal 1: To expand opportunities for all students to maximize individual achievement.

Goal 2: To ensure balanced and rigorous curricula measured by authentic assessment which inform instruction and demonstrate student growth.

Goal 3: To build family and community support and engagement through effective communication with multiple opportunities for involvement in the school and town programs.

Goal 4: To maximize opportunities provided by technology to enhance teaching and learning and efficient operations.

Goal 5: To identify, secure and responsibly manage district resources to support educational objectives of the district.

Mission Statement

Boyden School nurtures confidence and a desire for learning in each child's pursuit of excellence.

Guiding Beliefs

We...

- develop in our students a genuine love for learning and an appreciation for the natural differences of a multicultural world
- seek to implement a curriculum reflective of our democratic ideal
- recognize and respect different learning styles and are united in our commitment to reach each child
- encourage creative thinking, perseverance of thought and the employment of a knowledge base of ideas, concepts and abstractions to solve problems
- celebrate the richness of the family connection
- realize our responsibility is to create a safe and nurturing environment that preserves individual dignity and builds self-esteem
- encourage our students to strive for excellence and become responsible citizens of integrity and purpose

Boyden School
2015 ~ 2016 School Improvement Plan

Goals & Objectives

Goal #1: *To improve student writing K-5 across the curriculum*

1.1 To provide a more focused approach for writing instruction and assessment.

Goal #2: *To improve student achievement in Science, Technology and Engineering*

2.1 To provide students with a more hands on 20th century learning experience in Science.

Goal #3: *To maintain safe social emotional learning environment amongst the Boyden Community*

3.1 To provide all members of the Boyden School Community with a physical and emotionally-safe learning environment.

Boyden School
"Pursuit of Excellence"

Boyden School Projected Enrollment 2016 ~ 2017
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<u>Grade</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u># of Sections</u>	<u>Class Size</u>
K	58	2 Full Day 1 Half Day	22/22 14
1	48	3	16/16/16
2	63	3	21/21/21
3	59	3	19,20,20
4	66	4	16,16,17,17
5	84	4	21,21,21,21

Total Projected Enrollment: 378 (Enrollment Data as of July 1, 2016)
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Evaluation of the 2015-2016 School Improvement Plan

The Boyden School Council is proud of the accomplishments during the past school year. The four main goals of the 2015-2016 School Improvement Plan were: to improve student writing across the curriculum, to improve homework efficiency across all grade levels, to improve student achievement in Mathematics, to maintain a safe social emotional learning environment amongst the Boyden Community. While not all objectives and action plan steps were fully completed, the following summary highlights many of the achievements and progress towards these goals:

We continued to look for ways to enhance writing instruction across grade levels. We ensured that each class/grade had a designated writing block and teachers focused more on their writing instruction. Some teachers attended professional development workshops around writing instruction/process, while others created student learning goals around the writing instruction/process. We also took the opportunity during curriculum and staff meetings to become more familiar with the writing standards across each grade level. As a school and as a district we will continue to look into the writing curriculum, standards and instruction in the coming year.

This year we took a close look at homework and how to make it more efficient across the school. Using information from our previous years homework survey and using research in regards to the educational effects homework has on students, we outlined more concrete homework guidelines at Boyden. All of the teachers reviewed the guidelines, gave input and discussed how this would impact the students going forward. We made the guidelines available to families and posted them on our website. Throughout the year, we met periodically to discuss, clarify and evaluate the benefit it was providing to our students in their development. Though this will not be a formal part of plan going forward we will continue to evaluate this and make changes when necessary.

This year was our third year of the EnVisions curriculum and the teachers became much more comfortable to where it may need to be supported with other materials. We were able to continue our extended Mathematics blocks this year to allow teachers to incorporate all aspects of the curriculum while also continuing “Math Talks”. All teachers of Mathematics participated in professional development throughout the year with a Math Consultant to deeper their understanding of math instruction and to gain a better sense of the eight Mathematical Practices. Throughout the classrooms the focus was on those mathematical practices, math discourse and having students explain their thinking to one another. Many teachers participated in a course/workshop or began to learn more about “Guided Math” and implement pieces of this into their instruction. Though the plan will not formally address mathematics this year, we will continue to evaluate our practices and build upon the knowledge gained through the Math Consultant.

The final goal of the 2015-2016 School Improvement Plan was for Boyden School to continue its efforts to provide all members of the school community with a physically and emotionally-safe learning environment. The Guidance Counselors across the district continued to develop four units that are taught K-5 (Feelings, Decision Making, Individual/Group Decision Making, Interpersonal Relationships). At Boyden, the counselor

continued to teach the appropriate lessons to focus on areas of need for the students in those particular units. He did this both in whole class lessons and in more focused small groups. We continue to look for more ways to involve families in the social and emotional development of their children and to receive feedback around what they see as the area of need. Once again in December, the whole school participated in “Inclusive Schools Week” where each day we discussed a variety of ways to include one another and celebrate our individual differences.

Boyden School Student Council continued into its second year. Sixteen students from Grade 4 and 5 were elected to be part of the Council. They met periodically to create School Spirits day (Walpole Day, Crazy Hat Day, Pajama Day, etc) each month and Community Service Projects (raised money for St. Jude’s Hospital, collected food supplies for the Food Pantry). They also discussed others ways to improve the Boyden school and to make learning even more enjoyable. It has been a great addition and provided the students an opportunity to have a larger role in guiding the school in the right direction.

Boyden School students, families and staff continue to participate in a variety of activities that foster and celebrate civic pride and participation. This school year, several community service learning projects took place that highlighted the generosity and kindness of the Boyden School community. Once again, Boyden School continued its long tradition of supporting those in need and continued relationships with the Walpole Food Pantry Drive, the American Cancer Society’s Daffodil Days, Holiday Gifts for Kids program, the American Heart Association’s Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser, and sending holiday gifts and cards to veterans at a local VA hospital.

Boyden students also had several opportunities to participate in enrichment activities. The Boyden Running Club, Homework Club and our After School Enrichment Program provided quality and memorable activities for students.

Boyden School is fortunate to continue to receive exceptional support from parents and families in the form of countless volunteer hours and financial support. Several PAC events promoted and celebrated our school community. Examples included the highly successful and popular Talent Show, Pancake Breakfast, Bowling Ice Breaker, and the Boyden Fun Run. All of these events provided opportunities for students, families and staff to gather and celebrate Boyden School pride!

In conclusion, the 2015-2016 school year witnessed many positive events and accomplishments. As the Boyden School Council takes time to reflect upon our school’s accomplishments, our commitment to continuous improvement will remain strong. We are eager to give our best effort in making the goals and objectives of the 2016-2017 School Improvement Plan come to life across Boyden.

2016-2017

School Improvement Plan Action Steps

**Walpole Public Schools
Action Plan Form**

Goal # 1 : TO IMPROVE STUDENT WRITING K-5 ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Plan: 2016-2017

Objective: To provide a more focused approach for writing instruction and assessment

Date: 06/07/16

Action Steps	Person(s) Responsible	Begin Date	Completion Date	Projected Expenses
1. Audit current writing lessons/curriculum compared to MA Writing Frameworks.	Classroom Teachers Reading Teachers Title I Teachers	Sept. 2016	June 2017	None
2. Continue writing blocks in schedule.	Principal	Sept. 2016	June 2017	None
3. Obtain/create a rubric for each grade level (Write Traits).	Classroom Teachers Reading Teachers Title I Teachers	Sept. 2016	June 2017	None

Walpole Public Schools

Action Plan Form

Goal #2: TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

Plan: 2016-2017

Objective 2.1: To provide students with a more hands on 20th century learning experience in Science.

Date: 06/07/16

Action Steps	Person(s) Responsible	Begin Date	Completion Date	Projected Expenses
1. Create time for classroom teachers to learn/investigate the new STE standards K-5.	Principal Classroom Teachers	Sept. 2016	June 2017	None
2. Identify current resources and additional resources needed that fall within each grade level standard.	Classroom Teachers	Sept. 2016	June 2017	TBD
3. Meet with vertical teams and teams across the district to discuss standards/science instruction	Principal	Sept. 2016	June 2017	None
4. Begin to develop units using UBD for each grade level.	Classroom Teachers	Sept. 2016	June 2017	None
5. Identify professional development opportunities for teachers to gain more knowledge into the standards and to improve their science instruction.	Principal	Sept. 2016	June 2017	None

**Walpole Public Schools
Action Plan Form**

Goal #3: TO MAINTAIN A SAFE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Plan #: 2015-2016

Objective 3.1: To provide all members of the Boyden School community with a physically and emotionally-safe learning environment.

Date: 06/07/16

Action Steps	Person(s) Responsible	Begin Date	Completion Date	Projected Expenses
1. Continue to develop lessons for the four units (Feelings, Decision Making, Individual/Group Decision Making, Interpersonal Relationships) across all grades.	Principal Guidance Counselor	Sept. 2016	June 2017	None
2. Increase opportunities for family engagement around their child's social/emotional development.	Principal Guidance Counselors Classroom Teachers	Sept. 2016	June 2017	None
3. Incorporate responsive classroom practices and vocabulary across the school	Principal Guidance Counselor "Responsive Classroom Team"	Sept. 2016	June 2017	None
4. Visit neighboring districts to observe responsive classroom in practice.	Principal Guidance Counselor "Responsive Classroom Team"	Sept. 2016	June 2017	None
5. Investigate Social Emotional Universal Screening tools.	Principal Guidance Counselor	Sept. 2016	June 2017	None