

A BLUEPRINT

RESTORING EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

PROMOTE A CONDUCTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

SUMMARY

RESTORING EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

One of the great strengths of Newton has been the quality of our neighborhood schools. To ensure that we realize the great potential of our children, not only do we need to provide them with a strong academic curriculum but we must also pay attention to the environment in which their day unfolds. That environment includes teachers, classrooms, schools and the organization of their day from the moment they arrive through their after school programs.

- Improve the classroom experience by providing teachers appropriate support, involving them in curriculum development, limiting class size, making use of technology and addressing quality of life concerns
- Improve school building management through a cost-effective facilities plan
- Reinvent the school day to accommodate changes in education and lifestyle

A COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Our schools should provide academic challenge to every student at every grade level. A rigorous, high quality academic program has been a hallmark of the Newton public school system, reflecting the commitment of our community and teachers. Going forward, we must work to ensure that our students master the skills, knowledge and expertise they need to succeed in the twenty-first century.

- Improve math and science education by participating actively in the Massachusetts Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) initiative.
- Maintain and enhance art and music offerings by treating them as core academic subjects that must be offered to all students at all grade levels.
- Restore elementary school foreign language instruction
- Update career and vocational-technical education
- Set academic goals and assess student improvement

Ken Parker

Mayoral Candidate for Newton 2009

www.parker2009.org

EMPHASIZE GOOD MANAGEMENT AND GOOD PLANNING

As documented by the Blue Ribbon Commission in their January, 2006 report on Newton's finances, our city is suffering from a structural deficit that, if not addressed, will result in dramatic reductions in services over the next decade. Short- and medium-term initiatives to control costs and to generate new revenue will help us get through the next few years, but long-term fiscal stability requires more fundamental reform.

- Make use of community resources to provide parents opportunities to contribute to schools, develop a guest lecturer program, expand mentoring and create internship and service opportunities
- Removing obstacles to success by providing necessary resources to teachers
- Foster a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement amongst teachers in Newton and beyond.
- Develop metrics, set clear goals and measure educational progress
- Improve communication and teamwork amongst educators, parents, students and administrators

for Newton's Future