

STAUNTON UNIT SCHOOLS

School Improvement Plan

2006 - 2007

**Staunton Community Unit Schools
District #6
801 North Deneen Street
Staunton, IL 62088**

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SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Presented by
Staunton Unit Schools
CUSD #6

SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

Our goal is to prepare as fully as possible every pupil to be a good citizen who will be intent upon preserving and improving the principles and ideals upon which America was founded.

Grades K-8 A.R. GRAIFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND STAUNTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Accomplishments for 2005-2006:

1. ISAT test results well above state average in majority of assessed content areas.
2. Implemented new language arts textbooks in kindergarten through sixth grade.
3. Implemented a district wide breakfast program.
4. Installed AED devices at district wide locations and continued to in-service district personnel in the use of the AEDs and in CPR.
5. Teacher participation in technology in-service programs offered beyond student attendance time.
6. Ninety-three percent of 6th-8th grade students were in full compliance in using the school provided assignment notebook.
7. Student scores on Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) were above national averages.
8. Planned and implemented a 1st and 4th grade replacement program for 2005-2006 school year.
9. Continued a mentoring/induction program for new faculty members.
10. Expanded the use of computer-generated report cards to include grades 1-8.
11. Staff, parents, and students were informed of the implications of "No Child Left Behind" and what must be done to attain the mandates.
12. Offered numerous teacher in-service experiences related to reading instruction.
13. Installed digital surveillance cameras in all of the buses.

Needs:

1. Improve effectiveness of drug and alcohol abuse and prevention program.
2. Continue to improve ISAT scores and meet AYP federal guidelines.
3. Improve access to technology and better integration of technology into the curriculum.
4. Continue to emphasize responsibility and organizational skills of students.
5. Improve positive social skills and behavioral choices of students.

6. Continue teacher in-service in technology with an emphasis on classroom implementation.
7. Emphasize parent and teacher interaction including the use of technology.
8. Offer more physical education classes to students in grades K-4.
9. Emphasize curriculum alignment to state standards.
10. Prepare students and staff for the ISAT assessment process in grades 3-8.
11. Continue teacher in-service experiences related to reading instruction.
12. Control access to school facilities to improve security measures.
13. Continue in-service training of district personnel in the use of AED devices and the administration of CPR.

STAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL

Accomplishments for 2005-2006:

1. New textbooks for various mathematics, consumer economics, and science courses.
2. Upgraded computer labs #20 and #22.
3. College core student scores on ACT were at state and national averages.
4. Provided staff awareness/in-service for PSAE testing.
5. Planned formal health and physical development and completed foreign language alignment to comply with Illinois State Standards.
6. Continued the use of our mentoring/induction program for new faculty members.
7. Utilization of the Illinois Internship Program for credit.
8. Continued the redesigning of the Freshmen Orientation Program.
9. Participation of the Ethic Committee in conjunction with SIUC Leadership Conference, as well as Junior Leadership Academy through University of Illinois extension office.
10. Provided staff awareness/in-services for PSAE reading, math, and science testing.
11. Increased curriculum offerings in the business department.
12. Increased graduation requirements of the class of 2009.
13. Increased LCCC course offerings.
14. Increased staff members.
15. Added physical education dress code.
16. Purchased and installed AED equipment for the high school building and trained staff in the use of.
17. Upgraded computer system in the drafting room.
18. Purchased audiovisual equipment for each floor.
19. Improved fencing to the north end of the football field.
20. Improved parking lot for students and staff.

Needs:

1. Improve effectiveness of drug and alcohol abuse and prevention program.
2. Improve ACT and PSAE scores.
3. Continue enhancement of technology in the classroom.

4. Continue the increase of parental involvement.
5. Strive to improve student attendance and tardiness.
6. Accessibility to computer labs every class period.
7. Address shortage of classroom and gymnasium space.
8. Increase course offerings to meet state requirements.
9. Upgrade and add additional copy machines.
10. Complete renovation of first floor hallway to accommodate acquired weight machines.
11. Improve printing capacity in drafting lab.
12. Align physical education curriculum with Illinois State Learning Standards.
13. Revise and implement dress code.
14. Control access to school facilities to improve security measures.

**STAUNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
PRIORITY GOALS FOR 2006-2007**

Target Area 1: The district will select and implement best practices to improve reading scores as measured by state testing programs.

Target Area 2: The district will provide in-service training for staff and prepare all elementary school students for the new ISAT testing schedule changes implemented during the 2005-2006 school year.

Target Area 3: The district high school staff will implement strategies to increase student PSAE Work Keys scores.

DISTRICT-COMMUNITIES DESCRIPTION

The Staunton School District is located adjacent to Interstate 55 midway between St. Louis, Missouri, and Springfield, Illinois. Two elementary parochial schools, St. Michael's Catholic and Zion Lutheran, each have an enrollment of approximately 85 students. Staunton Elementary School has an enrollment of approximately 800 students, and A.R. Graiff has an enrollment of approximately 100 students. Staunton Elementary and A.R. Graiff combine their students at Staunton beginning in the 5th grade. Upon completion of the eighth grade, students from the three elementary schools attend Staunton High School. Staunton High School has an enrollment of approximately 500 students.

The students are from a geographic area consisting of two counties, Macoupin and Madison, and three towns with the following populations: Staunton 5,030, Livingston 900, and Williamson 240. Approximately 70% of the students reside within the city limits, and 30% reside in rural areas. English is the primary language, enrollments tend to be stable, the mobility rates are low, and there are very few chronic truants. The dropout rate is low, and the school population mirrors the community population with a 22% low-income rate. Strong community support is evident in the operation of the four community schools.

Only being a short distance from larger urban areas, residents have easy access to many career, educational, social, cultural, and recreational opportunities. Two major universities (SIUE and UIS) and a community college (LCCC) are near Staunton. Approximately 50% of the high school graduates attend a four-year university. Another 30% of graduates attend a post-secondary educational program other than a university.

AR GRAIFF	2003	2004	2005
Daily Attendance Rate			93.2
Mobility Rate			24.7
Percent Low Income			44.0
Truancy Rate			0

ELEMENTARY	2003	2004	2005
Daily Attendance Rate	95.4	95.6	95.8
Mobility Rate	10.6	14.3	9.2
Percent Low Income	23.0	24.9	26.3
Truancy Rate	0	0	0

JUNIOR HIGH	2003	2004	2005
Daily Attendance Rate	95.8	95.6	95.4
Mobility Rate	6.7	13.3	9.2
Percent Low Income	21.4	22.7	19.2
Truancy Rate	0	0	0

HIGH SCHOOL	2003	2004	2005
Daily Attendance Rate	94.2	95.0	93.8
Graduation Rate 12th	81.7	90.4	96
Mobility Rate	12.1	5.0	9.1
Percent Low Income	12	7.4	13.4
Truancy Rate	3.3	.5	0

BUILDING ORGANIZATION and PROGRAMS

Staunton Community Unit School District is housed in two attendance centers. The one located in Staunton is a single complex where Pre-K through grade 12 are housed in a series of interconnected buildings that share a common grounds and facilities, such as a media center, a cafeteria, and gymnasiums. All of the 5th through 12th grade students in the district are housed in this complex. All of the administrative offices, including the superintendent's office, are housed in this same complex. The second building, A.R. Graiff, is located in Livingston and houses the Pre-K through 4th grade students from that area.

Academic programs vary according to various grade levels. There is a strong continuity in the academic development between all grades.

A.R. Graiff Elementary School and Staunton Elementary School

The Staunton Elementary School consists of self-contained classrooms at grade Pre-K through grade 4 and limited departmentalized classrooms at grade 5. The elementary school houses the junior high, which is departmentalized in grades 6-8. The school provides assistance to those children who qualify for the Pre-Kindergarten At-Risk Program, special education classes, and Title I services. The single level building had newly renovated additions added in 1990, 1995, and 2003. The building has classroom facilities for art, shop, home economics, and computer labs. All share the music room, library, cafeteria, and gym facilities with the attached high school.

The A.R. Graiff Elementary School consists of self-contained classrooms for grade Pre-K through grade 4. The single level building was renovated in 2004 in preparation for its first year in the Staunton district. Besides classrooms the building has a multi-purpose room that is used as a cafeteria and gym.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

Academically Gifted Program

First through fourth grade students participate in a pullout program designed to challenge them academically.

Counseling

Services are provided on an as-needed basis in grades kindergarten through eight. A variety of outside agencies supplement the services provided by the school district. The elementary school has both a social worker and guidance counselor to provide student services.

Visual Arts

Students in grades K-5 are instructed once weekly by the district fine arts teachers. Students in grades 6-8 are instructed daily for approximately one grading period during the academic year.

Media Center

The media center is designed to enhance education by providing space and materials for enrichment, research, study, and recreation. Every student has an opportunity to utilize the center once a week and on an as-needed basis. All students are instructed in the use of the center and the materials available for use from sources outside the center.

Vocal Music and Instructional Band

Music classes are provided for students in grades K-5 (50-60 minutes per week). Students in grades 5-8 are given the option of participating in chorus. Band participation is also available to students in grades 5-8.

Physical Education

Third and fourth grade students participate in formal physical education classes once a week. Students in grade 5 have physical education two times a week. Sixth through eighth grade students have physical education three times a week.

Pre-Kindergarten At-Risk Program

Children between the ages of three and five participate in this program five half days a week. This program is funded by a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education.

Special Education

The district is part of the South Macoupin Service Area for Special Education. Services are provided to meet the needs of all qualifying students.

Exploratory Classes

Exploratory classes are available beginning at the sixth grade and continuing through eighth grade. These classes allow students to experience 9-12 weeks of study in a variety of areas (industrial arts, visual arts, Quest, and computers).

Title I

The district offers extensive Title I services with emphasis on providing assistance in the early grade levels. Collaborative teaching and replacement programs are the primary interventions practiced in the elementary grades.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS:

Athletics

Fall Sports

- Boys Baseball
- Girls Basketball

Winter Sports

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Volleyball

Spring Sports

- Boys Track
- Girls Track

Band

Cheerleading

Chorus

Fan Club

Scholastic Bowl

STAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL

The high school is departmentalized. The physical sciences with laboratories are found on the first floor along with one special education room. All the foreign languages and social sciences are located on the second floor. The keyboarding, computer, and business classes are located at the south end of the second floor as is one special education room. The third floor contains the English and math departments, a resource room, and study hall. The vocational education department with the agricultural sciences is found in the north wing at ground level. The fine arts are found on the remodeled ground floor. The physical education department occupies the two gymnasiums with the outdoor fields as well as the weight room facility. The media center is located at ground level with access for all students at a central location.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

Fine Arts

The fine arts department offers six different classes that range from basic to advanced levels. These programs include Art I and II, band and color guard, chorus, music appreciation, and music theory.

Language

Three types of language instruction are offered at Staunton. Four years of high school English is offered, and college-bound seniors may enroll in English 131 and English 132 for college credit. Foreign language includes four years of Spanish. Speech is offered as a one-semester class.

Mathematics

Course offerings include practical math, pre-algebra, Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II, technical math, Math IV, and calculus.

Biology and Physical Science

A wide range of sciences is offered to each student. General science, physical science, Biology I, anatomy and physiology, Chemistry I, Chemistry II, and physics are the current course selections.

Physical Development and Health

Driver's education is offered to those who have reached the age to drive. All freshmen are enrolled in health class. All students are given the chance to enroll in physical education classes where students participate in a large variety of activities.

Social Science

Social science classes are offered at all grade levels. World history is available for freshman through seniors, geography is available for sophomores through seniors, and United States history is available for all juniors. Psychology 130 is available for all juniors and seniors and can be taken for college credit. Classes available for seniors include sociology, Western Civilization 131 and 132, and Political Science 131. Western Civilization 131 and 132 and Political Science 131 are available for college credit.

Agriculture

Five different types of agricultural classes are offered. Introduction to agricultural industry, agricultural science, agricultural business operations/management, horticulture, and biological agricultural science are the current agricultural offerings.

Business

Students may choose from Accounting I and II; Computer Concepts I; CIS 135; multi-media design; consumer education; and Office Technology 119, 120, desktop publishing, introduction to business and tech concepts, marketing and entrepreneurship.

Family and Consumer Service

Adult living, clothing, foods, orientation to family and consumer services, living environment, and parenting are the course offerings.

Vocational Education

All vocational education students begin with introduction to technology. They can then choose from Construction I to advanced Construction II and electricity. They also are afforded the opportunity to choose Drafting I and Drafting II-CAD, Welding 191 and Welding 193. All of these can be taken for college credit.

Counseling

Counseling services are available to every student via a full-time guidance counselor and a full-time social worker.

Extra-Curricular Programs:

Athletics

Fall Sports

- Boys Football
- Boys Golf
- Girls Golf
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Volleyball

Winter Sports

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball

Spring Sports

- Boys Baseball
- Boys Track
- Girls Softball
- Girls Track
- Girls Soccer

Cheerleading

Dance/Red Roses

Scholastic Bowl

Marching Band

Vocal/Chorus Groups

Student Council

Class Council

Future Farmers of America

Dramatics

Yearbook Staff

National Honor Society

Student Ethics Committee

ISAT TEST RESULTS

(Numbers in parentheses indicate state averages)

	SCIENCE	2003		2004		2005	
Fourth Grade	% Exceeds Standards	21	(14)	20	(13)	33	(16)
	% Meets Standards	66	(52)	66	(55)	57	(55)
	% Below Standards	9	(27)	8	(26)	11	(24)
	% Academic Warning	3	(7)	6	(6)	0	(5)
Seventh Grade	% Exceeds Standards	41	(18)	36	(17)	42	(20)
	% Meets Standards	41	(56)	49	(58)	52	(54)
	% Below Standards	12	(17)	6	(15)	5	(15)
	% Academic Warning	5	(10)	9	(10)	1	(10)

	READING	2003		2004		2005	
Grade Three	% Exceeds Standards	33	(22)	44	(23)	23	(22)
	% Meets Standards	47	(40)	38	(42)	60	(45)
	% Below Standards	19	(30)	16	(28)	14	(27)
	% Academic Warning	0	(8)	3	(7)	2	(7)
Grade Five	% Exceeds Standards	30	(23)	31	(25)	26	(19)
	% Meets Standards	37	(37)	46	(36)	62	(40)
	% Below Standards	32	(39)	23	(37)	12	(38)
	% Academic Warning	1	(1)	0	(2)	0	(2)
Grade Eight	% Exceeds Standards	6	(10)	13	(10)	9	(12)
	% Meets Standards	55	(54)	54	(57)	64	(61)
	% Below Standards	39	(36)	32	(31)	25	(27)
	% Academic Warning	0	(1)	1	(2)	2	(1)

	MATHEMATICS	2003		2004		2005	
Grade Three	% Exceeds Standards	42	(31)	51	(33)	42	(34)
	% Meets Standards	49	(45)	40	(46)	44	(45)
	% Below Standards	7	(17)	8	(14)	13	(15)
	% Academic Warning	3	(7)	1	(7)	1	(5)
Grade Five	% Exceeds Standards	26	(10)	25	(12)	28	(12)
	% Meets Standards	70	(59)	68	(60)	70	(61)
	% Below Standards	1	(28)	6	(25)	3	(24)
	% Academic Warning	3	(4)	1	(3)	0	(3)
Grade Eight	% Exceeds Standards	16	(16)	20	(17)	24	(17)
	% Meets Standards	38	(38)	47	(38)	37	(37)
	% Below Standards	43	(41)	27	(40)	34	(40)
	% Academic Warning	3	(6)	6	(6)	4	(6)

PSAE TEST RESULTS
(Numbers in parentheses indicate state averages)

	READING	2003		2004		2005	
Grade Eleven	% Exceeds Standards	4	(12)	3	(10)	6	(13)
	% Meets Standards	41	(45)	41	(47)	51	(46)
	% Below Standards	41	(36)	50	(35)	32	(33)
	% Academic Warning	13	(8)	8	(8)	12	(8)

	MATHEMATICS	2003		2004		2005	
Grade Eleven	% Exceeds Standards	1	(7)	5	(10)	3	(7)
	% Meets Standards	45	(47)	45	(43)	44	(46)
	% Below Standards	50	(37)	44	(37)	43	(37)
	% Academic Warning	4	(10)	6	(10)	10	(10)

	SCIENCE	2003		2004		2005	
Grade Eleven	% Exceeds Standards	7	(11)	11	(12)	5	(11)
	% Meets Standards	40	(40)	45	(41)	41	(41)
	% Below Standards	42	(38)	41	(37)	41	(37)
	% Academic Warning	11	(11)	3	(11)	13	(10)

Analysis of Current Conditions

Support Area: Quality Instructional Program

Focus of Analysis	What Is working	What Needs work
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orchard Language Arts, K-3 Accelerated Reader Program, 1-5 Title I Program Literature-based program, K-12 Access to library, K-12 Book fairs STAR diagnostic tests Parent involvement Reading motivation programs (Pizza Hut Book-It, Six Flags Six Hour Reading Club, Raging Rivers Program, Little Italy Program) Employment of instructional aids LCCC Inter-Library Loan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading for pleasure Incorporating technology into other content areas to improve reading Cross-disciplinary awareness Emphasizing reading strategies across the curriculum Getting parents involved in reading at home
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orchard Language Arts, K-3 Voice of Democracy (VFW Contest), 4-12 Journal writing at various grade levels Teacher attendance at writing workshops Mandatory research paper at eleventh grade Instructional methods emphasizing persuasive, expository, and narrative writing College credit offerings DAR essay contests Bulldog report – <i>Star Times</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasize writing throughout the curriculum
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math manipulatives Textbook continuity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real-life math applications in all curricular areas Expand the use of technology in math K-12 Emphasize problem-solving Increase enrollment in 3rd year high school math
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasis on hands-on science, K-12 Science field trips Technology in the science curriculum Special projects/Science Club Envirothon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the use of technology in science, K-12 Emphasize critical reading Increase and update lab facilities Improve note-taking skills
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest speakers from community Grade 12 college credit courses Technological applications to classroom instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasize critical reading Improve note-taking skills
Physical Development and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QUEST program, 6-8 Scheduled PE classes, 3-12 Full-time school nurse Utilization of outside agencies Physical fitness tests (6-12) Participation in teen parenting class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased physical education staff and health instruction, K-4 Continued efforts to eliminate student use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco
Fine Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band program, 5-12 Chorus, 5-12 General music, K-5 Visual arts program, k-12 Dramatics program, 9-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in drama and dance in the Fine Arts' curriculum

Support Area: Professional Development and Training

Focus of Analysis	What Is Working	What Needs Work
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<p>Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School board encourages and supports continuing teacher education through salary incentives • Progressive administration and school board • Utilization of Regional Office of Education programs and expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize faculty/staff/administration use of available technology
<p>Professional Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District workshops • Frequent staff in-services • Staff meetings as needed • Induction/Mentoring Program • CPDU provider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to encourage all teachers to participate in professional development workshops • Coordinator to oversee CPDU approval for staff

Support Area: Student-Centered Learning Environment

<p>Focus of Analysis</p>	<p>What Is Working</p>	<p>What Needs Work</p>
<p>Facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handicapped access to district facilities • Teacher cooperation for district assignments • Utilizing entire building space • Installation of security lights around the buildings • Renovation of high school • Monitoring of student enrollment to determine classroom needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of computer labs • Increasing classroom space • Forecasting enrollment • Renovate restrooms
<p>Social/Emotional Welfare of Students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School nurse • Counseling staff • QUEST • Outside agencies • Macoupin County "Right Track" truancy program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote parent/guardian involvement • Increase nursing staff

Support Area: School Leadership

Focus of Analysis	What Is Working	What Needs Work
Superintendent and Principals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive attitude toward educational strategies and programs • Positive promotion of school through the media and elected officials • Community involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of all staff in the implementation of the School Improvement Plan
Teacher and Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders in developing and piloting new programs • High level of professionalism • Low turnover rate of teachers and support staff • Community involvement • Induction/Mentoring Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing evaluation of Induction/Mentoring Program • Involvement in implementation of the School Improvement Plan • Reduction of turnover rate of extracurricular sponsors
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Council, 9-12 • Individual classroom leadership recognition • Extra-curricular activities • Student achievement recognition • Agenda book award program • “Big AR Drawing” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote student involvement • Encourage student attendance at all school activities

Support Area: Parent and Community Involvement

Focus of Analysis	What Is Working	What Needs Work
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School newsletters • Parent-teacher conferences • Quarterly report cards • Mid-term reports • Freshman orientation • Discipline referrals sent to parents • Student handbook • Class newsletters • Open houses • School marquees • School/Community WEB page • Superintendent corner/news articles • Agenda books • Local newspaper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote attendance of all parents at parent-teacher conferences • Involvement of parents in 9th grade registration process
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent-teacher organization • Music and Sports Boosters • Parent/Community involvement on committees • Community impact on school improvement process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued involvement of parents and community members in school programs and committees • Encourage attendance at extra-curricular activities • Promote better understanding of district policies • Appropriate behavior of spectators at extra-curricular activities

ESTABLISHING GOALS, PLANS, AND MONITORING PROGRESS

Target Area #1: The district will select and implement best practices to improve reading scores as measured by state testing programs.

Work Plans/Person(s) Responsible for 2006-2007	Activities for Monitoring Progress	Monitoring Target Dates	Student Expectations	Budget
All Certified School Personnel	The district will conduct in-services and workshops for school personnel to attain the target area.	Activities will be specifically implemented and identified throughout the 2006-2007 school year.	Student ISAT and PSAE scores will improve.	The school district will provide necessary funding to complete activities identified for implementation of the School Improvement Plan.

Target Area # 2: The district will provide in-service training for staff and prepare all elementary school students for the new ISAT testing schedule changes implemented during the 2005-2006 school year.

Work Plans/Person(s) Responsible for 2006-2007	Activities for Monitoring Progress	Monitoring Target Dates	Student Expectations	Budget
All Certified School Personnel	The district will conduct in-services and workshops for school personnel to attain the target area.	Activities will be specifically implemented and identified throughout the 2006-2007 school year.	Student ISAT scores will meet or exceed state averages.	The school district will provide necessary funding to complete activities identified for implementation of the School Improvement Plan.

Target Area # 3: The district high school staff will implement strategies to increase student PSAE Work Keys scores.

Work Plans/Person(s) Responsible for 2006-2007	Activities for Monitoring Progress	Monitoring Target Dates	Student Expectations	Budget
All Certified School Personnel	The district will conduct in-services and workshops for school personnel to attain the target area.	Activities will be specifically implemented throughout the 2006-2007 school year.	Student PSAE test scores will improve.	The school district will provide necessary funding to complete activities identified for implementation of the School Improvement Plan.

**2006-2007
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
COMMITTEE**

Loren Beswick
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