

AMHERST - PELHAM *Regional* SCHOOL DISTRICT
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Human Resources Office
170 Chestnut Street
Amherst, MA 01002

413-362-1810 (phone)
413-549-6108 (fax)

August 20, 2015

Dear Leverett School Staff and Families:

A community-wide survey is currently available electronically and in paper form in order to collect information from our citizens and families about the possibility of consolidating the Regional Middle and High Schools into a single building. The exploration of this possible consolidation is the result of a significant funding gap at the Regional level, as well as a declining student population. Additionally, the study is the result of questions from the leaders of our four towns about when and whether such consolidation might occur.

Representative Ellen Story and the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District will convene a “Hurricane Revisioning Summit” on November 7, 2015 that will bring together community stakeholders from the district towns to participate in facilitated discussions about this proposed consolidation initiative and the financial, educational, and social opportunities and challenges it presents, including repurposing of the middle school building and potential enhancement of educational and community programming. The District has engaged the services of the Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration (MOPC) at the University of Massachusetts Boston to conduct this community survey and to design and facilitate the Summit. MOPC does not recommend outcomes or solutions, but instead facilitates a neutral and inclusive public process designed to allow everyone to be heard, to be listened to, and to gain a better understanding of the issues.

As part of its facilitation role, MOPC is administering the community-wide survey to collect confidential input that will help frame issues for discussion at the November 7th Summit and help ensure broad participation in the process and inclusion of all perspectives around planning for the future of the schools. This survey is currently available online in English and Spanish. The English language version of the survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Amherst-Pelham-E> and the Spanish language version is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Amherst-Pelham-S>. Links to both surveys are also available on the district website at www.arps.org.

Paper copies of the survey will be available in all school buildings and Town Halls of the four towns, at the Amherst Regional Schools District offices, and in local libraries. Completed paper surveys will be collected at each location or can be mailed directly to:

Yahdira Torres Manzano
ARPS District Office
170 Chestnut Street
Amherst, MA 01002

All Amherst, Leverett, Pelham and Shutesbury residents and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to participate in this confidential survey that will be available through Friday, September 25, 2015.

Sincerely,

Maria Geryk
Superintendent of Schools