



Fall River Public Schools

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NEWS RELEASE

Local businesses donate educational technology to Morton Middle School

Donation of laptops and interactive classroom technology supports the school's improvement plans

FALL RIVER, MA – Leaders of the Fall River business community have made a significant donation of educational technology to the Morton Middle School after a four-month fundraising campaign.

More than 30 local businesses contributed approximately \$40,000 to provide Morton teachers and students with new hardware and software throughout the school. The effort was led by local businesses from the Greater Fall River Development Corporation and the Fall River Industrial Park Association, as well as other individual companies, including the locally-based banks Citizens Union Savings Bank, Bank Five, and St. Anne's Credit Union.

The donation includes:

- Wireless network access throughout the building;
- 38 laptop computers for teachers; and
- Two interactive white boards, one in the library and one in the computer lab, with dedicated computers.

Teachers will use the technology for classroom instruction, as well as operational uses, such as piloting new on-line attendance and discipline tracking systems.

Superintendent Meg Mayo-Brown and Morton Principal Sheila Fisher approached several business leaders this winter, seeking financial support to improve educational technology at the school.

“We are so grateful to members of Fall River’s business community for demonstrating their support of Morton Middle School with this generous donation,” said Ms. Fisher. “This state-of-the-art technology will help teachers make instruction more interactive and meaningful for our students. It

would have taken years for the school to raise enough funds to make the technology investment that these business partners have accomplished in just four months.”

“The Fall River business community understands that the future of our city rests on the success of our schools,” said Stephen Karam, President of Karam Financial Group, speaking on behalf of the donors. “This investment in the Morton Middle School is designed to give students the knowledge and skills they need to compete in the 21st century workforce.”

Mr. Karam cited the involvement of several key business leaders who galvanized their colleagues to join the effort, such as Paul Joncas from Meganet Communications; James Sabra, Chairman of the Greater Fall River Development Corporation; Dan Abraham, Chairman of the Greater Fall River Development Corporation’s Education Committee; and Todd Blount from Blount Seafood, who engaged other members of the Fall River Industrial Park Association.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown added, “We often say that community support is essential to the success of our students and our schools. These business people have stepped up to help shape a bright future for the Morton Middle School and the families it serves.”

The school district has supplemented the donation with a digital camera and technology packages for each of seven instructional teams, including LCD projectors, document cameras and flip video cameras. All of the new technology at Morton’s current site will be transferred to the school’s new facility after construction.

The James Madison Morton Middle School serves approximately 550 students in grades 6 through 8.

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