

**MARQUETTE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GRAVERAET INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

611 N. Front Street  
Marquette, Michigan 49855

**TAMRA A. BOTT**  
Principal

(906)225-4302  
FAX (906)225-4312

---

**MEMO TO:** Superintendent Jon Hartwig  
**FROM:** Tamra Bott, Chairperson 2009 and Beyond Alignment Committee  
**DATE:** October 15, 2009

**2009 and Beyond Committee Recommendation to Jon Hartwig, Superintendent,  
Marquette Area Public Schools**

**Background**

A committee comprised of parents, teachers, building administrators, central office administrators, auxiliary services personnel and the Board of Education was formed in June 2009 for the purpose of reviewing grade alignment. The committee met six times as follows: 7/1, 7/15, 7/29, 8/19, 9/16, 10/9. This committee was charged with making a recommendation to the Superintendent regarding alignment that would continue to support quality education programming. The committee understood from the outset that it is a recommending committee, the final decision making responsibility lies only with the Board of Education.

Every committee member reviewed literature on grade alignment from a variety of sources. (sources can be supplied upon request) After a review of the literature, it was found that no specific grade alignment has been proven to increase or decrease student achievement. It was found that quality teaching in any configuration is the largest determining factor in promoting student achievement. These findings were consistent with the findings of research conducted by a MAPS alignment committee which met in 2005.

The committee developed 12 different grade alignment possibilities. Each alignment was analyzed both in small groups as well as whole group with respect to strengths, problems, opportunities and threats (threats being conditions that would prevent a particular alignment from being successful).

**Recommendation**

On Friday, October 9, the committee worked for five hours and narrowed alignment ideas to two main contenders:

1. K-5, 6-8, 9-12- the committee felt this scenario was feasible only if Graveraet was considered as a possibility for a K-5 school
2. K-4, 5-8, 9-12- the committee was in support of this scenario if K-5 remained self contained

The committee had agreed that consensus of 78% would move a recommendation forward (consensus meaning those members not voting for this option would allow the decision to move forward without sabotaging or blocking).

Therefore the 2009 and beyond alignment committee recommendation to Superintendent Jon Hartwig is: Option 2: K-4, 5-8, 9-12

The 2009 and beyond alignment committee, has concluded the task it was charged with. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the recommendation for the future alignment of MAPS. The 2009 and beyond alignment committee, has concluded the task it was charged with.