

美中校际交流组织

The China Exchange Initiative

Susan Horn
Assistant Superintendent
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I am delighted to have been selected for, and have agreed to participate in, the 2007-2008 U.S.-China Principal Shadowing Project (PSP). By doing so, I will join ten colleagues from other Massachusetts school systems for an enriching professional development experience that will also benefit the Acton and Acton-Boxborough school communities.

The PSP program involves **two-parts**:

I. Fall: For us in Acton and Acton Boxborough, a visiting delegation of Chinese administrators will arrive in Boston during the third week of October 2007, for a program of lectures and seminars facilitated by *The China Exchange Initiative* prior to visiting their host school districts. These initial learning opportunities are designed to help them understand the structure of our school systems, education reform, pedagogy, and comparisons of U.S. and China educational systems.

This program will make the visitors more effective observers in our schools. At the end of October (October 28-November 3), each of the visiting administrators will shadow a counterpart in a school community, visiting classes, attending meetings, participating in school and community activities, and living with a host family. Before returning to China, the visitors will travel to New York and Washington DC.

My exchange partner is Wu Shimin. He is the principal of Tianjin's Huaming School which serves grades 1-9. There are 2300 students and 150 teachers in his school. Wu will be arriving in Boston October 21st, and then in Acton on October 28th, staying until November 3rd.

John Petersen and his family have graciously offered to be the hosts while Wu is visiting Acton. Xuan Kong, a School Committee member, has graciously volunteered to arrange for interpreters for our visitor. I will be scheduling times for Wu to visit our schools, classrooms, and school activities during the week he is here. Please contact me if you are interested in learning more.

II. Spring: I will be departing with the Massachusetts delegation in mid-April 2008 for Beijing for seminars, lectures, and discussions provided by CEAIE (The China Education Association for International Exchange) of the Chinese Ministry of Education. Topics will include schools, education reform, modern development, and international affairs in China. Additionally, I will visit places of historic and cultural interest, including the Great Wall and the Forbidden City. Following these activities, each member of the delegation will visit his/her counterpart's school for five days, shadowing the principal, meeting the faculty and students, and observing classes. The program will end in Shanghai for my return to Boston.

I am sure that this experience will be educationally and professionally enriching as well as personally enjoyable for all those who get to be part of this experience with me.