

Pentucket Regional School District

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Potential \$10 Million With Full Circle Innovation Academy And Pentucket

XQ Super School Partnership

WEST NEWBURY, Mass. – Laurene Powell Jobs has started a \$50 million project to rethink high school. Her husband, Steven P. Jobs, famously helped reboot Apple with the “Think Different” advertising campaign. Called *XQ: The Super School Project*, the campaign is meant to inspire teams of educators and students, as well as leaders from other sectors, to come up with plans for a new, innovative model for high school. Over the next several months, the teams will submit plans that could include efforts like altering school schedules, curriculums and technologies. By fall of 2016, Ms. Powell Jobs said, a team of judges will pick five of the best ideas to finance with projected awards of \$10 million. The XQ project is the highest-profile project yet of the Emerson Collective, the group that Ms. Powell Jobs uses to finance her philanthropic projects.

Local community members, Lori Towle and Amy Richardson, dedicated the fall and winter to forming a team and completing the in depth application to compete in the XQ Super School competition. Their proposed XQ School, called Full Circle Innovation Academy, has advanced to the semi-final round of the competition, with approximately 350 other proposals. Lori and Amy recently approached Pentucket’s Superintendent of Schools, Jeff Mulqueen, to ask if Pentucket might partner with Full Circle Innovation Academy. They value Pentucket’s implementation of ten innovation schools over the past two years and see great alignment between their objectives and the work in Pentucket. “Pentucket continues to distinguish itself from other school districts,” said Amy Richardson, “embracing powerful, contemporary practices that generate high quality teaching and deeper, more

engaged learning.” “Full Circle Innovation Academy is about students having authentic opportunities to inquire and explore in a learning environment that support each student’s academic, emotional, and personal development,” said Lori Towle. Lori, Director of Full Circle Classrooms, has spearheaded a two year pilot program in the area, with a focus on project-based learning, community connections, and student choice.

Pentucket students see themselves as active participants locally and globally and expect school to deliver World Class opportunities so that each student can reach a future of his or her choosing. Parents, educators, and the Pentucket communities echo these expectations and actively support Pentucket’s journey to a World Class future. Pentucket seeks to rival the best educational agencies in the world by giving students voice and choice. Students engage in a dynamic program of studies that fosters the application of knowledge, integrates adaptive leadership skills, and strengthens personal meaning for each student. Pentucket students have the potential to solve real-world problems and accomplish significant results. “I can foresee the potential for great results stemming from a partnership between Pentucket and Full Circle Innovation Academy. This seems like a natural next step for Pentucket’s innovation school portfolio,” said Pentucket Regional School Committee Chairperson Joanna Blanchard.

The XQ Institute believes that a quality public education is a foundational right that we as a society provide for every child. Great public schools are a critical tool in ensuring that America is prosperous, healthy and able to compete in a global economy. Semi-final submissions are due by May 23rd. Contest winners will be based on the creativity and innovative approach to learning, as well as thoroughness, viability as a public high school, alignment with the values of the Contest, community endorsement, likelihood of realizing the goals of the Contest, and commitment of Team Entrant participants and their supporters to implementing the proposed XQ Super School.