



NEWS

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 Park Ridge-Niles

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Draft Strategic Plan Presented to District 64 Board of Education; Volunteers Invited to Join Action Planning Teams

The key components of a new draft strategic plan for Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 were presented to the Board of Education at its May 4 meeting. Speaking on behalf of the 27-member planning team representing a microcosm of the community, Superintendent Sally Pryor said the key components "were created and agreed upon collectively and unanimously. We believe this exciting plan captures the hopes and vision we share for the education of our students," she added.

The draft is "both a culmination and an invitation to start anew," Dr. Pryor told the Board. "It marks the end of a lengthy period of research, dialogue and preparation initiated in the Board's goal-setting session in October 2007," she stated. "The draft plan itself offers an invitation for the community to help shape the future of education in District 64 well into the next decade."

The key components include: beliefs; mission; objectives; strategies; and, parameters. The full plan is available on the District 64 Web site.

As stated in the draft plan: "The mission of District 64, a vital partnership of staff, families and community, is to inspire all students to embrace learning, discover their strengths and achieve personal excellence in order to thrive in and contribute to a rapidly changing world by providing a rich, rigorous and innovative curriculum integrating civil behavior and fostering resilience."

The plan also identifies two objectives:

- "All students will meet or exceed the District's targeted benchmarks for critical thinking, creative expression and problem solving.
- Each student will identify, set and achieve personally challenging goals related to academics, civil behavior, talents and interests."

An extensive outreach effort to staff and local residents now is getting underway "both to share the draft plan and invite volunteers to serve as members of the five Action Planning Teams we will form around the five strategies identified in the plan," Dr. Pryor stated.

"The work of the Strategic Planning Team was to create a vision of what District 64 will become; the work of the Action Teams is to describe how to make that vision a reality," Dr. Pryor told the Board.

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DISTRICT 64 STRATEGIC PLAN/add one

The Action Planning Teams will be assembled early this fall, and will work for approximately four months. Each team will set its own work schedule, but is likely to meet several hours each week in person or through "virtual" meetings via a private blog to post and comment about materials.

Dr. Pryor stated that at least 15-20 volunteers are needed for each planning team, which will have a balance of staff and community members. Teams will be formed around five strategies:

- Accelerating the Advanced Use of Technology
- Building a Model for Personal Student Goals
- Collaboration within Our Partnership
- Expectations for Student Learning and Instructional Practices
- Providing Support and Tools for Change

Volunteers can indicate their preferred team assignment via an on-line registration form available on the District 64 Web site.

Each action team will present a draft of their plans and a cost-benefit analysis to the original strategic planners, who will be reconvened in early 2010. The planning group also will recommend an implementation schedule, which will be phased in over at least five years. The final version of the strategic plan will be submitted for Board approval in June 2010, along with the first year's implementation plan, Dr. Pryor added.

The draft plan was produced through more than 35 hours of strenuous effort while the planning team was sequestered for three days last month in a conference room at Maine South High School. "Under the skillful leadership of Dr. Howard Feddema of the Cambridge Group, the participants freely shared their thoughts and engaged in many rounds of vigorous small- and full-group discussion," she noted.

Community members who participated on the Strategic Planning group included: Kent Bergren, study group leader, Community Finance Committee; Tom Cara, parent, Emerson Middle School; Carole Gabel, parent, Roosevelt and Lincoln Middle schools; Teresa George, parent, Washington School; John Heyde, parent, Franklin and Emerson Middle schools and Board of Education member; Bill Kann, community member; Sharon Lawson, parent, Lincoln Middle School and prospective Board of Education member; Carla Owen, parent, Field School; Robert Smith, parent, Carpenter School; Genie Taddeo, parent, Field School and Board of Education member; and, Teresa Varco, parent, Lincoln Middle School.

District 64 representatives included: Agnes Adamik, special needs preschool teacher, Jefferson School Early Childhood Center; Tim Benka, Assistant Principal, Emerson Middle School; Diane Betts, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Allison Blum, District technologist; Erin Breen, grade 1 teacher, Roosevelt School; Kathy Creely, Principal, Field School; Michelle Fiore Cwiertniak, Channels of Challenge teacher, Field School; Sonja Dziedzic, Curriculum Specialist for Fine Arts and teacher, Emerson Middle School; Dr. Lynne Farmer, Director of Early Intervening Services/Response to Intervention; Irene Kappos, Language Arts teacher, Lincoln Middle School; Katie Kelly, grade 5 teacher, Roosevelt School; Mike Kennedy, music teacher, Emerson Middle School; Nancy Novak, Instructional Resource teacher assistant, Washington School; Dr. Sally Pryor, Superintendent; Vanessa Taglia, grade 4 teacher, Carpenter School; Jane Tufts, Speech/Language pathologist, Franklin School; and, Internal Facilitator – Bernadette Tramm, Public Information Coordinator.