

GIRARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 248

Strategic Planning Initiative

Fall 2017



August 10, 2017 the Girard USD 248 Board of Education began the process of creating a long-term educational plan to replace the current plan created in 2012.

The Board members identified the following as a tentative list of areas to be addressed in the completed plan:

- 1) College and Career ready skills
- 2) Remain a school of choice
- 3) Additional extra-curricular activities
- 4) Identification of future facility needs
- 5) Increased vocational education opportunities
- 6) Life skills education
- 7) Business preparation opportunities
- 8) Staff development
- 9) Communication

During the same meeting the Board also identified principles they would always stand for as well as principles they would never stand for as a school district.

GIRARD USD 248 WILL ALWAYS STAND FOR:

- High expectations of staff and students
- Quality staff
- Safe up-to-date facilities
- Maintaining a strong tradition
- Student success
- Community support
- Quality education for all students
- Student focus
- Appropriate student conduct / actions
- Innovative
- Creation and maintenance of a positive educational culture
- Integrity
- Well cared for staff
- Technology in the classroom
- Strong leadership team

GIRARD USD 248 WILL NEVER STAND FOR:

- Not keeping students as the first priority
- Mediocre in thought and action
- Falling behind accepted standards
- Atmosphere of carelessness
- Poor sportsmanship
- Inadequate facilities
- Ineffective administrative leadership
- Low expectations of staff and students
- Weakness

Data Gathering Methodology

On November 1st and 13th Dr. Chris Christman facilitated a series of stakeholder meetings to solicit input in the creation of a new long-term educational plan for Girard USD 248.

Approximately 122 individuals participated in those face-to-face sessions. In addition, input was received on-line from 214 individuals. The face-to-face groups included High School students, Classified Staff, Community/Civic leaders, Administrators, Faculty, and an open community meeting.

Each stakeholder group was asked the same five (5) questions:

- 1) What positive words or descriptors come to mind when you think of Girard schools?
- 2) What future skills do you think are important for graduates of Girard 248 to possess?
And, how do you think the school can better meet those needs?
- 3) What issues do you see impacting Girard schools in the next three (3) to five (5) years?
- 4) As Girard USD 248 begins the creation of a new long-term strategic educational plan, what areas are important to you to be included?
- 5) What other topics or comments would you like to express that will help guide our long-term plan?

All of the responses from the stakeholder groups and the on-line survey are attached and sorted by question.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following general themes were identified for each survey question after a review of the input provided by the stakeholder meetings and on-line surveys.

What positive words or descriptors come to mind when you think of Girard schools?

- High expectations of staff and students
- Strong tradition and culture
- Great facilities
- Strong leadership from the Board of Education and the Administrative team
- Positive student behavior and conduct
- Positive school environment

What future skills do you think are important for graduates of Girard 248 to possess? And, how do you think the school can better meet those needs?

- Strong work ethic
- Critical thinking skills
- Communication – oral, written, and listening
- Strong grounding in life skills

What issues do you see impacting Girard schools in the next three (3) to five (5) years?

- Community changing demographics
- Recruitment and retention of quality staff
- Finances
- Career, technology, and vocational opportunities for students

As Girard USD 248 begins the creation of a new long-term strategic educational plan, what areas are important to you to be included?

- Technology
- Communication
- Facilities
- Post-secondary opportunities for students and their preparation

What other topics or comments would you like to express that will help guide our long-term plan?

- Firm foundation in basic daily living skills
- Career and vocational opportunities
- Keep the strong tradition and culture of Girard schools