

Final Strategic Planning Report

Winfield District 34 Winfield, IL

Submitted by

Winfield District 34 Strategic Planning Steering Committee
and Strategic Focus Planning Committees

David W. Peterson and Harry P. Rossi, Consultants
AMB Leadership Development Limited
www.ambleadershipdevelopment.com

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Acknowledgments

The district wishes to acknowledge and thank the many staff, parents, students and community members who contributed to the development of this strategic plan through participation in focus groups or by responding to the community survey. Special thanks to those school and community members who participated on either the Strategic Planning Steering Committee or one on of the Strategic Focus Planning Committees (listed below).

Strategic Planning Steering Committee

- Gwynne Kell- Superintendent of Schools
- Sue Gillespie- Board of Education/Parent
- Patti Palagi- Principal
- Tammy Gloss- Parent
- Madeleine Ciezak- Teacher
- Chuck Martschenke- Village Trustee
- Mary Beth Dupree- Paraprofessional

Strategic Focus Planning Committees

Mission Statement Committee

- Susan Gavin – Parent
- Rob Russo – Parent
- Christine Langellier – Parent
- Nina Colon – Teacher
- Mary Kersten – Teacher
- Gwynne Kell- Superintendent of Schools, Chair

Teaching & Learning Committee

- Patti Palagi- Principal, Chair
- Mary Beth Dupree- Paraprofessional
- Suzi Hinrichs – Teacher
- Lisa Napolitano- Teacher
- Tammy Gloss-Parent
- Cynthia Planert-North Park College
- Donna Bennett- Parent
- Judi Martschenke- Community

Facilities Committee

- Sue Gillespie-Board of Education/Parent
- David Brach – Teacher, Chair

- Al Stuart- Maintenance, D34 (retired)
- Mathew Haycox-Central DuPage Hospital
- Mike Sartore- Parent
- Jeff Malay – Parent
- Ron Richardson- FGM Architects

Finance Committee

- Madeleine Ciezak- Teacher
- Gwynne Kell- Superintendent of Schools
- Thomas Hill- Central DuPage Hospital
- Sonia Martinez – Director of Business; Chair
- Brian Gillespie- Parent
- John Taylor – Community

Introduction and Overview of Process

The proposed core beliefs, mission statement and strategic goals included in this report are presented for approval by the Winfield District 34 Board of Education.

This report summarizes the work completed as part of the strategic planning process that was completed in Winfield District 34 during the 2010-2011 school year. Based upon a recommendation from Superintendent Gwynne Kell, members of the Board of Education initiated this process in order to update the district's strategic plan in order to focus the district's work over the next three to five years.

The strategic planning process engaged Board members, district staff, community members, parents, community members, students and representatives of other key stakeholder groups in a planning process that resulted in the identification of critical issues, strategic goals to address those issues and accompanying action plans that will guide the district for the next three to five years.

Strategic Planning Process

This project used nominal group planning processes (SWOT) to identify current realities, emerging trends and unmet needs and challenges that will affect the district. The process identified strengths, weaknesses and challenges, opportunities for growth and potential threats to the school district. Based upon information collected in this process, a steering committee and several key committees revised the district's mission statement, developed key goals and supporting action plans.

Initial Planning Session - The consultants met with Superintendent Kell and district administrators. This session focused on identifying preexisting issues, identifying the stakeholder groups participating in the planning process, and designing the community survey described below as well as finalizing the schedule for the remaining aspects of the planning process.

Steering Committee- A steering committee that included staff, Board, parent and community members was formed to guide the planning process. This committee oversaw the development of the community survey and reviewed reports prepared by the Strategic Focus Planning Committees.

Strategic Focus Planning Committees- Based upon the critical issues identified by the Board, district administrators, and the Steering Committee, four Strategic Focus Planning Committees were formed. These included the Mission Statement Committee, Teaching and Learning Committee, Finance Committee and Facilities Committee.

Community Survey- A community survey on issues important to the district and community was developed and posted on the district website. Results of this survey were used to identify critical issues for the planning sessions carried out by the Strategic Focus Planning Committees that followed.

Stakeholder Group SWOT Meetings- These sessions were conducted by the consultants with various stakeholder groups. These meetings included meetings with parents, teachers and district staff, community members and students.

Final Report – The Strategic Focus Planning Committee, district administration and staff prepared the final strategic goals and action plans. The consultants assisted with final revisions and compilation of the final report. The timelines for goal accomplishment and loci for decisions are presented in parentheses in the Action Plans.

MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE DISTRICT BELIEFS

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Winfield Schools, in partnership with parents and community members, is to create a respectful learning environment which promotes active engagement and independent thinking so that students are prepared to positively contribute to our global society.

CORE DISTRICT BELIEFS

We believe that in an effective school...

1. School personnel, students, parents and community members understand the need to collaborate for the success of the district.
2. Students choose to be life-long learners through independent thinking and active engagement.
3. The district curriculum meets the academic, social/emotional, and physical needs of all learners and fosters growth for success in a global society.
4. Technology provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students and staff.
5. Teachers as learners seek out professional development that directly connects to student needs.
6. The district provides the resources and facilities to support teacher and student learning.
7. School personnel, students, parents and community partner to provide a safe and respectful learning environment.

STRATEGIC FOCUS: TEACHING AND LEARNING

STRATEGIC GOAL: Ensure a high level of achievement for all students through the creation of a safe and responsive learning environment where a foundation for educational success meets the needs of each student.

OBJECTIVES:

A. Maintain a high level of student achievement.

1. Create classroom expectations linked to Common Core standards. (ongoing curriculum work summer 2011 to summer 2012/District certified staff)
2. Identify data and intervention structures to support the learning of targeted students. (August 2011 to 2016/Administration, certified and non-certified staff)
3. Create classroom structures that support a safe and respectful learning environment e.g. ongoing CHAMPS, data meetings. (annually monitored 2011 to 2016/ Administration, certified staff)
4. Embed problem-based and critical thinking skills into daily classroom instruction by 2013. (Administration & certified staff)
5. Review and modify school day to incorporate additional collaboration opportunities. (summer 2013/Administration & certified staff)

B. Provide a comprehensive technology program that supports communication among stakeholders and ensures students are respectful digital consumers, prepared to utilize a variety of technologies.

1. Support technology integration through in-depth and ongoing professional development for all stakeholders aligned with District policy e.g. internet safety, bullying prevention. (2012/Administration & BOE)
2. Ensure availability of programs, materials and personnel to create learning environments responsive to technology integration. (2012/Administration & BOE)
3. Seek additional financial avenues to support increased technologies. (ongoing 2011 to 2016/Administration & BOE)
4. Review and plan for facilities that meet the technology and educational needs of students today and in the future. (FY2011-2013/ Superintendent & BOE)

C. Provide quality communication and learning opportunities for stakeholders.

1. Provide and communicate via District website, quality professional development opportunities based on the needs identified by student data. (2012/Administration & certified staff)
2. Expand communication to reach all stakeholders. (2012/Administration & BOE)

3. Plan and enact focused articulation among community groups and area schools to share goals and resources. (FY2011 to 2016/ Administration, parents, teachers & BOE)
4. Create additional partnerships with institutes of higher education (North Central College, NIU), businesses and community organizations to gain insights and share information. (FY2011 to 2016/Administration)

STRATEGIC FOCUS: FACILITIES

STRATEGIC GOAL: Renovate D34's current facilities to create 21st Century learning environments to support high student achievement in order to...

1. Mirror D34's educational philosophy and instructional goals.
2. Meet safety regulations.
3. Meet requirements for accessibility (ADA) of all public school facilities.
4. Conserve energy and lower maintenance costs.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Make immediate repairs/renovations that will support the regular day-to-day operations of Winfield Primary and Central.
 1. Primary School roof replacement. (summer 2011 /Superintendent & BOE)
 2. Central School roof middle section replacement. (summer 2011/Superintendent & BOE)
 3. Central School rusted exterior doors. (summer 2011/Superintendent & BOE)
 4. Accessibility issues. (phases: develop long range plan of access and create one accessible bathroom in Primary School over the next few years) (2013 Superintendent & BOE)
 5. Gym floor follow up. (phases) (phase II & III by the summer of 2013/Superintendent & BOE)
 6. Primary School playground repaving. (summer 2011/Superintendent & BOE)
 7. Review and revise long term service contracts. (summer 2011/Superintendent, Business Manager, and Maintenance Staff)

- B. Communicate the need to either completely renovate or replace the Primary building and maintain upkeep at the Central School in order to meet the long-term instructional, safety, and operational needs of D34. Starting winter 2011 for all areas (Superintendent, Principal, & Business Manager)
 1. Chalkboard and Tiger Prints newsletter facilities updates.
 2. Create business partnerships.
 3. Display current classroom photos and photos of 21st century classrooms in various news media.
 4. Website updates.
 5. Open house and technology night presentations.
 6. Newspapers, village's cable scroll and sign.
 7. Network with other districts, village entities re: reducing/sharing costs.
 8. Improve traffic safety with additional signage. (e.g. Beecher no drop off)
 9. Communicate the need to seek financial resources for building renovation or replacement as well as maintain Central School.

STRATEGIC FOCUS: FINANCE

STRATEGIC GOAL: Maintain programs and student outcomes of demonstrated high achievement while balancing the budget.

OBJECTIVES:

A. Reduce district spending without negatively impacting student programs whenever possible.

1. Contact vendors and service providers to inquire about rebates, company grants, etc that might bring down costs. (spring 2011 and ongoing/Business Manager)
2. Consolidate services and purchases with area districts and seek new consolidation opportunities with other not-for-profits and government municipalities e.g. investigate cost to join health care plan of other governmental entities such as the Winfield Fire Department. (winter 2011 and ongoing/Superintendent and Business Manager)
3. Share expenses of providing District facilities with renters; e.g., ask for donation toward cost of custodial clean up and/or utilities provided by the District. (Beginning summer 2011/Business Manager and Office Staff)

B. Increase revenue sources to support District initiatives.

1. Increase program fees as a result of decreased state and federal funding including fees for activities that have not previously been charged. (2012/Superintendent & BOE)
2. Request that the Education Foundation set specific annual contribution goals (e.g., grants and donations). (2011 Superintendent)
3. Investigate alumni contribution gift giving. (spring 2011/Superintendent)
4. Investigate hiring incentivized grant writers to solicit corporate and foundation awards. (e.g., McCormick Foundation or Exelon). (summer 2011/Superintendent)

C. Communicate District finance information regularly through a variety of media.

1. Use weekly email blasts to communicate Tiger Prints and include a financial update monthly. (fall 2011/ Business Manager)
2. Plan a PR blitz for the community, businesses, etc, to learn about the Education Foundation and their purpose. (fall 2011/Superintendent)
3. Communicate all of the steps taken by the District to try to find matching dollars and/or to raise outside dollars toward the facilities before investigating the need for referendum. (Beginning summer 2011 and ongoing/Superintendent, Principal, BOE, and all staff)

APPENDICES

Appendix I

Winfield District 34 Strategic Planning Process Focus Group Results

Board of Education Focus Group-January 27, 2011

- ▶ Strengths- What are the district's strengths? What do we do well? Which are our best programs?
 1. Strong focus on individual students.
 2. Response to Intervention programs.
 3. Fine arts program.
 4. Implement new programs quickly.
 5. Good working relationships.
 6. Strong experienced teaching staff.
 7. Small class sizes.
 8. Strong community support.
 9. Nimble due to size.
 10. Good student achievement data.
 11. Parental support.
 12. Strong PTA.

- ▶ Weaknesses- What do we need to improve? What are our weaknesses? What challenges exist?
 1. Facilities issues.
 2. Financial challenges-revenues are dropping and expenses are increasing.
 3. Unfunded mandates.
 4. Traffic problems.
 5. Lack of parking.
 6. No outdoor athletic space.
 7. Small size makes it difficult for sports to be comprehensive.
 8. Under the current NCLB, more schools will not make AYP.
 9. Technology is behind.

- ▶ Opportunities- What new opportunities exist? Are there unmet needs we can meet? What potential areas for growth and improvement exist?
 1. Need to make better community connections.
 2. Improve technology.
 3. Work with other feeder districts to jointly offer programs.
 4. Articulation with high school in order to make sure students are well prepared.
 5. Opportunities for grants and alternative sources of funding.
 6. Be concerned with wellness issues.

- ▶ Threats- What external threats exist? What will hamper our growth and development?
 1. Funding issues.
 2. Springfield and Washington.
 3. Mandates.
 4. Local politics.
 5. Turnover on the Board.
 6. Influx of new students who need ESL services.

- ▶ Is there anything else that should be considered when developing the district's new strategic plan?
 1. Be prepared to deal with future negotiations.
 2. New teacher evaluation systems.
 3. Discuss the needs of the primary building.
 4. Allocate resources wisely.

Staff Focus Group-December 6, 2010

- ▶ Strengths- What are the district's strengths? What do we do well? Which are our best programs?
 1. Staff works well together; collaborative.
 2. It's easy to make things happen here.
 3. High achieving students.
 4. High expectations.
 5. We provide services for students ages 3-14.
 6. Due to our size, we know our students well.
 7. Middle school teachers get to see students three years in a row.
 8. Strong music program.
 9. Fine arts are strong.
 10. Very creative and flexible because we have to be.
 11. Very child focused.
 12. District is inclusive of all kids.
 13. Our intervention programs.
 14. Properly staffed with support staff.
 15. Staff development is strong.
 16. Response to Intervention program.
 17. We look ahead and are proactive.
 18. People stay here.
 19. Small class sizes.
 20. Lots of qualified interns; good student teachers.
 21. Community recognizes the strength of the district.
 22. We celebrate children's successes.
 23. Forming strong relationships with other feeder districts and West Chicago High School.
 24. Lots of training in ELC and support for those programs.
 25. Businesses and village are extremely supportive of our school district.

26. CDH has been very supportive.
27. Curriculum is effective.
28. Science and math curricula and programs are sound.
29. Use data to find programs that meet our needs.
30. Sense of safety in communication with administration.
31. Easy access to administration.

► Weaknesses- What do we need to improve? What are our weaknesses? What challenges exist?

1. Size of the district; lots of “push-pulling” for resources.
2. There could be more electives.
3. Staff has been reduced in some key areas.
4. No single large revenue stream.
5. Land locked; very little new construction.
6. Community is mature.
7. Education is not generally seen in a positive light; image.
8. Half day kindergarten; need to look at full day.
9. Real big push for technology; facilities are not set up to deal with it.
10. Technology is not as integrated as it should be.
11. Time is our big weakness.
12. Many things to do with limited resources.
13. Many staff members with multiple roles.
14. Money; the state’s financial status.
15. Grant opportunities; don’t have the right demographics.
16. Demographics of families not very diverse. Although diversity has increased, it is generally a white middle class district. Challenging to promote diversity, acceptance, and inclusiveness of different cultures with classes of children that are only minimally diverse.
17. Student safety on Park Street.
18. Infrastructure; aging buildings.
19. No bussing.

► Opportunities- What new opportunities exist? Are there unmet needs we can meet? What potential areas for growth and improvement exist?

1. Creating time to collaborate among staff.
2. Full day kindergarten.
3. Middle school scheduling opportunity to change things around.
4. Take a look at our curriculum and integrate it more effectively.
5. Unmet need to use technology more effectively.
6. Need more healthy debates to really move forward on curriculum, teaching, etc.
7. Common core standards are creating new opportunities.
8. Solid partnerships with universities for internships.
9. Invite business people in to see how we’re preparing kids.
10. Resurrect the Educational Foundation and reach out to businesses and larger corporations. Seek out grants.
11. Opportunities to learn more from one another.

12. ELC population; getting new programs in place.
13. Need to find ways for our students to shine even more.
14. Strategic planning process is a huge opportunity.

► Threats- What external threats exist? What will hamper our growth and development?

1. Funding.
2. NCLB and the ESEA reauthorization.
3. Not knowing what we're preparing for.
4. Consolidation.
5. Shifting state regulations.
6. Overemphasis on standards.
7. Housing market; economy.
8. Not getting new students.
9. Flooding.
10. Retirements.
11. Some reforms are threatening.
12. Perception of public education; hard to attract new teachers.

Student Focus Group (45 students)-January 27, 2011

► Strengths- What are the district's strengths? What do we do well? Which are our best programs?

1. Teachers and people of authority relate to other people well.
2. Really listen to students.
3. Care about the kids.
4. Technology is really good.
5. Teachers work hard to make sure we can learn in our own ways.
6. Advanced math and advanced reading.
7. All of our subjects teach us a lot.
8. Help if we need it-tutors.
9. Teachers treat people according to their strengths and needs.
10. We have a lot of clubs that people want and need.
11. A fitness center we can use.
12. Principal and teachers ask students when making decisions about what to purchase.

► Weaknesses- What do we need to improve? What are our weaknesses? What challenges exist?

1. Spanish should be optional.
2. Shouldn't have exploratory.
3. Need some new teachers.
4. More time to study for tests.
5. Need to change the grading scale.
6. Increase the amount of time for lunch.
7. Hot lunch line takes too long.

8. Lunch ladies should provide more food; portions too small.
9. Change the policy for making up work when absent.
10. Clean the gym floor better.
11. Shouldn't have health or basketball.
12. Less math homework in the 4th grade.
13. 7th and 8th grade exploratory is not that useful-should have another advisory.

► Opportunities- What new opportunities exist? Are there unmet needs we can meet? What potential areas for growth and improvement exist?

1. Need a pool.
2. Build a new track in the back; can't have home track meets.
3. Have a softball or baseball field.
4. Club for people to clean up around the school.
5. Fix field so we can have sports outside.
6. More variety of sports in gym.
7. More smart boards.
8. Water damage to the field is bad.
9. Be able to get money for the library.
10. Sell breakfast.
11. More variety of classes.
12. Opportunities to take a different language.
13. Extend time between classes a little more.
14. Have late start days and go longer.
15. Extend gym period; changing clothes takes time from class.
16. Bring back the Slushy machine.

► Threats- What external threats exist? What will hamper our growth and development?

1. Flooding in back.
2. Everyday Math; it doesn't teach us.
3. Taking away advisory would be problem.
4. If you take it away; reduce homework.
5. Don't change period times.
6. Traffic problems around the schools.
7. Should be able to wear tank tops.

Parent/Community Focus Group (2)-January 26, 2011

► Strengths- What are the district's strengths? What do we do well? Which are our best programs?

1. Staff.
2. Students are well prepared for high school.
3. Music program.
4. Leadership of principal has been especially strong.
5. Changes are implemented effectively.
6. School district adapts well.

7. Preschool program is excellent.
8. Good teamwork.

► Weaknesses- What do we need to improve? What are our weaknesses? What challenges exist?

1. Size of school can be a weakness; students have the same teachers too often.
2. Fewer opportunities and resources than a larger district.
3. Building challenges; flooding.
4. A lot of teachers have been here a long time.
5. Some students have the same teacher for three years.

► Opportunities- What new opportunities exist? Are there unmet needs we can meet? What potential areas for growth and improvement exist?

1. Opportunities that the new common core curriculum offers.
2. Enhance technology; technology skills are not as good as they should be.
3. Exploratory options; career options could be explored more.
4. Spanish is the only foreign language offered; could we offer another?
5. Opportunities for expanded professional development for teachers.

► Threats- What external threats exist? What will hamper our growth and development?

1. Financial issues.
2. Village we live in; no real industrial base.
3. Hospital is not for profit; no tax revenue.
4. Will good teachers leave?
5. Will staff continue to be challenged?

► Is there anything else that should be considered when developing the district's new strategic plan?

1. Are there ways to improve traffic flow?

Appendix II

Consultants for the Strategic Plan

The consultants for the project, David Peterson and Harry Rossi, have had a great deal of experience in strategic planning. In addition to developing and implementing strategic plans in their own districts they have assisted Northbrook District 28, the Niles Township Department of Special Education (NTDSE), the Low Incidence Cooperative Association (LICA) and Avenues to Independence (among others) in the development of long range and strategic plans.








Mr. Dave Peterson served as Superintendent of the Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSED) in Highland Park, IL from 1994-2005. NSSED is a special education joint agreement serving 19 school districts in the north shore suburbs. Dave served as President of the state special education administrators' organization and the North Cook Superintendent's organization.

Dave is the President and principal investigator with AMB Leadership Development. He is also a partner with School Exec Connect, an educational search firm, and is Co-Director of FED ED a federal legislative consortium of over 110 members representing the interests of suburban schools in Washington, DC. He has a wide range of experience in strategic planning and goal setting and has facilitated planning processes in special education cooperatives, national and state organizations, and school districts.




Dr. Harry Rossi served as Superintendent of Northbrook/Glenview District 30 from 1988-2005. He is a partner in School Exec Connect, an educational search firm, and is Co-Director of FED ED a federal legislative consortium of over 110 members representing the interests of suburban schools in Washington, DC. He is also a faculty member at Loyola University- Chicago where he teaches the administrative practicum.

Dr. Rossi served as President of the North Cook Superintendent's organization, was a member of the ED RED Board, and serves in leadership positions on numerous other Boards. He is an expert in legislative matters affecting public schools and has conducted Board of Education workshops on governance and a number of other topics.



1. Please select the choice(s) that best describe your relationship to the school district. Please select all that apply. I am a(n):

		Response Percent	Response Count
1. Parent/Guardian		38.0%	35
2. Community Member/Business		19.6%	18
3. Certified staff		26.1%	24
4. Non-certified staff		7.6%	7
5. Support Staff		6.5%	6
6. Student		0.0%	0
7. Administrator		4.3%	4
8. Alumni		0.0%	0
9. Other		12.0%	11
	Other (please specify)		11
		answered question	92
		skipped question	1


















2. If you are a parent of a student currently enrolled in Winfield School District 34, at what level is (are) your child(ren)? Please select all that apply.


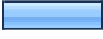
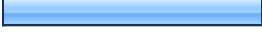



		Response Percent	Response Count
1. Preschool		13.9%	5
2. Elementary (K-5)		75.0%	27
3. Middle School (6-8)		44.4%	16
answered question			36
skipped question			57

3. If you do not have a child in the Winfield Schools, have you ever had a child attend District 34?

		Response Percent	Response Count
1. Yes		29.3%	17
2. No		70.7%	41
answered question			58
skipped question			35

4. Please select FIVE (5) items below that you believe represent the greatest strengths of the school district.

		Response Percent	Response Count
1. Student achievement/test scores		54.4%	49
2. Staff competence		63.3%	57
3. A community that values education		31.1%	28
4. The District's comprehensive educational program		21.1%	19
5. Financial stability		15.6%	14
6. Curriculum materials		12.2%	11
7. Small class size		77.8%	70
8. Fine Arts programs		11.1%	10
9. Athletic/Activity programs		2.2%	2
10. Parent/guardian high expectations of the school		11.1%	10
11. Students who are well prepared for high school		25.6%	23
12. Use of instructional practices in the classroom		18.9%	17
13. Willingness to face issues and solve them		15.6%	14
14. Effectiveness of the Board of Education		2.2%	2
15. Inclusive programs		17.8%	16
16. Effectiveness of District Administration		3.3%	3
17. Creativity and flexibility of school staff		28.9%	26

18. Students who are committed to education		5.6%	5
19. District's resources and facilities (financial, buildings, people)		14.4%	13
20. Parental involvement and volunteerism		38.9%	35
21. Communication to parents/guardians about students and the district		5.6%	5
22. Communication to parents/guardians via the district website		2.2%	2
23. Integration of technology		13.3%	12
Other strengths of District 34			3
answered question			90
skipped question			3





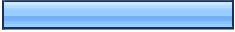










5. What new opportunities or areas of potential growth should the district pursue to strengthen the district and its programs?

	Response Count
	43
answered question	43
skipped question	50

6. List any unmet needs that you feel exist in the district.

	Response Count
	26
answered question	26
skipped question	67

7. Please select FIVE (5) items below that represent the district's greatest challenges and/or weaknesses.

		Response Percent	Response Count
1. Fiscal challenges		69.1%	56
2. Maintaining excellence over time		24.7%	20
3. Maintaining the quality of teachers and staff		28.4%	23
4. Addressing building challenges (aging buildings and infrastructure)		69.1%	56
5. Maintaining high levels of student achievement		34.6%	28
6. Effective Board of Education governance		13.6%	11
7. Effective administrative leadership		11.1%	9
8. Demanding and vocal community		6.2%	5
9. Maintaining strong community support		21.0%	17
10. Keeping up with technology in the classroom		49.4%	40
11. Strong traditions that inhibit change		12.3%	10
12. Too many demands, too few dollars		55.6%	45
13. Curriculum and instructional methods		7.4%	6
14. Flexibility and creativity of school staff		6.2%	5
15. Communication to parents/guardians about student		8.6%	7

achievement			
16. Effective communication to the community at large		22.2%	18
17. Changing community demographics		21.0%	17
Other challenges and weaknesses			8
answered question			81
skipped question			12

8. Please select the FIVE (5) most important traits of a highly effective school district.

		Response Percent	Response Count
1. Culture of collaboration with stakeholders		39.5%	32
2. Accountability to the community		34.6%	28
3. Excellent communication		54.3%	44
4. Welcomes diverse opinions and perspectives		23.5%	19
5. Understands and addresses achievement issues		40.7%	33
6. Understands and implements best educational practices		81.5%	66
7. Fiscally responsible		70.4%	57
8. Forges a shared vision among stakeholder groups		17.3%	14
9. Uses data effectively		32.1%	26
10. Values transparency		19.8%	16
11. A presence in the community		25.9%	21
12. Demonstrates innovation in teaching and learning		60.5%	49
	Other traits of effective districts.		3
answered question			81
skipped question			12

9. What other comments would you like to offer the Board of Education as they complete a new strategic plan?

	Response Count
	30
answered question	30
skipped question	63

1. Please select the choice(s) that best describe your relationship to the school

Other (please specify)		
1	SASED Administrator	Oct 27, 2010 6:55 PM
2	Superintendent in neighboring school district	Oct 27, 2010 7:10 PM
3	D33 BOE Member; community member	Oct 27, 2010 7:17 PM
4	Consultant	Oct 27, 2010 7:34 PM
5	Neighboring district school administrator	Oct 27, 2010 7:47 PM
6	Business Official from a special cooperative	Oct 28, 2010 1:29 PM
7	Village Board Member	Oct 28, 2010 2:01 PM
8	School Board Member	Oct 29, 2010 6:42 PM
9	Parent of 3 former students	Dec 1, 2010 2:15 AM
10	my children are alumni and I was a community member for 28 years	Dec 2, 2010 5:37 PM
11	Higher education school partnership member	Dec 4, 2010 10:26 PM

1. Please select FIVE (5) items below that you believe represent the greatest

Other strengths of District 34		
1	Of course the other 18 items you have on your list. The order can be any sequence but we do not wish to exclude those that were NOT on the top 5 strengths. Thank you very much.	Nov 1, 2010 5:55 PM
2	a very visible principal and positive role model	Nov 7, 2010 2:13 PM
3	Spanish language education	Nov 30, 2010 4:14 PM

1. What new opportunities or areas of potential growth should the district

Response Text		
1	Observation of programs in other districts.	Oct 27, 2010 6:58 PM
2	Expand curricular offerings at middle school level	Oct 27, 2010 7:12 PM
3	Social stories for general education classrooms so that students are introduced to students with special needs that are working inclusively in their classroom.	Oct 27, 2010 7:38 PM

1. What new opportunities or areas of potential growth should the district

Response Text		
4	Integrating more technology throughout programs. Using more problem-based, critical thinking lessons and setting up classrooms to support that kind of learning.	Oct 27, 2010 7:44 PM
5	Service learning	Oct 27, 2010 7:48 PM
6	More integration of technology. This needs to be accompanied by time set aside for teachers to experiment and plan how to utilize available technology in the classroom. An overview of a program does not give time for staff to impliment it.	Oct 27, 2010 8:23 PM
7	Prepare studnts for great success at the high school.	Oct 27, 2010 8:25 PM
8	Find sources of revenue	Oct 27, 2010 8:28 PM
9	Cutting administration so that there might be more cash to bring back programs for children.	Oct 27, 2010 10:17 PM
10	Technology	Oct 27, 2010 11:19 PM
11	more technology in classrooms	Oct 28, 2010 1:29 AM
12	Development of the Rtl educational structure within the district is an oppportunity for district growth	Oct 28, 2010 1:35 PM
13	School needs a plan of where it is going in the next 5 years...many times they are reactive instead of being proactive especially in the area of technology	Oct 29, 2010 3:48 PM
14	Financial opportunities	Oct 29, 2010 5:14 PM
15	Bringing back programs that keep getting cut due to budget issues...spanish, art, music, etc.	Oct 29, 2010 8:37 PM
16	Continue the technology upgrades from time to time. They do become extinct after 2 years or so. Some schools even have laptops for every child. Personally, that is a luxury we do not need but you get my point.	Nov 1, 2010 5:58 PM
17	building maintenance, upgrades addt'l IT sources in all classrooms	Nov 2, 2010 4:07 AM
18	Focus on kids education after 8th grade	Nov 4, 2010 2:33 AM
19	Sad about the elimination of classes/programs for some grades (ie art, spanish...)	Nov 4, 2010 10:14 PM
20	Continue to pursue growth in the areas of technology and programs that enable the students to become global citizens	Nov 4, 2010 11:05 PM
21	While Bully Blockers is a good start, kids whose families don't care about their bullying behavior aren't going to be significantly impacted by this intervention. Bullying, particularly in the cafeteria and gym, sometimes goes insufficiently addressed, even after the Bully Blockers program has been in place for some time. Bullying behaviors demand greater consequences, such as suspension or expulsion. Cafeteria monitors need increase both their proactivity and reactivity in managing bullying.	Nov 5, 2010 6:40 PM
22	Collaboration with the high school and other feeder districts to integrate curriculum Online, distance learning or opportunities at the high school for qualified students to pursue advanced curriculum opportunities	Nov 5, 2010 9:04 PM
23	To strengthen the district: our school feeds into Community High School and there is still some apprehension to this transition. More communication, visibility, clinics, communication, partnerships with the high school may lessen the mystique and increase the level of comfort.	Nov 7, 2010 2:20 PM
24	Focus on science.	Nov 7, 2010 2:56 PM
25	Continued education for classroom teachers/staff regarding special education practices/needs.	Nov 8, 2010 4:58 PM
26	If there is any way to get the district feeding into a better high school, that would be ideal. It is awful to have one of the best elementary and middle schools in the county feeding into one of the worst high schools.	Nov 8, 2010 7:17 PM
27	professional development	Nov 8, 2010 10:16 PM

1. What new opportunities or areas of potential growth should the district

Response Text		
28	More flexible pricing for extracurricular activities: 1. If more kids sign up for a program, it would cost less per child (receive a refund) 2. If a program meets for the whole year, it should cost more than a program that only meets for several months	Nov 9, 2010 5:19 PM
29	Technology, science, community engagement	Nov 17, 2010 4:04 PM
30	Moving to more collaborative, problem based learning experiences for our students will require an instructional shift from staff. This is needed to ensure our students continue to grow as learners throughout thier lives.	Nov 20, 2010 2:03 AM
31	Continue to stress staff development to enhance student achievement in the classroom, and seek to help students apply their knowledge to real-life situations. Work to strengthen athletic teams and participation through coaching education and motivated coaches.	Nov 29, 2010 2:58 AM
32	I THINK A HEAVY EMPHASIS ON COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY STARTING WITH AN UPDATE OF THE OUTDATED EQUIPMENT OUR STUDENTS ARE USING. POSSIBLY LOOK TO OUTSIDE SOURCES SUCH AS THE HOSPITAL OR AREA BANKS TO DONATE SOME RESOURCES OR HOLD A SCHOOL FUNDRAISER TO UPDATE THE EQUIPMENT. COULD ALSO LOOK TO SOME OF THE CORPORATIONS SUCH AS B.P OR NAVISTAR FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND DONATIONS OF NEW EQUIPMENT. STUDENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CHOOSE IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO TAKE COMPUTER CLASSES OR ART CLASS. SEEMS TO ME UNLESS YOU ARE ARTISTIC THAT COMPUTER LEARNING IS A MUCH BETTER USE OF TIME AND RESOURCES.	Nov 30, 2010 3:55 PM
33	Reduce Fees	Nov 30, 2010 4:19 PM
34	Winfield school should strive to becomming "greener" This can help the bottom line as welll as bring learning oportunities to the students.	Nov 30, 2010 4:43 PM
35	cooperative programs with other area schools, such as COD.	Nov 30, 2010 5:33 PM
36	More athletic sports at elementary level	Nov 30, 2010 6:24 PM
37	Continue to update technology as much as possible.	Nov 30, 2010 10:09 PM
38	Drop the everyday math program, keep class sizes small.	Nov 30, 2010 10:55 PM
39	Not sure of new areas for growth at the moment.	Dec 1, 2010 2:43 AM
40	more community involvement	Dec 2, 2010 5:39 PM
41	I feel keeping up with current technology will strengthen the district.	Dec 3, 2010 9:34 PM
42	Technology	Dec 4, 2010 10:28 PM
43	Allow time for grant writing. To discover new sources of revenue.	Dec 7, 2010 1:33 PM

2. List any unmet needs that you feel exist in the district.

Response Text		
1	Staff needs more time to meet existing programs. I feel we are overextended in what we do.	Oct 27, 2010 6:58 PM
2	Revenue sources are minimal (property taxes solely) Antiquated Primary School building	Oct 27, 2010 7:44 PM
3	Fix the flooding problem.	Oct 27, 2010 8:25 PM

2. List any unmet needs that you feel exist in the district.

	Response Text	
4	Art and Music for all students. Eighth grade has neither of these programs. Improved technology curriculum in the middle school and technology class for all students. Again, 8th grade has no technology. We need a full time librarian in our district.	Oct 27, 2010 10:17 PM
5	More space is needed for all of the extra work that a teacher does with a child outside of the classroom. Sometimes it is hard to find an appropriate spot that is easy to work with a child. A spot that has a computer and table easily accessible for the teacher and student.	Oct 27, 2010 11:37 PM
6	A comprehensive review of facilities may be appropriate to determine adequacy and if facilities are meeting educational needs	Oct 28, 2010 1:35 PM
7	Poor high school district	Nov 4, 2010 2:33 AM
8	More fine arts and practicles should be re-offered	Nov 4, 2010 10:14 PM
9	We need a high school of the same calibre as the middle school so we can stop sending our kids to West Chicago.	Nov 5, 2010 8:10 PM
10	none that I am aware of	Nov 5, 2010 9:04 PM
11	Students participate in science fairs.	Nov 7, 2010 2:56 PM
12	Understanding and implementation of special education.	Nov 8, 2010 4:58 PM
13	Choir at junior high school level — Chorus only goes to 5th grade and feel that three years is long time between choral opportunities.	Nov 15, 2010 4:36 AM
14	school prepared for curriculum of the 21st centruy in its classrooms, faculty, programs, and facilities.	Nov 17, 2010 4:04 PM
15	Finances will always be an area of concern. Time for professional development; to truly integrate and imbed best practice into all we do is an area of need.	Nov 20, 2010 2:03 AM
16	ATHLETICALLY I THINK THE SCHOOL REALLY DOES A DESERVICE TO THE STUDENTS. REAL COACHES WITH COACHING EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE HANDLING ALL OF THE COACHING DUTIES. ALL OF THE OTHER MIDDLE SCHOOLS GO THROUGH AN INTERVIEW PROCESS AND TAKE IT SERIOUSLY WE HOWEVER CHOOSE TO LET OUR STUDENTS BE EMBARRASSED BY NOT BEING ADEQUATELY COACHED AND PREPARED.	Nov 30, 2010 3:55 PM
17	Weak gifted program with limits to number of students, not enough academic areas, and identification of "gifted" only in primary with few opportunities for a student who excels after primary. Weak sports facilities and limited programs compared with neighboring districts, particularly in track and field.	Nov 30, 2010 4:19 PM
18	Useful courses such as cooking, woodworking or other DIY type activities that could provide useful life skills as students reach adulthood.	Nov 30, 2010 5:33 PM
19	none	Nov 30, 2010 6:24 PM
20	Uniforms for all sports teams!!!	Nov 30, 2010 10:09 PM
21	Parking, sidewalks on school routes, parking, sidewalks,police that help out by directing traffic instead of giving parents tickets, parking, sidewalks.	Nov 30, 2010 10:55 PM
22	I would like to see the fine arts areas (music and art) expanded - I feel the students are limited by being offered only band, and only one class of music and art during middle school. Many students need other opportunities to "shine" besides sports or the core curriculum.	Dec 1, 2010 2:43 AM
23	Fine Arts program is not as comprehensive as it was once	Dec 2, 2010 5:39 PM
24	All day kindergarten would be great. I'd rather pay the school and have my child in school all day then have them in daycare.	Dec 3, 2010 2:38 AM
25	Technology	Dec 4, 2010 10:28 PM
26	Time allocated to learn and apply new technology.	Dec 7, 2010 1:33 PM

1. Please select FIVE (5) items below that represent the district's greatest

Other challenges and weaknesses		
1	Small size limits curricular offerings	Oct 27, 2010 7:14 PM
2	The high school district	Nov 4, 2010 2:34 AM
3	Really, I don't see many weaknesses.	Nov 5, 2010 6:41 PM
4	the district feeds into a low-performing high school.	Nov 8, 2010 7:18 PM
5	IT SEEMS FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO CONTINUE TO EMPLOY BOTH A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND A SUPERINTENDENT I WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT THAT OUR PRINCIPAL COULD HANDLE BOTH DUTIES. WHAT ACTUALLY DOES THE SUPERINTENDENT DO IN A DISTRICT WITH 400 KIDS? WE COULD TRIM \$150,000 RIGHT THERE.	Nov 30, 2010 4:12 PM
6	Weak gifted program with limits to number of students, not enough academic areas, and identification of "gifted" only in primary with few opportunities for a student who excels after primary. Weak sports facilities and limited programs compared with neighboring districts, particularly in track and field.	Nov 30, 2010 4:19 PM
7	The above selected items are future challenges, not current weaknesses.	Nov 30, 2010 10:13 PM
8	Parking, sidewalks and the water drainage issues	Nov 30, 2010 10:58 PM

1. Please select the FIVE (5) most important traits of a highly effective school

Other traits of effective districts.		
1	Working with feeder schools to ensure children are prepared to go forward	Nov 9, 2010 5:22 PM
2	TEACHERS IN MY OPINION NEED TO BE INVOLVED MORE IN THE STUDENTS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE SCHOOL DANCE'S AND MOVIES THAT ARE HELD OR ANY OTHER AFTER HOURS EVENT. I THINK IT IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR THE TEACHERS TO SEE THE STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. I WOULD EXPECT THEM TO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME AND NOT SUBMIT AN INVOICE TO THE DISTRICT. TEACHERS NEED TO BE MORE INVOLVED WITH THE CHILDREN OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM THEY ARE PAID WELL HAVE GREAT HOURS AND SUMMERS OFF THE LEAST THEY CAN DO IS VOLUNTEER AN OCCASIONAL EVENING OR FRIDAY.	Nov 30, 2010 4:17 PM
3	[How do you guys come up with this list?]	Nov 30, 2010 4:21 PM

1. What other comments would you like to offer the Board of Education as they

Response Text		
1	Long range financial planning.	Oct 27, 2010 7:09 PM
2	Thank your for your time and work. Building and maintaining academic and social emotional growth via a supportive community of staff and parents is highly valued!	Oct 27, 2010 7:30 PM
3	Keeping up the high scores and student performance should be a major goal.	Oct 27, 2010 7:48 PM
4	That the plan becomes a tool that is used and referred to regularly by the BOE, staff, community, parents, etc and not just a document that sits on a shelf or hangs on a wall. That this plan is reflective of best educational practices that will effect students and families for years to come.	Oct 27, 2010 7:50 PM

1. What other comments would you like to offer the Board of Education as they

Response Text		
5	Look at the declining enrollment. When will our enrollment reach the point where it will make sense to joining 33, 25 or 94?	Oct 27, 2010 8:27 PM
6	Address administrative weaknesses. Lack of focus and a scattergun approach to implementation. Lack of understanding of classroom processes and the time needed to be effective in a classroom. Lack of emotional stability in presenting issues	Oct 27, 2010 8:33 PM
7	I would just like to say that I feel our children are very lucky to have all of the extra support they receive from the teachers and support staff, meaning tutoring, one on one for inclusion students, and extra help to other students that just simply need it. Please continue doing what you do to make our school such a great school for our students and staff alike.	Oct 27, 2010 11:40 PM
8	The district has many strengths and should work to build upon the foundation already developed.	Oct 28, 2010 1:38 PM
9	Keep the community informed throughout entire process.	Oct 28, 2010 2:05 PM
10	The administration needs to focus on a singular vision for the District. That is not being done at this time. Thus, teachers work in an environment of being overwhelmed and torn in numerous directions. This, in turn, leads to people throwing their hands up in frustration. Not a good working environment.	Oct 29, 2010 5:18 PM
11	Small class size....absolutely essential!	Oct 29, 2010 8:39 PM
12	Be sure to hold the Board of Education accountable as we do School Staff from Kindergarten to the Superintendent.	Nov 1, 2010 5:59 PM
13	Please look into changing the high school district. It's not fair to our students to give up on their education!!	Nov 4, 2010 2:36 AM
14	Listen to your faculty, ask our thoughts... we have a very good handle on the needs of our district but we are not always heard or asked.	Nov 4, 2010 10:17 PM
15	Please consider the nutritional qualities of the cafeteria food. Meatless Mondays is a good idea but if meatless means tons of refined carbohydrates and fat, then the kids would be better off with a lean grilled chicken breast and a salad.	Nov 5, 2010 6:43 PM
16	I feel District 34 is doing an outstanding job with limited fiscal resources. I hope grant funding continues to be considered as a means of supplementing taxes. I strongly feel the small size of our school district allows for flexibility and efficiency in meeting the needs of the student population as a whole and as individuals. Its small size allows for changes in the delivery of curriculum, educational practices, and instruction in a short amount of time. I have always been proud of Winfield School District and can attest to the strong educational foundation it provides by pointing to the success of my two adult children who are products of Winfield School.	Nov 5, 2010 9:11 PM
17	How about some increased visibility to the Board. What do you do, what are your goals, how are you helping? Are there teachers that can be recognized, initiatives that can be highlighted, projects, grants, seminars, superintendent networking with other districts. There are many examples, initiatives and accomplishments to show off and communicate a job well done by this district.	Nov 7, 2010 2:35 PM
18	Ensure older tenured teachers are still effective.	Nov 7, 2010 2:58 PM
19	Mr. Tyle is one of the best assets you have. While you still have him, you should be compiling his extensive proprietary resources. It appears that he single-handedly raises science scores in the district!	Nov 8, 2010 5:01 PM
20	DO NOT merge with the West Chicago school districts. A district that is performing at the top of the peak has no business considering a merger with an underperforming district.	Nov 8, 2010 7:19 PM

1. What other comments would you like to offer the Board of Education as they

Response Text		
21	<p>I value the creativity/flexibility with scheduling in utilizing support staff in the district in order to most effectively individualize the educational experience for our children. This is a wonderful use of resources and I hope it would never end up on the chopping block due to budgetary restraints.</p> <p>I truly value and appreciate the class sizes our children enjoy. This is a huge service to them which makes a difference every day in their learning and the teacher's ability to manage each child's individual educational needs.</p>	Nov 11, 2010 5:05 AM
22	<p>Many challenges Illinois schools face aren't applicable to D34 specifically because of its size and the relationship with the parents/community. It would be to the detriment of the students (and staff) were D34 to consider incorporation with West Chicago elementary schools.</p>	Nov 15, 2010 4:42 AM
23	<p>Prepare for change and growth of community in future, look out 10 or 15 years and set goals, what can we do effectively now that adds value to future students needs.</p>	Nov 17, 2010 4:09 PM
24	<p>What is going on with the field behind the school by the parking lot that floods all the time?</p>	Nov 17, 2010 4:43 PM
25	<p>IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE TEACHERS UNION HAS AN AWFUL LOT OF POWER AND THAT STAFF CAN BE INTIMIDATED BY THEM. DOES THE SCHOOL BOARD HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE TEACHERS UNION OVER OUR CONCERNS? DO YOU HAVE OCCASIONAL MEETINGS TO LET THEM KNOW THAT THE BOARD IS IN CHARGE OF DIST 34 NOT THE UNION WHAT THE BOARD SAYS GOES IF THE UNION DOESN'T LIKE IT THEIR TEACHERS CAN FIND WORK ELSEWHERE.</p>	Nov 30, 2010 4:22 PM
26	<p>Address issues of school location and facilities in light of Village downtown development plans.</p> <p>Continue to improve safe routes to school (sidewalks, etc.)</p> <p>Create new plan for renovation of Primary Building</p>	Nov 30, 2010 4:23 PM
27	<p>Hone in on what you would like to do with all of the school buildings for the long haul. I like the idea of trying to get all the grades in one building.</p>	Nov 30, 2010 5:36 PM
28	<p>To get more involved in the community.</p>	Nov 30, 2010 6:27 PM
29	<p>I would urge the board to consider what would be best for ALL students, and not focus only on just one group or need. I would also like to see the board be more careful concerning what they approve, and not simply "rubber stamp" what the administration sets before them. I often feel that the board relies too much on what the principal or superintendent tells them, and doesn't listen enough to opinions or requests of parents or teachers.</p>	Dec 1, 2010 3:03 AM
30	<p>I think it is important to staying current with technology and the curriculum.</p>	Dec 3, 2010 9:41 PM