



## Downers Grove Grade School District 58

We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.

Dear Citizen Task Force Members:

Thank you for another great meeting on Wednesday night. The input, feedback and guidance you provided was extremely helpful and very much appreciated. I also would like to thank you for coming early and staying late. I realize that all of you are extremely busy, and the District is very grateful for your dedication. Since we left in a bit of a hurry, I felt it was important to follow up and recap where we ended and what the next steps will be.

I will be sharing with the Board (at the next meeting) the recommendations from the Task Force to share and test a proposal that mimics the “Plan A” discussed at our January 22 meeting. The improvements would include upgrades at our two middle schools to provide for grade reconfiguration, maintenance needs identified for years 1-8, and improvements focused on creating safe and healthy learning environments. In addition, we will also include flexible furniture and improvements to two classrooms at each elementary school to provide future ready learning spaces. I will also mention some of the strategies that were discussed regarding gathering feedback on the scaled-back proposal. Per our discussion, boundary adjustments will not be tested at this time. However, I will share with the Board that boundary adjustments do need to be addressed by the Board in the future.

In the public information materials that are developed, we will include a summary of the proposed improvements, anticipated benefits, estimated costs and the tax impact. Also provided will be the dates, times and locations of community information meetings. We will do our absolute best to inform District residents about the pros and cons tied to the Grade 6-8 Model before doing any public opinion research.

To summarize, the next steps include:

- 1) updating the Board on the feedback from the Task Force at our last meeting,
- 2) defining what the Board would like to share and test districtwide after learning more about the Task Force’s thoughts and recommendations,
- 3) developing an informational mailer,
- 4) posting information on our website and using other communication tools to get the word out,

- 5) hosting multiple community information meetings,
- 6) presenting to key stakeholder groups, and
- 7) executing a phone or hybrid (phone and email) poll.

At the information meetings and stakeholder presentations, attendees will have the opportunity to share feedback via a short online survey.

Community input from the meetings, presentations and opinion research will be shared with the Task Force at our third meeting on March 24, 2020. At that meeting, we will seek input on how the Task Force seeks to further refine the proposal(s) that will be shared and tested Districtwide.

A brief survey will also be sent to all Task Force members so we can gauge the effectiveness of our meetings and seek additional input.

As always, you are welcome to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin Russell  
Superintendent of Schools