

Giddens School

inspiring children to better their world

Strategic Planning Update to the Community

December 2009

Dear Faculty, Staff, Families and Other Members of Our School Community,

On behalf of the 2009-2010 Strategic Planning Steering Committee, I am pleased to provide you with the following update on the strategic planning process at Giddens School.

Input Gathering Opportunities

With the conclusion of initial work to draft broad-based strategic goals by diverse teams of faculty, staff, parents and board members, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee is interested in hearing from you. There are two primary opportunities for contributing your opinions, ideas and priorities to the strategic planning process:

Written Survey. Starting in late December we will be distributing an online survey to current parents, faculty, administrative staff, alumni and donors. This offers an opportunity for you to respond at your convenience and in privacy. We will also be making paper surveys available for those who prefer to respond in writing rather than online.

Community Meeting. Mark your calendars! On **Wednesday January 13 from 5.30 – 8pm** we will be hosting a community-wide input gathering session. This offers us the opportunity to engage a large and diverse audience, to gather robust information to inform our goals, and allows for sharing of thoughts and perspectives across our school community. All faculty, staff, parents, alumni and donors are encouraged to attend. Dinner and childcare will be provided. Stay tuned for more specifics and details about this important gathering.

Integrating Social Justice

We've heard from a few people who have emphasized the importance of ensuring the draft goals are inclusive of our school's emphasis on social justice and responsibility. The steering committee is also interested in this. As you may recall, the steering committee made a conscious choice not to separate out social justice as an issue in-and-of itself, but instead charged each issue area workgroup with the task of integrating in goals related to social justice. In addition, the steering committee has been reviewing the draft goals and providing feedback to the workgroups related to the integration of social justice goals, when appropriate. However, we see the upcoming community input activities as additional opportunities to review the goals with social justice in mind. We look forward to gaining important input on this, as well as a number of other strategic opportunities the school is facing, at the community meeting as well as through the written survey.

Our Promise

We know that families are busy and making time to attend a community meeting or completing a survey isn't easy. We wouldn't be hosting these activities unless we were sincere in our interest in

hearing from you and integrating your input and perspective into the final set of strategic goals for the school. While we can't promise that *every* idea, goal and objective generated through these input gathering activities will be incorporated into the final strategic plan, we can promise that every idea, goal and objective will be seriously considered and every effort will be made to build a visionary strategic plan that best reflects the diverse set of interests of the school.

Thanks in advance for your involvement. As always, if you have questions or suggestions about the process, please contact any one of the steering committee members listed below.

With thanks,

Strategic Planning Steering Committee

Julie Edsforth, Committee Co-Chair & Board Trustee

Wendy Nakatsukasa-Ono, Committee Co-Chair & Board Trustee

Robert Kogane, Interim Head of School

Reba Utevsky, Faculty Representative to the Board

Samara West, Faculty Representative to the Board