



Phase 1 Community Engagement Report

Glen Ellyn School District 41 is excellence.

As a high achieving and high growth district, we provide students with opportunities that are transformational. There is a strong sense of community in our schools because we put the students first. This commitment to excellence shows in our students' performance.

However, we face significant challenges due to a lack of space and are stretched beyond capacity. We are overcrowded and don't have the space to control our class sizes, offer full-day kindergarten, grow our gold-status preschool, or add innovative programs.

In an effort to determine the priorities of our residents, District 41 began taking active steps in November to engage the community and solicit feedback. During Phase 1 of this process, we developed messaging, recruited a community-based committee to lead these efforts, engaged key influencers, coordinated a discussion with the Community Committee, and held 3 public engagement sessions (one virtually) to discuss the district's successes, opportunities for improvement, and obstacles ahead.

Feedback from the community was documented during this time through notes taken of all direct communications, feedback provided on digital forms at the Community Committee meeting and public engagement sessions, and responses to a publicly available feedback form available on the district's website. We received good levels of engagement so far, with 80 residents participating in various sessions and online during Phase 1 and 65 completing the Feedback Form. The community is clearly engaged in determining the district's path forward.

We will continue our efforts to engage the community through August of 2022 to determine the vision of our schools going forward. In Phase 2, we will take the feedback gathered in Phase 1 and create a "menu" of possible projects for discussion. We will present this menu of potential projects to the Community Committee and the general public, along with additional information on each project including advantages and disadvantages of each, samples and renderings (as available), and associated costs. Feedback will be solicited directly, on feedback forms at Community Committee meetings and public engagement sessions, online on the district's website, and through a public phone survey. Phase 2 will be conducted from April through June, with reports made regularly to the district and board, including a final Phase 2 report in June.

Messaging

We developed messaging to properly communicate how we got to this point, what our successes and challenges have been, and how to approach the path forward. This messaging detailed recent progression and improvements as well as the district's space challenges and limited opportunities as a result. The five key takeaways from the messaging are below, and a full copy of the messaging is provided with this report.

- Glen Ellyn School District 41 is excellence. As a high achieving and high growth district, we provide students with opportunities that are transformational, opportunities that other districts around us do not offer.
- There is a strong sense of community in our schools because we put students first. Our community comes together in District 41 on behalf of our kids. This commitment to excellence shows in our students' performance.
- However, we face significant challenges due to a lack of space and are stretched beyond capacity. We are overcrowded and don't have the space to control our class sizes, offer full-day kindergarten, grow our gold-status preschool, or add innovative programs.
- Removing these barriers and solving our space needs would allow us to provide better learning environments, helping our students thrive. We'd be able to keep class sizes small in our neighborhood schools and continue building innovative opportunities for kids.
- The community has come together in 2022 to collaborate on this solution. Working together, we are developing a community-driven plan that will make our schools better than ever so we can continue to deliver the excellence that everyone has come to expect.

Community Committee

We developed a committee of individuals who will provide direct, informed input throughout this effort. The committee is made up of a cross-section of District 41 stakeholders, including parents, taxpayers without children in the district, business owners, elected officials, and parents. The committee has been formalized and tasked with the responsibility of actively gathering feedback from the community to determine what they would like to see for the future of District 41. The first Community Committee meeting took place March 22 and the second committee meeting is scheduled for May 12. Committee engagement will continue throughout all phases of this process.

Public Engagement

The district held 3 public engagement sessions at different times, locations and days to provide all members of the Glen Ellyn community an opportunity to attend. These events were promoted through emails and social media. These sessions presented the latest information about District 41, discussed the successes and challenges ahead, and actively solicited input from the community on what the district is doing well, opportunities for improvement, and what investments/projects should be pursued and prioritized by the district going forward.

Phase 1 public engagement sessions were held:

- Saturday, March 19 at 10 am at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School.
- Thursday, March 24 at 6:30 pm at Churchill Elementary School.
- Monday, April 4 at 6:30 pm virtually through Zoom webinar.

Verbal discussions occurred during these meetings and additional collaboration opportunities were made available as well through feedback forms and the district's website. We will continue to host public engagement sessions in Phase 2 to ensure feedback is received from the public and community input is driving the process.

Feedback Report

Attached is a detailed report of the feedback that was collected during Phase 1 of this process, which includes feedback from the Community Committee, the public at public engagement sessions, and the public via the online feedback form on the district website.