



Welcome

Presentation to the Glen Ellyn School District 41

May 26, 2015



MILLENNIA
CONSULTING®

Who We Are and What We Offer

- Founded in 1996, **Millennia Consulting** works with clients locally and nationally. We have served over 1500 clients in the non-profit, public, and philanthropic sectors.
- Content expertise in education, health and human services, community and economic development and other fields.
- Expert, trained group process facilitators. Our methods are consensus-driven, engaging stakeholders at all levels.
- Our approach is predicated on the belief that every client is unique and every challenge is different.
- We deliver on time and on budget.



Our Full Range of Services

- Board Development and Governance
- Community and Civic Engagement
- Finance and Operations
- Grant Writing and Related Services
- Leadership Development and Training
- Organizational Development and Strategic Planning
- Program Design and Evaluation
- Research and Policy Analysis
- Succession Planning and Executive Search



Extensive Work with Pre-K, Elementary, Secondary, & Higher Education Organizations

- Chicago Public Schools
- Office of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Chicago
- Rock Island (IL), Calumet Park (IL) and Dothan (AL)
- Multiple schools, school systems and Departments of Ed in Maine, Minnesota and Vermont
- We also work in and are familiar with DuPage County.



Our Understanding of the Assignment

Facilitate the work of a Facilities Community Taskforce to:

1. Study possible solutions to space problems throughout the district.
2. Present a report for the Board of Education highlighting the most viable facilities plan which addresses:
 - Space at elementary schools for full-day kindergarten
 - Move portables at the Junior High School
 - Relieve overcrowding at the elementary schools
 - Allow for flexible learning and core space at all five schools.

Our Understanding of the Assignment

Other Goals of the Process

- Consult widely with the Glen Ellyn community to both inform them of the options and gather their ideas and suggestions.
- Build trust between the community and District and model transparency.



Our Approach to the Assignment

- “Real democracy begins not with elections but with conversations.”
- Create a citizen-led process that thoughtfully engages with the community through listening sessions.
- Harvest the comments and preferences from these conversations in a report to help the Administration and Board decide on the best course of action.



The Community Consultation Process

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Assemble the
Task Force

Consult with the
Community

Harvest and
Share the Results

Assemble the Task Force

- A mix of self-nominated and recruited members.
- Identify people connected with civil society organizations in Glen Ellyn who care about the schools.
- Task Force members are there to consult with/gather ideas of community – not just debate the merits of the options.
- Members' commitment is time limited and their talents will be put to good use.



Design the Discussion Guide and Related Materials

- Create a neutral, **one-page layout of the District's facilities challenges and options** for addressing them.
- Develop a **simple discussion guide** to help volunteers effectively lead the community conversations.
- Create a clear **“report back form”** to capture the main discussion themes, the preferences of the group, and people who might be willing to be involved going forward.



Recruit and Train the Facilitators

- Community Taskforce, School Board, and District leaders would agree to organize their own discussions and to recruit additional discussion leaders/facilitators.
- Each facilitators agrees to lead at least one discussion of 6 to 10 people.
- Discussion leaders are trained in effective facilitation and how to use the conversation guide and reporting form.



Examples of Discussion Sponsors/ Locations

- Lead off with one or two well-advertised listening session opportunities sponsored by public bodies like the Glen Ellyn Library or public schools.
- Tap smaller groups such as neighbors, members of a book club, sports group, bible study, etc.
- Recruit larger organizations to sponsor multiple discussions: Religious congregations, service clubs, business groups.
- Hundreds of people can be reached in this fashion.



Harvesting and Analyzing the Results

- Reporting back forms are collected and analyzed.
- Millennia Consulting synthesizes the main discussion themes and the preferences of the individuals who participated.
- Community Taskforce reviews the results and works with Millennia Consulting on a final report.
- Report is presented to the School Board/Administration and to the wider community in a public forum.



Timing for the Community Task Force

- Approval to proceed and contract (June)
- Assemble the Task Force (July)
- Design the discussion guide and related materials (July)
- Recruit and train the facilitators (July – August)
- Conduct the discussions (September)
- Assemble the results and write the report (October)
- Present the report to the community (November)



What Comes Next?

- School board and Administration decide on direction for school facilities.
- Process has uncovered a pool of potential leaders to work on a referendum (if that is the desired direction).
- Process has generated good will and honest feedback.
- Millennia Consulting would help with next steps if desired.





Questions?