

## Schools

### Enhancing Value

The Winnetka Caucus supports the Strategic Planning Process that has been initiated by the Winnetka Public Schools and urges the Board of Education to take action as follows:

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive assessment protocol for all grade levels including annual student assessment and timely and detailed communication of comprehensive results to parents.
2. Obtain quantitative data from each grade level (including 9<sup>th</sup> grade) on an annual basis to determine students' preparedness at the beginning of each school year, focusing with particularity on whether student instruction during the previous school year developed all requisite skills for the next grade level curriculum. Evaluate such data to assess the effectiveness of specific teachers and curricular materials.
3. Implement guidelines to assure a base-level of consistency across grade levels and between schools, including minimum instructional requirements for core curriculum components, while allowing flexibility for teachers to develop creative and individualized teaching approaches based on the teachers' individual strengths and interests and the specific skill sets and needs of the students.
4. Communicate to parents the philosophy and goals of the primary foreign language program. Evaluate the student skills achieved in the primary grades and whether the program is meeting defined goals, and communicate such evaluation to parents.
5. Survey all District 36 parents about their students' use of supplemental academic resources, such as tutors and learning centers, to identify:

- (a) the reasons for utilizing such resources (i.e., to assist the student in learning concepts covered in class; extended absence; student learning difficulties; deficient instruction at school; enrichment)
  - (b) the grade level of the student
  - (c) the student's teachers
  - (d) the tutor's background (e.g., District employee, parent, private tutor, learning center). Evaluate the survey results to identify deficient curriculum components, teachers, and programs, and communicate the conclusions and planned responsive actions to parents.
6. Conduct parent education sessions to define differentiated instruction, including concrete examples, and address its application within our schools.
  7. Develop and implement a District plan to enhance enriched learning opportunities for advanced students as a component of progressive education.
  8. At least semi-annually, conduct open forums among parents, administrators and the school board to report on the status of achievement toward the goals described above, with emphasis on response to parent questions.
  9. Consider the ability to successfully manage and report on the above goals, among other relevant factors, in connection with decisions to retain principals and administrators.

## Village

### Streetscape

The Caucus shares the Village's goal of supporting Village merchants. It is important to have a vibrant Village shopping district. However, due to the split in resident support of the proposed Streetscape implementation plan (50% yes, 50% no) the Caucus makes no recommendation regarding whether or not to move forward with the Streetscape implementation

### Government

The Village Council should create an ad-hoc committee to study government efficiency in more detail.

The Winnetka Caucus expresses its frustration with the current governance of Cook County by the County Board.

### Environment

The Village Council should evaluate and enact a mandatory construction and demolition waste recycling ordinance that does not significantly increase the costs of disposing of this waste. The Village Council should also evaluate and enact a voluntary green building ordinance that contains positive incentives to support the environmental goals of the Village.

### Ethics Code

Winnetka needs a Village ethics code that applies not only to the Village Trustees and employees, but also to blue ribbon committees, ad-hoc committees and appointed boards and committees. The ethics code should include strict conflict of interest provisions that apply to any member of any board or committee in the Village without exception. The Village Council should enact an ethics code that is clear and all encompassing.

## Parks

### Renovations

The Parks Board should adopt a policy that requires a minimum of 6 months prior notice to residents affected by the proposed renovation of a park.

The Parks Board should adopt these three principles as key design factors:

1. safety concerns
2. preservation of green space, and
3. preservation of open field space.

### Facilities

The Parks Board should adopt a more robust communications strategy regarding the Skokie Playfields Master Plan.