

Pleasantdale Elementary School
8100 School Street
La Grange, IL 60525
708.246.4700 Fax: 708.246.4625



Pleasantdale Middle School
7450 S. Wolf Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
708.246.3210 Fax: 708.352.0092

Pleasantdale School District 107 | 7450 S. Wolf Road | Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 708.784.2013 | Fax: 708.246.0161 | www.d107.org

To: Pleasantdale Board of Education
From: Dave Palzet
Date: September 21, 2022
Re: Public Process Consultant Firm Recommendation

At the August 17, 2022, Board of Education meeting, the administration reviewed findings from several community focus groups and a community forum. The community focus groups and forums provide several recommendations to the Board, which are listed below.

1. **Provide safety upgrades to all campuses**, including but not limited to enhanced “buzz” entry into each school, second exits for classrooms, a reconfigured play area at Pleasantdale Middle School, and cement ballasts near each school’s main entrance.
2. **Construct a third campus to house a Pleasantdale Early Childhood Center.** Those who participated in the focus groups saw great value in early childhood educational interventions. Likewise, this group was enthusiastic about providing free early childhood education to the community’s three and four-year-olds.
3. **Reconfigure our grade centers** to include an Early Childhood-first grade building, a second grade-fifth grade building, and a sixth grade-eighth grade building.
4. **Leverage the additional space at Pleasantdale Elementary** in several ways, including but not limited to improved teacher work areas, library enhancements, and updated classrooms.
5. **Leverage the additional space at Pleasantdale Middle**, including but not limited to STEM labs, improved physical education spaces, an arts wing, and updated classrooms.
6. **Develop additional special education and wellness spaces**, including wellness rooms, occupational therapy, and physical therapy rooms, and improved areas for our extended resource programs.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Board agreed to move forward in the process and asked that I interview and recommend a consultant to guide the district through the research and development portion of the process. Over the course of the past month, I have interviewed and received proposals from five consulting firms. Below you will find a table that outlines information on each firm I met with.

Firm Name	Principal Consultant	Firm Location	Estimated Cost	Reference Districts
Minding Your Business	Marcia Sutter	Winnetka, IL	\$120/hour (not to exceed \$25,000)	Prospect Heights 23
EO Sullivan Consulting	Ed Sullivan	Libertyville, IL	\$60,000 plus \$10,000 for surveys	Penoyer 79
Strategies360	Lesley Rogers	Seattle, WA	\$75,500	Highline Public Schools

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m ² Communications	Pat Maunsell	Evanston, IL	\$22,700	Komarick 94 Skokie 69
Creative Entourage	Elizabeth Arway	St. Louis, MO	\$71,500	Lisle School District
Donovan Group	Lori Mueller	Milwaukee, WI	\$62,500	Lemont-Brombreck 113A

Every firm would bring a unique perspective and a robust skillset to this project. As part of my process, I had zoom meetings with representatives from each consulting firm and requested a formal proposal. Each proposal was read completely, and references were checked on each firm. Again, all firms have a great reputation and something special to offer. When considering hiring a consultant, we need to look at several factors, including time allocated to our district, ability to connect with our community, and willingness to flex and support an evolving vision.

After carefully considering and reviewing the materials, I recommend the Board sign a contract with Marcia Sutter from Minding Your Business. I believe that Minding Your Business is the best fit for our district and will lead to an outcome that is supported by our community and best meets the needs of our students.

Below is the most recent timeline of events in relation to this project. This timeline is dynamic and will be updated for the Board each month or as new events occur if the Board decides to move forward with this project.

