

River Forest  
Public Schools

Recommended Language for District 90 Strategic Plan:  
*Environmental Sustainability*

At the Green 4 Good Follow-Up Meeting on October 18, 2017, G4G members, River Forest residents, District 90 staff members, and administrators reached consensus about the following core value/commitment:

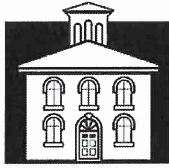
**We believe in ensuring a sustainable future for and with our students.**  
*We will model sustainable practices for our students and community, and we will provide opportunities to learn about and engage in sustainable practices.*

In order to memorialize the importance of implementing environmental sustainability in an ongoing and meaningful manner, and to assist the staff and administration in the use of systematic approaches to this commitment, it is requested that the Board of Education agree to the addition of the above language in the District 90 Strategic Plan document. The original goal of the Board of Education was to enact a Strategic Plan that would be malleable in response to organizational changes and the wishes of the community, and the insertion of language emphasizing the importance of environmental sustainability will be valuable as the District takes on an increasing level of responsibility to support this effort.

Request respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Condon", is written over a horizontal line.

Ed Condon, Ph.D.  
Superintendent



**MISSION:** To inspire a love of learning and ensure educational excellence for every child.

**VISION:** A thriving and inclusive learning community will enable our students to become:

- Critical and creative thinkers and problem solvers
- Socially and emotionally competent, ready to live purposeful lives
- Self-aware, curious and persistent learners, eager to pursue their passions
- Skilled communicators and collaborators
- Self-sufficient, responsible and resilient

**CORE VALUES/ COMMITMENTS:**

**We believe in the enduring value of providing for the development of the whole child.**

*We will focus on providing a multi-faceted educational program that is rich, rigorous and relevant in an environment that nurtures each child's uniqueness.*

**We believe successful learners are critical thinkers and problem solvers.**

*We will prepare all students for college and careers by providing a differentiated learning experience that meets the needs of students as they prepare for the future.*

**We believe that when students are self-reliant and take responsibility for their own learning they achieve higher academic, social and emotional success.**

*We will guide students toward self-sufficiency and responsibility for setting goals, monitoring progress, and being able to report their results.*

**We believe that social and emotional competencies foster a positive and healthy school and district culture.**

*We will identify and promote behaviors and actions that contribute to a culture and climate that is healthy, positive and promotes self-confidence.*

**We believe that an engaging and innovative learning environment is critical to the learning success of all students.**

*We will enrich and enhance instruction through the use of technology, and prepare our students for digital citizenship.*

**We believe in setting and meeting high academic expectations.** *We will provide a stimulating academic environment through excellent teaching.*

**We believe in equity and inclusivity for all.** *We will ensure that every student feels empowered to achieve to his or her full potential, commit to provide equitable opportunities for all learners, grow an inclusive school community, and demonstrate we value diversity.*

**We believe that two-way communication and collaboration between home, school and district leads to improved performance of both students and staff.**

*We will build strong relationships and connections with our families and communities to partner in ensuring that each student grows and achieves.*

**We believe that continuous improvement moves an individual, team, school and district to a higher level of performance.**

*We will develop strategic action plans that are aligned with our goals and hold us responsible for our results. We will be accountable for these results through regular and timely monitoring and reporting.*

**We believe that access to timely data and clear information accelerates both teaching and learning.**

*We will use valid student learning data and information to guide instruction and to plan and implement enrichment, acceleration, and intervention.*

**We believe that, to improve continuously, District 90 must have adequate and aligned resources of people, money and time.**

*We will utilize our resources responsibly to ensure trust, respect, pride, and the satisfaction of our community.*

## GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

**GOAL: STUDENT GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT - Ensure continuous development, growth and achievement for all students.**

Key Indicators: To be determined by Action Team

**Strategy 1:** *We will align professional development and other supports to guarantee that our curriculum, assessments, resources, and instruction reflect best practice and address social-emotional competencies and rich, rigorous academic expectations.*

**Strategy 2:** *We will ensure that students and families fully understand academic and social-emotional goals and expectations and receive timely feedback on student progress.*

**GOAL: LEARNING ENVIRONMENT - Cultivate a positive learning environment that meets the physical, academic, and social-emotional needs of every student.**

Key Indicators: To be determined by Action Team

**Strategy 3:** *We will optimize the use of time to improve opportunities for learning.*

**Strategy 4:** *We will use our resources wisely to maintain and improve our facilities in order to ensure safe, nurturing and innovative physical environments.*

**GOAL: HIGH QUALITY WORKFORCE - Recruit, develop, support and retain a high-performing and diverse staff that practices collaboration and pursues continuous improvement.**

Key Indicators: To be determined by Action Team

**Strategy 5:** *We will further professional development of both certified and non-certified staff to enhance differentiated instruction, enrichments, and interventions that address achievement disparities and ensure equal access to rigorous expectations for every student.*

**Strategy 6:** *We will effectively and efficiently collaborate to improve student achievement.*

**Strategy 7:** *We will improve shared decision-making structures and processes to ensure an optimal work environment.*

**GOAL: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP – We will foster partnerships and shared responsibility between schools, families and the community to enrich the lives of all stakeholders.**

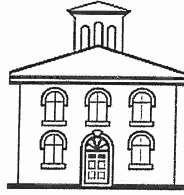
Key Indicators: To be determined by Action Team

**Strategy 8:** *We will support partnerships with families and the community by exchanging information and ideas in a transparent and purposeful manner.*

**GOAL: RESOURCES – We will continue to demonstrate effective and efficient business operations and ensure excellent stewardship of public resources.**

Key Indicators: To be determined by Action Team

**Strategy 9:** *We will ensure that our resources are prioritized and aligned to district goals to enable us to achieve our mission and vision.*



River Forest  
Public Schools

**Green 4 Good Follow Up Planning Meeting  
Lincoln MPR  
October 18, 2017  
Jim Kelly, Facilitator**

**Meeting Attendees**

Heather Brauckman, Roosevelt  
Beth Cheng, Roosevelt  
Ed Condon, District Office  
Anthony Cozzi, District Office  
Casey Godfrey, Lincoln  
Laura Haussman, Lincoln  
Alison Hawley, District Office

Steve Kriegermeier, Roosevelt  
Erin Llanes, Willard  
Laura Maychruk, Roosevelt/Lincoln  
Julie Moller Roosevelt  
Renee Sichlau, Lincoln  
Dawne Simmons, District Office  
Diane Wood, Willard

Dr. Condon opened the meeting at 6:14 p.m. and introduced Jim Kelly, facilitator. Dr. Condon stated that Jim Kelly was present facilitate the meeting and to help participants craft some goals and objectives for the organization.

**Minutes and Objectives**

Jim Kelly invited participants to introduce themselves to the group, and identify if they were new or returning participants. The May 17, 2017 minutes were reviewed and approved by the participants. Jim used the May 2017 minutes to jumpstart a discussion the goals for the meeting. He asked each participant to indicate what in the minutes stood out for him or her. Responses included sentiments such how to address the instructional component of G4G's accomplishment, the need for students to be more involved in the effort, and the next steps in determining G4G's goals and objectives.

Jim also reviewed the evening's agenda and indicated that the meeting would adjourn by 10 p.m.

**Clarify Values Statement**

Jim distributed a values statement that he drafted based on the work from the May 17 meeting. There was a group discussion on the language in the values statement. Here's the values statement adopted by participants: *We believe in ensuring a sustainable future for and with our*

*students. We will model sustainable practices for our students and community, and we will provide opportunities for students to learn about and engage in sustainable practices.* It was decided that the values statement would be incorporated into the Strategic Plan.

### **Action Planning Initiatives**

Jim facilitated a group activity that invited each participant to develop 3 bold districtwide initiatives that could come to fruition in 1 year (short term), 2 years (medium term), and 3 years (long term). Each idea was placed on a sticky note. The criteria for the possible initiatives involved characteristics such as visible, with broad impact, engages other populations, applicable to all 3 schools, engages the community, tangible and measurable, aligned with current best practices, and includes students. Each participant was given a number of sticky dots, which were used to indicate “votes” for each initiative. The initiatives that received the most “dot votes”:

- 1-year initiative - air hand dryers for bathrooms
- 2-year initiative - establish active sustainability clubs at all schools
- 3-year initiative - adopt sustainable curriculum for each grade level

### **Milestones and Timelines**

Jim led a large group discussion on the short-, medium-, and long-term initiatives. Topics discussed included timelines, objectives, and engaging students and teachers. The large group was then broken into 2 groups that reviewed the 2-year and 3-year initiatives while detailing the specific milestones, deadlines/timelines, and objectives of each initiative. This exercise concluded with a returned to the large group configuration for the sharing of insights. Some final reflections on the evening’s efforts included:

- I feel that we’re on the right track
- Seeing the milestones, timelines, and how it fit into the Strategic Plan made it feel very real
- Tonight helped define the future of G4G in D90
- Great spending time with dedicated people who are working on behalf of D90
- Working with passionate people with boundless energy and commitment to make the world a better place

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.



## Green4Good Planning Session

Facilitator: Jim Kelly

May 17, 2017

### Meeting Attendees

Aimee Conrad	Ed Condon	Laura Haussman
Alexis Murphy	Heather Buchanan	Liz Ziehl
Anthony Cozzi	Julie Moeller	Michael Ruehle
Beth Cheng	Karrin Burns	Renee Sichlau
Casey Godfrey	Keary Cregan	Steve Kriegmeier
Diane Wood	Larry Gartski	Whitney Parchman
Deanna Herfmans		

Dr. Condon welcomed everyone and introduced the facilitator Jim Kelly.

Jim Kelly then asked attendees to breakout into groups to get acquainted and determine how many years each group has been with D90 and involved with Green4Good (G4G). Years with D90 totaled 153 and years involved with G4G totaled 90.

### **Celebrating Our Accomplishments**

Accomplishments were displayed on the walls throughout the room in three categories; Education, Conservation and Recycling. Attendees were instructed to take a gallery walk to review past accomplishments.

#### **Education Accomplishments List**

Walk/Bike to School – Host Film Screening with One Earth Film Festival – Solar Panels in each school for instructional use - Published “20 Things RF Kids Can Do To Help The Planet” – Designed composting curriculum and presentation for middle school science classes and Willard academics - All schools participate in Earth Week - Willard Organic Gardening for Students, Staff and Summer school - No idling during pick up and drop off promotions - Hormone Free Milk Secured for Milk Contract - Adhere to IL Green Cleaning Standards, Planting and Maintenance on Monarch Waystation, Four raised gardening beds w/D90 Roosevelt students and G4G, promote young filmmakers contest to students

#### **Conservation Accomplishments List**

All PTO & District communication now electronic – District upgrades lighting via IL DCEO grants – First on-site tumbler installed at Willard – Continued use of native painting – Emphasis on electronic communication to reduce paper sent to homes – Annual diversion of 15,000 pounds of organics – District Installed Green Roof at Lincoln – Water coolers and biodegradable cups for “no-bottles” Friday fun lunches – 2011 Energy Audits at All Schools – District renovates schools: water & energy efficiencies; other green features – Maintain chemical-free pesticide use on grounds -2015 All Schools participated in curbside pilot program

#### **Recycling Accomplishments List**

Weekly monitoring of sorting stations in lunch room and at events - Established Recycling Fact Sheets for School Events –G4G annually checks all classrooms for recycling container and

**The team came up with a list of SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)**

**G4G Strengths:**

*Title: Shared Strength of Conviction*

Visionary Leadership

Innovation

Abundance

Collaborative Community

Brand and Mission

**G4G Weaknesses:**

*Title: Disjointed*

Limited Commitment

Resistance

First World Excuses

Competing Ideals

**G4G Opportunities**

*Title: Grow Environment Stewards*

Teach a Need

Unify the Vision

Expanded Partnerships

uty

**Threats (Challenges)**

*Title: Turnover*

Topic Saturation

Values Conflict

**What Comes Next?**

Comments included: Write a Vision – Develop Strategic Plan – Determine Priority – Define Roles – Archive – Stakeholder Meeting – Survey: Seek Levels of Interest from Family & Staff – Who will create the vision and make sure it happens?

**What to you was the importance of what we did here today?**

We took a hard look at challenges that have not gotten the head on treatment it deserve. It is important to see other people interested in the bigger. To see bigger picture of what is in the way; this could send us on a path. Excited to see and hear what is being done already. On the verge of something really great.