

Guiderland Central School District

www.guiderlandschools.org

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December 2023

Dear Parent/Community Member/Faculty Member,

When I have the opportunity to speak about the mission of the Guiderland Central School District, I often translate our beautifully wordsmithed mission statement into four words: all kids, future ready. When we speak about all kids, we really mean “each and every” student. In recent years, we have redoubled our efforts to make sure each of the children we serve is seen, heard, affirmed and feels like they belong in our schools. This work is a priority and will continue to be so.

“Future ready,” especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, is harder to define. But doing so is imperative as we contemplate the future of our children and our schools during these complex times. To help us with that definition, the Guiderland Central School District Board of Education is seeking volunteers to serve on a task force to define what “future ready” means for us. The purpose of the task force will be to review best practices and gather input from our community, focusing on educational programming priorities and implications for our facilities and future capital project(s) in order to ensure our graduates are prepared for their future beyond high school. The task force will share findings and make recommendation to the Facilities Committee, Superintendent and Board of Education for their consideration and potential action.

In order to fulfill this purpose, the task force will consider questions like:

1. What does research, including academic research, policy papers, case studies and best practices in the field say about the elements of a school experience that best prepare students for their future?
2. What does the Guiderland community (with its varied stakeholders) value and expect the Guiderland Central School District in preparing its children for their future?
3. What needs have already been identified by stakeholders, including the Board of Education? Topics to be considered may include:
 - a. Technology Needs
 - b. Future Focused Instructional Programming
 - c. Music Program Needs
 - d. Innovative Learning Spaces
4. What roadblocks or competing priorities might present challenges to making changes to programs and/or facilities that support a “future ready” learning experience for students?
5. To what extent would various stakeholders support the transformation of programming and/or instructional space in Guiderland?

The task force will include students, parents, district faculty and staff, as well as community members and will meet several times (as a large group and in subcommittees) beginning in mid-January and continuing until the committee is able to make a recommendation to the Board, preferably by September/October of 2024. Meeting times will be set by the task force, but will generally occur in late afternoon and early evening.

If you are interested in being a member of this task force, please send a letter of interest to Dr. Marie Wiles, Superintendent of Schools at PO Box 18, Guilderland Center, NY 12085 or by email to superintendent@guilderlandschools.net by **December 22, 2023**. All individuals who submitted a letter of interest prior to the deadline are included in the Task Force and will be appointed by the Board of Education at the January 9, 2024, Board of Education meeting. The first meeting of the task force will take place virtually on the evening of January 23, 2024.

On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you for considering your participation in this important work. We genuinely appreciate the guidance and support of our entire school community as we contemplate this topic.

Sincerely,



Marie Wiles, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools