

Glenbrook High School District 225
Glenbrook North High School
Glenbrook South High School
Glenbrook Evening High School

Planning for the future of GBN and GBS

Armed with reports, demographics and financial data, as well as a strong desire to participate in the future of Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South High Schools, 55 residents, parents, students, teachers, administrators and staff gathered in November to participate in the Comprehensive Planning Process. Whether from GBN or GBS, Glenview or Northbrook, over the three days participants discussed just about every aspect of the schools.



GBN Associate Principal Paul Pryma, GBS Assistant Principal/Guidance Mark O'Brien, and science teacher Charles Sprandel.

From the discussions participants also gained a greater understanding of the school system. Paul Jones, GBS parent and CEO of Glenview State Bank, stated, "The planning process gave me insight into our schools and the financing of our school. I'm impressed that District 225 is being open minded about it. I learned what it costs to operate a school at the level of the Glenbrooks. A lot of thought goes into how money is spent and there are a lot of hard choices. We're getting a real value for what we are spending."

By the end of three days the group identified the following six objectives:

- Maximize Quality Educational Opportunities for All Students
- Fund Our Vision
- Raise Community Awareness and Support
- Maximize Opportunity through Facilities and Technology
- Promote Quality and Innovation Through Professional Development
- Promote and Improve Student Wellness

Still, much work had to be done. Following the Planning Process, committees were formed to prioritize goals and action for each objective. The Board of Education has scheduled a special Community Forum for Monday, May 15, 7:30 p.m., Glenbrook North High School, IMC. The objectives will be presented to the Board and the community. Although there is much to cover, there will be time for questions. This meeting will begin a further dialogue with our community and the Board of Education about the future of the Glenbrook High Schools.

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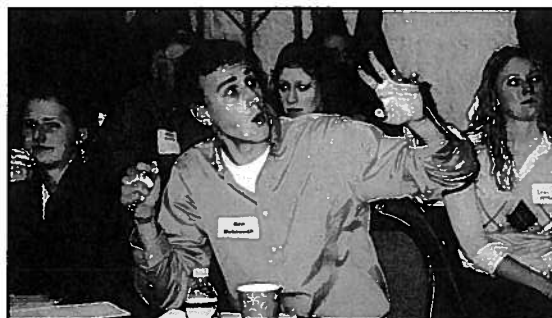
Community Forum

Planning Glenbrook's Future

Monday, May 15, 7:30 PM

Glenbrook North High School - IMC

Of the experience, GBN student Rachel Baker, stated, "It was fun to get everyone in the room bouncing ideas all over the place. It was very clear how important the Glenbrooks are to everyone." Parent Victoria Brand stated, "My daughters' achievements are beyond what I imagined, and are due in great part to their experiences at Glenbrook South. My participation is to contribute to the District's and its students' continued success." Similarly, businessman and GBN parent Joel Taub, commented, "I am involved because no matter what stage of your life, living in Northbrook is enhanced by living in a community that is renown for its school system. Civic pride is one thing but everyone understands that great schools create a higher value for everyone's property."



Student participants Katy Holihan and Ben Bubnovich from GBS and Rachel Baker and Lexi McMahon from GBN.

Superintendent

Dr. Dave Hales

Principal

Dr. Michael Riggie

Board Members

Donna Torf, President

Skip Shein, Vice President

Wayne Berzon

Bob Boron

Steve Hammer

William "Jeff" Jeffery

Elias Matsakis

Communications

www.glenbrook.k12.il.us

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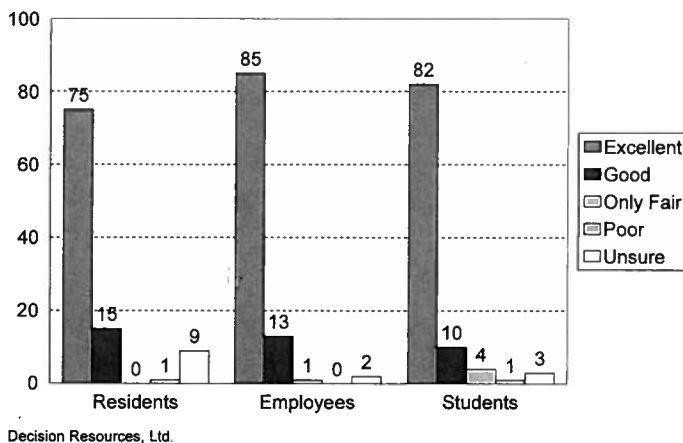
225
Glenbrook High Schools

Surveys show value of a Glenbrook education

When the community was asked about the quality of education of Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South High Schools, the "excellence" rating was the highest the survey firm had recorded in the past decade and twice as high as the Midwest suburban norm. In the fall, the Glenbrook High School District hired Decisions Resources Ltd. to conduct a telephone survey of residents of the Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South communities. Further, since the survey was going to be used as background data for our Planning Process, Glenbrook also wanted to know how our staff and our students view our schools: are we all on the same page? Shortly after the residential telephone survey began, staff took an online survey and students took a traditional paper and pencil survey. As applicable, all three groups were asked the same questions.

Quality of Education

2005 Glenbrook High School District 225



Highest rated: collegebound and academics, athletics and activities

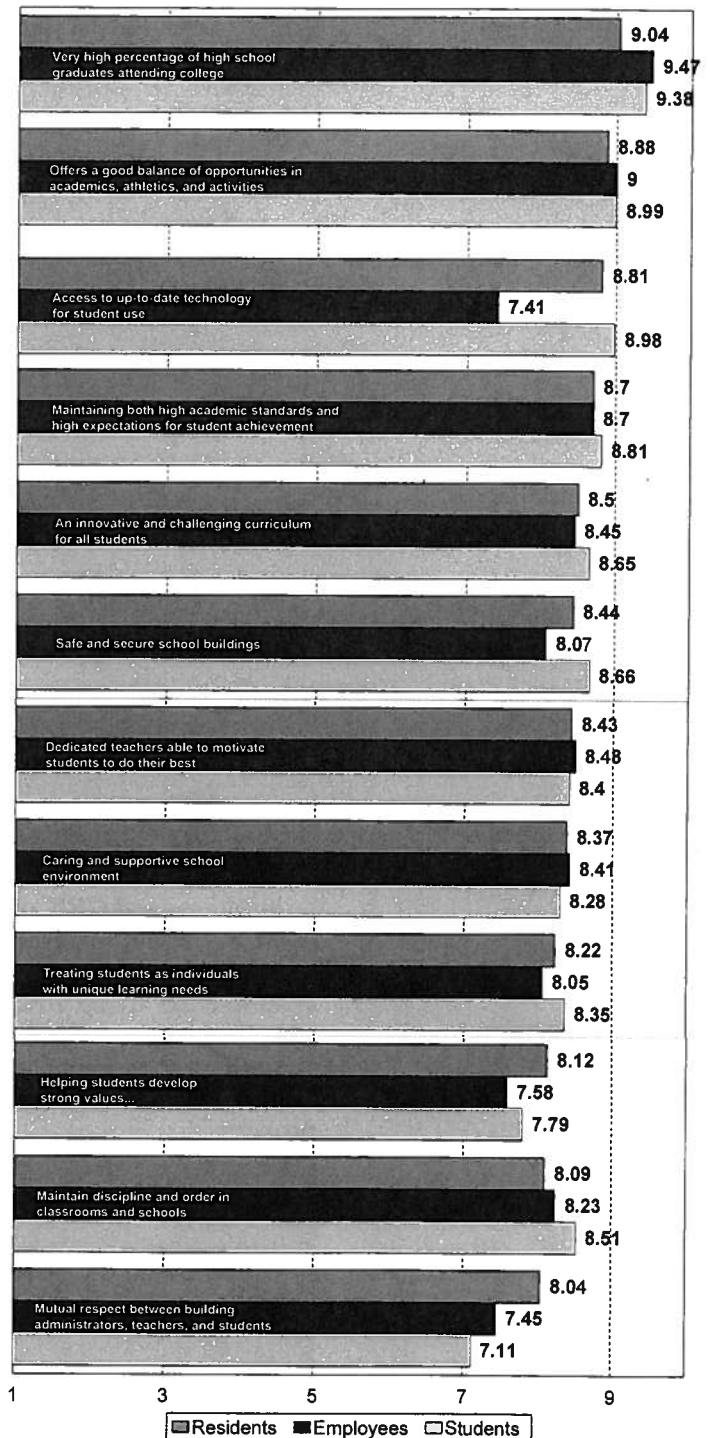
When all three groups looked at 12 basic characteristics of our schools, the ratings were very similar and very high. On a ten-point scale where 1 stands for "very poor" and 10 stands for "absolutely excellent," the scores varied from a high of 9.47 to 7.1. The two highest rated assets of the Glenbrook High Schools by all three groups were the high percentage of students who continue on to college and the balance of academics, athletics and activities offered to our students. The other essential components were: dedicated teachers, high academic standards and expectations, innovative and challenging curriculum for all students, caring and supportive schools, access to technology, helping students develop strong values, maintain discipline and order, safe and secure school buildings, treating students as individuals with unique learning needs, mutual respect between building administrators, teachers and students. (Please see accompanying charts.)

Comparative Survey Results (Residents, Employees, Students)

Mean Rating of 12 School District Characteristics

Scale of 1 to 10

1 ----- 10
very poor absolutely excellent



Residents value Glenbrook education

We also asked our residents how they view our schools in relation to the desirability of living in Glenview or Northbrook and the impact on their house values. Summing up the results, the survey firm stated, "Significant percentages view the schools as a valuable asset, feel pride in the schools and regard it as a good investment." See specifics in chart below.

Residents link home value and high schools

- 91% believe the reputation of the Glenbrook High Schools increases their property value.
- 89% believe the community receives a good value from its investment in its high schools.
- 87% are proud of the high schools and would recommend them to friends.



Changing Finances

Several questions about Glenbrook finances were asked in the residential survey. The finding showed that the majority of the community was unaware of the changing financial environment of the Glenbrooks. For example, 72% were unaware that Glenbrook lost about \$10 million dollars in revenue from property tax appeals during the past five years; 67% did not realize that due to tax caps, the average annual property increase for Glenbrook has averaged 2% annually in the past four years; 72% were unaware that federal funding provides less than 3% of the total cost of required Special Education programs. Similarly, 81% were unaware of cost efficiencies that have been implemented and 72% were unaware of a three-year budget reduction plan, which included reductions in staff, cost cutting and increased user fees.

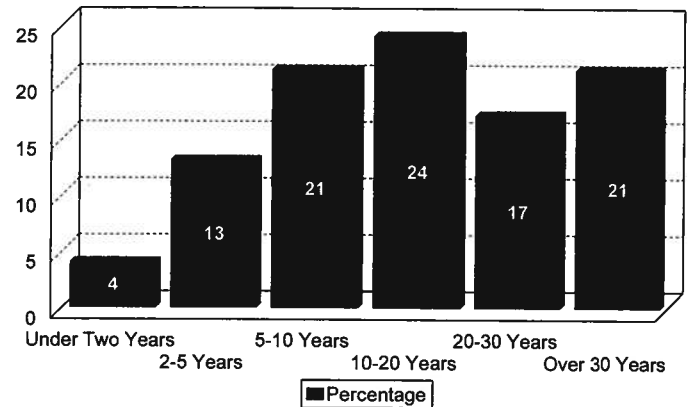
Who took the residential survey?

The survey firm completed 400 randomly selected telephone surveys of residents of Glenview and Northbrook who reside in Glenbrook High School District 225. The telephone survey consisted of 80 questions and took an average of about 21 minutes. Residents were interviewed by telephone between September 20 and October 18, 2005. Of those surveyed,

- 12% have students in District 225.
- 15% have pre-school children.

- 42% report their children graduated from Glenbrook High Schools.
- 10% were graduates of either GBN or GBS.

How long have you lived in Glenview/Northbrook?



Student Survey

Equal numbers of students from Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South High Schools were surveyed. One of the most important questions for students was: "As a high school student, have you had a positive ongoing relationship with at least one adult at school?" An overwhelming 96% replied "yes." GBN Principal Mike Riggle explains, "In order for students to reach their potential academically, it is important that they view the school as a place where there are adults who have high expectations for them as students and care about them as people." GBS principal Brian Wegley adds, "Of all the aspects of our school that result in excellence, this one variable arguably has the largest impact on the success of our schools. Connected students commit to excellence and value their school experience."

Staff Survey

The executive summary included these findings, employees:

- regard Glenbrook as an exceptional place to work.
- report they are proud to work at Glenbrook.
- feel welcome to make suggestions and share ideas with co-workers.
- feel informed and that they receive information in a timely fashion.
- believe they receive the resources they need to do their job and the school district does a good job of promoting professional growth.

*For more survey results, please go to
Glenbrook.k12.il.us, Comprehensive Planning
Process, Background Materials.*