

GARRISON U.F. SCHOOL DISTRICT
2009 Long Term Goals
Draft 1.6.10

PREAMBLE:

The Garrison School District possesses a unique combination of assets that make for a special learning environment. Among them are:

- Size. It is small enough so that the District should provide educational experiences to Garrison School children that are tailored to their individual abilities and needs.
- Great natural beauty, environmental diversity and historical significance. The Garrison School District surroundings afford unrivaled opportunities to enhance instruction in art, science, history and literature.

In developing its long term goals, the Board of Education seeks to leverage these assets to the fullest extent possible, for the benefit of students, families, and the community at large.

1) With respect to the educational experience of children in the Garrison School District, the Board seeks to:

- Challenge all children to develop their minds, their character, and their bodies to the fullest extent of their abilities.
- Provide all children with the individualized learning experience that small class size makes possible, and that will encourage a lifelong love of learning.
- Incorporate innovative educational technologies in all areas of instruction to supplement classroom resources and broaden access to expertise and experiences that might not otherwise be available in a small school environment.

- Encourage flexibility in program design and scheduling to create more project-based, active learning opportunities across grades, curricula, communities and cultures.
 - Strongly emphasize continuous improvement in all aspects of curriculum offerings, with particular focus in the near future on student writing and on science education.
 - Offer opportunities to enhance achievements in the areas of independent critical thinking, creativity or community involvement unconstrained by standardized test regimens. Through our commitment to individualized instruction, flexibility and investment in technology, we expect that as a school, Garrison will excel in all of those areas.
 - Continue to enhance instruction with arts in education and with outdoor education, including use of the School Forest and the Hudson River Valley.
 - Work closely with our receiving high schools to communicate the goals listed above, and to ensure that our students are prepared to excel in all respects in a high school environment.
- 2) Our educational goals will be achieved with the active commitment and support of an administration and faculty of the highest caliber. The Board will:
- Encourage the ongoing professional development of administrators and faculty, with particular reference to programs that help leverage our technology investment.
 - Recognize outstanding achievements.
 - Encourage more frequent and focused faculty consultation with parents through email, class pages and such other innovations as may be developed.
- 3) The Board will engage and involve our community of parents and neighbors by communicating frequently and interactively.

- 4) The Board will maintain and enhance our buildings and grounds to ensure that they continuously provide a safe and stimulating indoor and outdoor environment for learning.
- 5) The Board will seek continuous improvement in the fiscal and operational management of the school district, with particular consideration given to the economically constrained environment the District currently faces.

OBJECTIVES 2009/2010

- 1) (Goal 1) Develop a long-term plan for examining ways to challenge every child. (Summer 2010)

Examples of aspects to be examined include:

- a) Programs such as the International Baccalaureate curriculum
- b) Programs for enhancing literacy, especially writing
- c) Ways to vary the school day and schedule
- d) Evaluate the Science Program

The Administration will develop a plan to examine these aspects, place priorities on each one, and report to the Board by April 30, 2010. The Board and Board committees, including faculty, parents, and community members share in the responsibility to challenge every child and will be encouraged to participate in this initiative.

- 2) (Goal 2) Provide presentations highlighting the accomplishments of faculty, staff and students at monthly meetings of the Board of Education. (Spring 2010)
- 3) (Goal 2) Review and revise the Annual Professional Performance Review and the Professional Development Plan to include the new staff development program to be initiated for the Garrison faculty in the 2010-11 school year. (March 2010)

- 4) (Goal 3) Plan and develop a new website design to improve access to school information, ease of use and clarity.
(February 2010)
- 5) (Goal 4) Expend the necessary funds from the voter approved Capital Fund to gain State approval of building plans and to construct a maintenance shed on school grounds during the 2010-11 school year.
- 6) (Goal 5) Develop a responsible budget for the 2010-11 school year that achieves a balance of the needs of the instructional program with the needs of the taxpayers of the community.