



EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
SOLUTIONS



# Riverside School District 96

Empowering Learners for Life

## Strategic Planning

Summary Report/Recommendations

May 20, 2026

Facilitated by Educational Leadership Solutions



# D96 Strategic Planning Process Timeline

- November, 2025: Dist. 96 Board of Education approved EdLS to facilitate a comprehensive Strategic Planning process, scheduled to begin in the February of 2026.
- January, 2026: District perception survey was administered throughout the Riverside, providing data regarding perceptions about the district. In total, 432 parents, staff members, and community members responded to the survey.
- February-April, 2026: Over 40 representative staff, parents, administrators, Board members, community members and students met for 3 sessions (approx. 9 hours) to create D96's recommended plan.
- April, 2026: Participants of the process rated the components of the recommended plan with a 97% Satisfaction rating.



# Core Stakeholder Team

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Staff Members</b>	<b>Student Members</b>
Dan Hunt	Sara Hickey	James "Harvey" Claps
Marlowe Kachlic	Rebecca Borges	Lydia Newsome
Matt Olech	Grace Taber	Jack Gamboa
	Rachel King	Adelie Cochran
<b>Parents</b>	Jen Graff	
Nikki Newsome	Ophelia Falbo	<b>Administators</b>
Jill Novak	Nicole Desmond	Martha Ryan-Toye
Chloe Pedersen	Stephanie Burke	Angela Dolezal
Laura Muller	Dana Dobb	Nora Geraghty
Jennifer Fournier	Lauren Dryanski	Mark Kuzniewski
Adam Bursua	Erin Adelsman	Molly Marquardt
Anne Brook	Claire LaForge	Nikki Mazza
Julia Strehlow	Dana Dillon	Casmira Gorman
Beth Brouwer	Mary Pascolla	Pete Gatz
		Erin Dwyer
<b>Community Leaders</b>		Chris Harvalis
Connie Guardi		Steve Wilder
Ron Malchiodi		
Molly Castor		

# Riverside School District 96 Mission and Vision Statements

## **Mission**

Nurturing and empowering every learner every day.

## **Vision**

To cultivate a joyful, inclusive community that fosters a love for learning and inspires confident, courageous students.



# Riverside School Dist. 96 Core Values

## **Respect**

Respect everyone through empathy, kindness, dignity and fairness.

## **Community**

Build lasting relationships across our community to foster a culture where everyone thrives.

## **Creativity**

Empower each other to lead with curiosity and solve with creativity.

## **Belonging**

Ensure everyone belongs, that every voice matters, and every person is safe to show up exactly as they are.

## **Equity**

Recognize and respond to diverse needs, removing barriers and providing access necessary for everyone to flourish.

## **Achievement & Knowledge**

Believe knowledge is realized through continuous opportunities for everyone to achieve their fullest potential.



# Recommended Strategic Goal Target Areas

## **Student Learning & Student Experience**

*Provide all students access to a guaranteed, high-quality, engaging curriculum.*

## **Learning Environment & School Culture**

*Enhance systems, structures, and resources to support and strengthen schools that promote a communal sense of safety and belonging.*

## **Talented & Invested Staff**

*Develop and support highly committed and fulfilled staff in all positions.*

## **Communication & Community Engagement**

*Engage the community through enhanced communication.*

## **Finance & Facilities**

*Create a transparent budget plan that makes financial data easy for everyone to access and understand.*

*Develop a master facilities plan to tackle urgent upgrades and design future-ready spaces that embody our district values.*



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### Vision

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### Communication & Community Engagement

Engage the community through enhanced involvement and communication.

### Finance & Facilities

Create a transparent budget plan that makes financial data easy for everyone to access and understand.  
Develop a master facilities plan to tackle urgent upgrades and design future-ready spaces that embody our district values.



# Next Steps

1. The D96 Administration, working with EdLS, will begin to develop specific goals and objectives for each of the overarching goals to make each of the goal areas actionable and complete with timelines.
2. A communications plan will be developed to begin to share the new plan, what it means, and how it will impact the students, staff and community in the years ahead.

We'd like to thank the D96 Board of Education for the opportunity to create a new plan for the future of the district.



# For more information

## Strategic Planning

### Educational Leadership Solutions

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