

Community asked to name school

Openness with name suggestions part of new district direction

By Adam Larck

Chillicothe Times-Bulletin

Posted Feb 02, 2011 @ 12:00 AM

Recommend

Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.



Dunlap, Ill. — Since Dr. Jay Marino took over the Dunlap superintendent position a year and a half ago, he has wanted community involvement in everything the district does.

So, it should come as no surprise that Marino wants the community to help name the elementary school to be built, along with its mascot.

“For a couple weeks, we put it out for feedback,” Marino said. “One of the district values is involving stakeholders and providing opportunities for input. We thought this was a great way to involve the community, teachers, parents, anybody who had an interest.”

The school, set to open in the fall of 2012, will be located at the corner of Hickory Grove and Allen Road.

So far, Marino said that the school has had a good response rate of volunteers wanting to input names. The participants have ranged from the schools and students in Dunlap, to parents and community members, to even visitors of the [Dunlap website](#). The deadline for submissions is Friday.

“We’re taking any and all feedback and suggestions,” he said. “Primarily, we’ve targeted our schools, teachers and parents. But, when we put it on the blog, that gives us a broader audience because we have visitors that visit our blog from all around the world. Not necessarily that they’ll pay attention to naming our school, but there are opportunities for feedback. Anyone is welcome.”

Lisa Parker, the assistant superintendent and head of the core planning group reviewing the names, said she has received about 50 entries, but some have been duplicates.

Even though numerous submissions have been made, neither Parker nor Marino want to talk about what names and mascots have been sent in.

“It’s too early to put that kind of information out,” Marino said. “We want to keep as much as an open mind as possible. We don’t want to get that narrow focused until that point in the process where we’ll narrow it.”

Currently, each of the schools in the district have their own mascot, with the district making a unique logo this year to unify them all. The reason for this, Marino said, is so the schools do not “lose their identity for the population that they serve and that school pride.”

Besides choosing the mascot and school name, the school colors also have to be chosen. However, Parker said that will come later on.

“We will do those based on what the mascot and name are and will also make sure they are not the same colors as any of our other schools,” she said.

A new direction

When Marino became the superintendent, he wanted to change the way the community received information about the district.

He didn’t want the schools to just push information out, he wanted a two-way process to happen between the schools and community.

"We want to be open, transparent and provide two-way communication," he said. "We think it's important to provide as much ownership as we can to our taxpayers and our students."

While Marino said the school district was already at a high-performing level, he still wanted to improve.

To do that, he has tried to get as many people in the district involved as possible.

"It's really been a key initiative in the district to allow a lot of participation and decision making," he said. "What we call teamwork, collaboration and shared leadership, those are the three values we're using to take the district to the next level."

The next steps

When the submission process ends, the four parents, four teachers, three administrators, two community members, board of education member and architect who make up the core planning group will finish sorting the submissions.

"The next step will be for us to put all the choices back on the website around approximately Feb. 7," Parker said. "The top three choices will then go to the core planning group with their recommendation going to the (Board of Education) in March."

Even though the name and mascot is still a few months off from being finalized, that has not stopped Marino from becoming excited about the suggestions, not because of what the school will be called, but because it is one step closer for the school to become finished.

"That's what's exciting about this step in the process," he said. "It's one more step to really make this project a reality."

Copyright 2011 Chillicothe Times-Bulletin. Some rights reserved

Popular Videos



NFL Stars Have
Bullied Teen's Back

Police: 4-year-old
Child Intoxicated

Arrest Made in \$1.5
Million Bellagio
Chip Heist

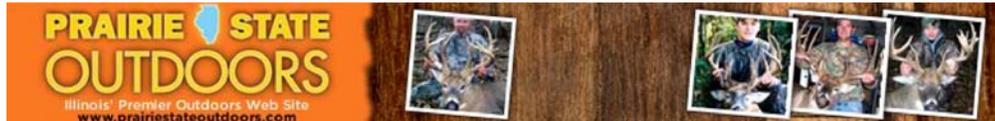
Bernanke:
Economy Better;
Budget
Unsustainable

Raw Video: 3 Dead
After Car Slams
Into School

Raw Video: Snow
Causes Building
Collapse

Comments (0)

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post a comment:



[Contact us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) |

Chillicothe Times-Bulletin | PO Box 9426, Peoria, IL 61612-9426

Copyright © 2006-2011 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a [Creative Commons](#) license, except where noted.

SEO by [eLocalListing](#) | [Advertiser profiles](#) | [RadarFrog Merchant Directory](#)