

Ripon Area School District

Press Release
January 28, 2008

For Immediate Release

The Ripon Area School District is looking for parents who are interested in designing a new charter school for students in grades 4-7. The Board of Education authorized the formation of a Planning Team to further develop the concept of the Nobel Charter School with a report due at the Board's April 21 meeting. After the details are presented by the Nobel Charter School Planning Team, the Board will decide whether to proceed with the new charter school.

The Nobel Charter School, named for the annual Nobel Prizes that are awarded for finding creative solutions to real world challenges, would use the project-based instructional model in which students learn their subject matter by applying their studies to real world issues. Some examples of real world issues are global climate change, child obesity, or space exploration. Teachers provide the knowledge necessary for student teams to continue their long-term projects. This hands-on approach applies what's being learned in the classroom to what's happening in the real world that students will be entering.

"You'll never hear students ask why they need to learn something when they're taught using this approach," according to Superintendent Richard Zimman. "Project-based learning isn't for everyone, but many students benefit from applying their learning to real issues and working with peers in collaborative teams."

The Planning Team is the first step in organizing a charter school for approval by the Board. If the charter school is approved by the Board, then a Governance Council will be formed to develop the school's instructional program, application process, and accountability measures in accordance with state and federal laws.

Parents and community members interested in serving on the Nobel Charter School Planning Team should contact Dr. Zimman at 748-4600. More information about the Nobel Charter School is on the District's website.

Contact: Dr. Richard Zimman, 920-748-4600