

School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)

April 12, 2017

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Attending:

Bonnie Fisher	Mike Raso	Amy Swearingen
Richard Lynch	Phil Redington	Kaye Meyers
Kitka Galvin	Kathy Lowry	Stacey Struck
Celeste Miller	Kitty Clingingsmith	Kay Ingham
Chris Like	Matt Johnson	

District Update Mike Raso, Superintendent

- End of the school year is coming quickly.
- Work on the plan for Grant Wood continues as the committee gets into the details of the design and logistics of the construction.
- Hiring season is in full swing. There are two elementary principal vacancies to fill.
- The School Board approved an amount for the proposed additional FTE for 2017-2018.

Topic Presentation – Student Achievement

The district's Iowa Assessment proficiency results were presented and discussed. Members were also given the Iowa Growth Report 2016-2017 Grades 9 -10 and the Iowa Core Report 2016-2017 Grades 9-11.

Questions:

How much overlap is there between the Spec Ed and low SES? *Our Special Ed is between 9-12%. Free & Reduced is at 34% for the district. There may be some overlap in those two sub groups.*

Does Special Ed include 504 plans? *No.*

What are you most pleased with?

- *Referring to the Iowa Growth Report, the average gains are pretty good.*
- *Special Education at the high school has shown wonderful growth in reading. Co-teaching and being in the classroom with their peers has had a positive effect on motivation and effort.*
- *The high school has implemented interventions in the Pride Time for reteaching.*
- *The high school has added "plus" classes in math and reading to help students bridge the gap of what they're missing and to preteach concepts.*
- *The state report will consider students with "full attendance year" (FAY), meaning that if the student was not with the district or in the same building the year before their scores are not reported. The district reports all students, regardless of FAY.*
- *Academic Interventionists in all buildings are working in collaboration with teachers to provide support for struggling students.*
- *Chris Like and Kaye Meyers, CPDs for STEAM and Literacy respectively, are working to bundle science with literacy skills. There is a natural high interest in science and tying it in with literacy will provide an opportunity to reinforce reading and writing skills. Informational text is a huge piece of the Core.*

Can you speak to the difference between proficiency and growth? *Based on the state using the National Percentile Ranking (NPR) students above the 41st percentile are considered proficient. We are not really content with that low percentile. We look for, not just proficiency, but for growth in all students which better reflects actual learning. Now the state uses the National Standard Score (NSS). Building Administrators are trying to impress about the students the importance of doing their best. They are involving the students in their own growth, empowering them with the knowledge of what their scores meant to them.*

There seems to be a drop in the science scores from Middle to high school. Do all 9th graders take a science course? *No. Middle school takes the assessment in February and those same 8th graders then take the assessment as freshmen at the high school in the first part of November. They have yet to take a science course. The science portion of the test does not align to the Next Generation Science Standards and not content specific. The state is struggling with that – the curriculum has changed but the state assessment has not. The science test is also the last portion of the test given to students on the last testing day.*

What troubles you about these results? *There seems to always be some “slippage” at Middle school.*

How do you use these results? *This is just one of the assessments we use – just a snapshot. We have more assessments and more data that, all together, really show our progress, our strengths and our challenges. We can, and do, go very deep into the data to focus on what we need to do to help each student succeed. Each building has their own building data and reports to analyze. It leads to big discussions about curriculum, instruction and assessments. We translate the data so we can involve the students, the parents, the teachers.*

What are the stakes involved in the implications of these test result? *It is one of the nine parts of the Iowa Report Card and it is used to score our district.*

How do these test results reflect on our Strategic Plan? *Goal 1 of the District Strategic Plan is Student Achievement. But there is only one place the Iowa assessments are used as a measure and that is for the Middle School. The other measures are the 5 year graduation rate, College & Career Readiness, K-3 Literacy proficiency, Attendance Center ranking, and the ACT score.*

SIAC 2017-2018

This is the last meeting for this school year. We wish to express our appreciation to all those who participated. Celeste Miller will send out information regarding next year’s SIAC soon.

Comments/suggestions for next year:

- Continue focusing on one topic
- It was great to get all the information ahead of time
- Liked that the topics were related to the Strategic Plan.
- Would like the meetings spread out more – perhaps one meeting each quarter.
- Presentation on Special Education
- Possible meet in the different buildings