



Saydel Community School District
School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: February 23, 2016

Location: Saydel District Office Board Room

Facilitator: Mr. Douglas Wheeler, Superintendent

The Board of Education SIAC Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, February 23 by Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler

- **Committee members present:** Roland Kouski, Jr., Kristi Wickre, Doug Cline, Kevin Schulte, Matt Tesdell, Riley Backus, Julie McKibben, Jeremy Lowe, Patty Timmerman, Sarah Figgins, Joshua Heyer, Marcy Schmidt
- **Committee members absent:** Jack Aegesen, Shila Love, Antoine Parker, Aileen Hunnell, Darla Van Houten, Shannon Larson, Michael Dennis, Brian Vaughan, Melissa Sassman, Dr. Simone Alekno

Agenda:

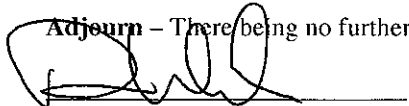
- I. **Welcome** – Mr. Wheeler welcomed all the committee members to the SIAC meeting.
- II. **Grading for Growth Process Update & Discussion** – Mr. Wheeler overviewed the results of the first Grading for Growth informational sessions held in February. SIAC members said these sessions were a good opportunity to learn and ask questions about the new grading system They appreciated the communication efforts. The next Grading for Growth parent meetings will be held March 23 at 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm, and these sessions will cover the same material as the February meetings.

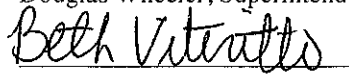
Mr. Wheeler said one of the most concerning issues for parents that attended the informational sessions was where to set the “A” in the grading system. He has researched where other districts have set their GPA conversion and discussed the options for where to set the “A” and “A-”. If the “A-” is set as 3.5, students must get more than proficiency to get an “A-”. If the “A-” is set at 3, students start the “A” range with proficiency.

The SIAC members were asked what grades “A”, “B”, “C”, “D” and “F” mean to them. Traditionally, the grades mean “A” for excellent, “B” for above average/good, “C” for average, “D” for below average and “F” for failing. After sharing their thoughts, the group did a consensus building activity called Six Thinking Hats (created by Dr. Edward de Bono) to share their opinions on where to set the “A”. Six Thinking Hats is a powerful technique that helps you look at important decisions from a number of different perspectives. It helps you make better choices by pushing you outside your habitual ways to thinking. As such, it helps you understand the full complexity of a decision, and spot issues and opportunities, which you might otherwise not notice. When looking at an issue using the Six Thinking Hats, decisions mix ambition, skill in execution, sensitivity, creativity, and good contingency planning.

The SIAC members paired into groups and brainstormed wearing each “thinking hat” to closely examine Scenario One where “A” range starts at 3.0 and Scenario Two where “A” range starts at 3.5. Following the activity, committee members shared how their understanding of the issue changed and what advice they would give regarding where to set the “A” and why. The consensus from the SIAC members was that it is in the best interest of the students to place the “A” at 3.5.

- III. **Adjourn** – There being no further business, the SIAC Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.


Douglas Wheeler, Superintendent


Beth Vitiritto, Board Secretary

The SIAC meets at least once per year to provide input to the Board on the following:

1. Major educational needs.
2. Student learning goals.
3. Long-range goals that include, but are not limited to, the state indicators that address reading, mathematics, and science achievement.
4. Harassment or bullying prevention goals, programs, training, and other initiatives.

District Mission: The mission of the Saydel Community School District is to serve the unique learning needs of each and every student.

District Vision: The Saydel Community School District will be a district having an uncompromising commitment to quality education and having high expectations for student achievement. It will be a district:

- Providing the courses of study, environment and resources for students to acquire the knowledge and skills to become responsible and productive citizens in the 21st century.
- Preparing students to graduate, pursue further education or successfully enter the work force.
- Enabling students to take ownership of their future.