

SAYDEL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
5740 NE 14th STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50313

BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

6:10 PM

Saydel District Office Board Room

November 24, 2014

- I. Call the Meeting to Order – Meeting called to order by President Brian Bowman at 6:45 PM
 - A. Roll Call – Ray Livingston, Melissa Sassman, Rob Stephenson, Brian Bowman, Kyle Prendergast, Henry Wood, present. Paul Breitbarth, absent.
 - B. Approve Agenda – Motion to approve by Melissa Sassman, seconded by Henry Wood. Motion carried 6/0.

- II. Discussion Items
 - A. Board Development

The Essential School Board Book by Nancy Walser is a book the Board is utilizing for Board Development. It highlights effective practices that are common to high-functioning boards around the country. Rob Stephenson shared an overview of Chapter 2: “Building a Foundation for Student Success.” Themes identified in his overview included Board/Superintendent Collaboration, Hiring a Superintendent, Roles of School Board Members and Supporting Change.
 - B. Update Curriculum Instruction & Assessment

Dr. Simone Alekno, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, shared a presentation with the Board on momentum being made in Saydel’s Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. She said these three areas should be a tightly aligned triangle. Dr. Alekno said everything she has collaborated with our schools to move toward is fueled by a Vision for 21st Century Skills. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills has developed a vision for student success in the new global economy. To help practitioners integrate skills into the teaching of core academic subjects, the Partnership has developed a unified, collective vision for learning known as the Framework for 21st Century Learning. This Framework describes the skills, knowledge, and expertise students must master to succeed in work and life; it is a blend of content, knowledge, specific skills, expertise and literacies. Dr. Alekno shared the Workforce Readiness Report Card for New Entrants to the Workforce and explained that as a district in curriculum, instruction and assessment, the focus is on emphasizing creative skills and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving and communication and collaboration. Topics Dr. Alekno reviewed are the District’s Overarching Goals, the New Learnings for teachers in 2014-15, the On-going Learning and the Fundamentals of Teaching. She also reviewed the importance of planning with standards in mind. District Directions were shared and included:

 - District Direction #1: Understanding by Design
 - District Direction #2: Higher Order Thinking for Post-Secondary Success

- District Direction #3: Complete Curriculum Maps
- District Direction #4: Increase Understanding of Assessment
- District Direction #5: Resources and Materials
- District Direction #6: STEM
- District Direction #7: Technology

Dr. Alekno provided an overview of progress currently being made at Cornell Elementary, Woodside Middle School and Saydel High School in the different subjects and in the various grade levels.

Following the presentation, Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler shared information with the Board about Instructional Rounds Education. Rounds are a four step process. 1) Identifying a concrete problem or practice 2) Observing and recording descriptive feedback on 15-20 minute classroom visits 3) Building a body of evidence about what was seen 4) Generating recommendations for next steps.

- III. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Melissa Sassman, seconded by Henry Wood. Motion carried 6/0. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

Brian Bowman, Board President

Beth Vitiritto, Board Secretary

The next scheduled Board meeting is Monday, Dec. 8 and the next scheduled Board Work Session is Monday, Dec. 22. Both will be at 6 PM and they will be held in the Board Room at the Saydel District Office.