



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

Date: November 16, 2017

Location: Saydel District Office Board Room

Facilitators: Mr. Douglas Wheeler, Superintendent

The Board of Education SIAC Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM on Thursday, November 16 by Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler

- **Committee members present:** Cody Boozell, Doug Cline, Joshua Heyer, Julie Jennings, Roland Kouski, Jr., Shannon Larson, Julie McKibben, Mary Salazar, Marcy Schmidt, Kevin Schulte, Douglas Wheeler, Kristi Wickre
- **Committee members absent:** Grace Bear, Taylor Dhabolt, Andrew Malone, Matt Tesdell, Brian Vaughan

Agenda:

- I. Welcome & Introductions** – Mr. Wheeler welcomed attendees to the SIAC meeting. He reviewed the topics that the committee will discuss at the SIAC Meetings during this school year. Achievement goals were discussed in September. This meeting will focus on parent/family involvement. In February, the group will talk about student climate/culture.
- II. Parent Engagement Action Planning** – The committee shared with one another their definition of parent or family involvement in school. After this discussion, the members split into two groups to collaborate on a 3-2-1 activity. One group based their activity on the information from the article “The Power of Parental Expectations” by Bryan Goodwin, and the other group centered their activity on the information from “Unlocking Families’ Potential: a Conversation With Karen L. Mapp” by Naomi Thiers. In the 3-2-1 activity, the groups identified three things that confirmed their current thinking; two things that made them think differently; and one thing they disagreed with in the articles. Both groups discussed how parent involvement impacts student achievement, and they overviewed reasons why families often do not become true partners in fostering students’ learning. Ideas that will help in developing effective practices for engaging families were also discussed. Highlights from the activity are as follows:
 - Families want to be involved, but some lack the confidence or skill to help at home.
 - An important practice to integrate into any family engagement initiative is to link that initiative to student learning and development.
 - When the student is the bridge between the school/parent partnership, it will build more interest in parent engagement.
 - Cultivating a real partnership between families and school staff creates trusting, respectful relationships.
 - Pre-service is important so school leaders and teachers can be trained in family engagement.
 - Racial bias can be a barrier in creating effective partnerships.
 - Parental communication of high expectations is key.
 - When parents set rules, monitor homework and ensure homework completion, the efforts help get the work done but doesn’t have an effect on actual achievement.
 - Respectful communication helps shows that school overtures to engage parents come from a point of mutual concern about students, not an attempt to get parents to comply with the school’s wishes.
 - Higher levels of achievement will be met when parents communicate high expectations to their children.

- Educators should create a customer-friendly environment, inviting open communication with parents and visiting them in their homes to show that teachers have high hopes for, and commitment to, students.

The committee also reviewed an example of a Parent Involvement Matrix, and they shared feedback on creating an interactive matrix that Saydel parents could utilize in the future through the Saydel website.

III. Adjourn – The SIAC Meeting adjourned at 6:57 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.*