



EAST UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1916 High School Drive • Afton, Iowa 50830

Phone: 641.347.5215 • FAX: 641.347.5514

East Union School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) Tuesday, May 7, 2013

The East Union School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) met on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at 6 PM. A light dinner was served as Dr. Pam Vogel welcomed members in attendance. Dr. Vogel communicated that much work has been in place since the spring 2012 SIAC meeting, when a District Needs Assessment was conducted, with the assistance of Mr. Harry Heiligenthal, Leadership Development Director from the Iowa Association of School Boards. Dr. Vogel explained that the areas identified during the District Needs Assessment have been included through the goals the Board established, through a Board Action Plan, following the SIAC 2012 spring meeting. She shared the Board's plan with SIAC members and explained that this is a three-year plan that the Board of Education continually addresses at each Board meeting.

SIAC members present were: Tammy Ross (parent/staff), Joe Ross (parent), Doug Proffitt (parent), Jessi Siddens (student), Sabrina Moffitt (student), Ed Cheers (parent), Deb Richardson (parent), Brad Dukes (parent), Maria Dukes (parent), Jan Pettit (parent), Hope Hall (parent/EC Director), Kathy Lockard (community member), Marian Davenport (community member), Del Davenport (community member), Sarah Long (parent/ board member), Desiree Thorton (parent of special needs child/staff), Debbie Hayes (parent), Jill McKnight (parent), Kathy Flam (community member), Mark Weis (parent/principal), Sheila Chenoweth (community member/staff), Chelsea Cooley (parent), Shelley Hardisty (parent), Erma Damewood (community member), Judy Chastain (community member), James Hardy (parent/staff), Joan Gordon (principal), Melody Stoner (community member/staff), Matt Delger (staff), Lisa Hensel (community member/staff), Sandy Donner (staff), Pam Vogel (superintendent), Ben Walter (parent), Kit Mostek (staff).

Five areas were addressed at the meeting: 1) Student Involvement, 2) Positive Culture, 3) Ensuring Students' Preparedness, 4) Student Achievement, and 5) Learning Extensions.

Members of SIAC rotated in groups, as staff members presented information on the first three topics with table groups. Responses from members were recorded, in order to use the feedback to continue to improve programs at East Union.

At the 2012 SIAC Meeting, SIAC members cited these areas to address and therefore, the efforts since that time have focused on addressing these:

Better/More Extra-Curricular- School Events- Pride, Building extra-curricular activities, fine arts. Suggested areas

- *Negotiations Committee looking at clinic opportunities, coaching compensation*
- *Parent Advisory Group- with AD and Secondary Principal- to discuss the role of parents and students*
- *Expand Music Boosters*
- *Incorporate national trips for students (band festival, etc.) for students who dedicate 3-4 years in the activity*

2013 SIAC Report and Discussion:

Topic #1: Student Involvement:

Mr. Matt Delger, Athletics Director, discussed Athletics (Appendix A), Mrs. Melody Stoner, Success Coordinator, discussed Student Involvement in Extra-Curricular Programs (Appendix B), and Mr. Mark Weis, Secondary Principal, discussed new student programs and expectations.



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At the 2012 SIAC Meeting, SIAC members cited these areas to address:

Maintaining quality of teachers and administration

- *Respect administration and their decisions*
- *Provide teachers professional development; continue with a plan to send teachers and administrators to national conferences*

One on one attention between Teacher/Staff/Counselor, Attention for academics, college prep

- *Planning for ways to support acceleration and remediation (intervention time) for students, including new course proposals, such as Service Learning, Independent studies, 21st Century Skills Class, etc*

2013 SIAC Report and Discussion:

Topic #2: Positive Culture:

Mrs. Sandy Donner, Grade 2 teacher; Mrs. Kit Mostek, Elementary Counselor, and Mrs. Melody Stoner, Success Coordinator, presented information on the Olweus Anti-bullying program. Mrs. Stoner also shared information about Positive Behavior Instructional Supports (PBIS) and Instructional Consultation (Appendix C).

At the 2012 SIAC Meeting, SIAC members cited these areas to address:

Teaching kids to be successful outside of school (work, college, etc.) Life Skills Training (21st Century Skills).

It was stated that the district is developing a 21st Century Skills Class- Class that incorporates Employability Skills, Technological Skills, Financial Literacy Skills- 3 vocational teachers would create the curriculum. SIAC expressed the need for High expectations for students- both with behavior and academics (K-12).

Surveys for Assessment/Monitoring achievement

- *Implement post-graduate surveys for all students*
- *Discussed with SWCC ways we could assess if students are college and career ready (Do students need to take remedial classes in college? Are students graduating from college? Are they finding jobs? What are students doing after high school and are they satisfied with their job/career/where they are in life?)*

Identifying students' academic needs (K-12)

- *Standards based report cards for K-5*
- *Intervention time used well for 6-12*
- *RTI for K-5*
- *Schedule and program that focused on reading and leveling and re-leveling students*

2013 SIAC Report and Discussion:

Topic #3: Ensuring Students Preparedness:

Mrs. Lisa Hensel, MS Language Arts teacher and Mrs. Sheila Chenoweth, Grade K teacher shared information on Student Writing expectations. Mr. James Hardy, HS Social Studies teacher; Mrs. Gail Thatcher, Business Education teacher; and Mr. Weis, Secondary Principal, explained Competency Based Education, Acceleration (Appendix D), College Visits, 21st Century Course, & Service Learning.



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2013 SIAC Large Group Report and Discussion:

Topic #4: Student Achievement-

SIAC Members then formed one large group and Dr. Vogel shared information regarding the topics that teachers were learning for Professional Development. She shared Iowa Assessment information (Appendix E-1, E-2, E-3) and explained the expectations related to *No Child Left Behind*. Mrs. Joan Gordon, Elementary Principal, shared Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) data (Appendix E-4), and Mr. Mark Weis shared information regarding how we keep data for each student, track progress, and how they meet with the teachers to establish each of their annual goals. The students share goals with their parents, at least twice each year, at the Student Led/Student Involved Conferences. SIAC members asked questions and these were addressed. Dr. Vogel explained that the district would prefer to establish our Annual Progress Goal for 2013-2014 according to MAP data, rather than the Iowa Assessments. The recommendation is that our new goal be that “75% or more of the students in each of the grades K-12 will reach their RIT score on the MAP assessment by the spring testing period”. We are not recommending using the Iowa Assessments any longer for goals, as the MAP tests show growth over the school year and the Iowa Assessments do not give this same kind of information.

The SIAC members agreed that this was a challenging, yet achievable, goal and one that they would recommend to the East Union Board of Education. (*In June 2013, the East Union Board of Education approved this annual improvement goal for the district.*)

At the 2012 SIAC Meeting, SIAC members cited these areas to address:

Better and More Student & Community Involvement/ Focused Effort, More Community Meetings, Informed Public (including website information)

- *Look at website and assess how it can be improved*
- *Continue Partnering in Communities events; extend invitations to families in community*
- *Look at ways to expand Family Resource Center and involve students and community in running the center*

2013 SIAC Report:

Topic #5: Learning Extensions-

The final topic for SIAC was presented by Mrs. Hope Hall, Early Childhood Center Director, who shared information on the Early Childhood Center. Mrs. Gordon shared the rationale behind a Junior Kindergarten, which is now a part of the Elementary School, rather than the Early Childhood Center. Mrs. Tammy Ross, School/ Community Resource Coordinator, talked about ASPIRE and ASPIRE MORE and ways both programs benefit students and families.

More 2013 SIAC feedback/comments from SIAC participants, regarding Topics 1-3, are shown in Appendix F.)

At 8:45 PM, the SIAC meeting concluded. Dr. Vogel thanked everyone who attended and reminded them that SIAC meetings are held at least annually and that the feedback from the community members and parents is vital to the school, for positive two-way communication.