

School Improvement Advisory Committee Minutes 10-28-13

Members Present: Chris Marshall, Kevin Olson, Julie Sexton, Kate Milster, Mike Owen, Rev. Richard Paulus, Laura Gongora, Jess Burger, Sara Oswald, Michelle Lukavsky and Kevin Hatfield

Agenda and Tasks:

Mr. Hatfield and the SIAC membership reviewed the following agenda topics:

- Vision and Mission Defined
- Site Accreditation Overview
- District Initiatives and Priorities

Vision and Mission

- Overview of the purpose of Vision and Mission statements.
 - Vision statements are statements of “what the organization hopes to be in the future. The "ideal state" or its "aspirations and hopes!”
 - Mission statements are statements explaining the organization’s purpose (Why do we exist?).
- Viewed Video: (YouTube) “*CREATE*”
- Reviewed the brainstormed “Vision” and “Mission” statements from the September meeting.
- After discussion and input from committee members, revised vision and mission statements were created.

S.I.A.C. Consensus on Vision and Mission Statements:

- **Vision Statement – *The West Branch Community School District: A Learning Community!***
- **Mission Statement – *The West Branch Community School District prepares students to live and learn with passion and purpose!***

Site Accreditation Overview

Overview of State of Iowa School Accreditation Preparation and S.I.A.C. roles and support needed. Need community, staff and S.I.A.C. members to be a part of the interviewing and input processes.

District Initiatives and Priorities

Summaries on district initiatives and priorities were presented by Jess Burger, Sara Oswald, Michelle Lukavsky and Kevin Hatfield

Teacher Leadership and Compensation (T.L.C.): Kevin Hatfield and Sara Oswald provided information on the new Teacher Leadership and Compensation legislation. Teachers will be taking on more leadership roles such as mentoring, lead teacher, professional development support, coaching roles and /or providing support for program implementation and instruction. The roles are being defined by student needs to help improve student achievement. The roles will vary in compensation levels, development needs, contractual day needs and performance responsibilities for staffs, buildings and District. Membership on District and building-level leadership teams will be a part of the responsibilities for roles.

\$3.5 million has been appropriated by the Legislature for planning grants that each school district can use for developing local teacher leadership and compensation plans. The W.B.C.S.D. received \$8022 to meet the needs of the planning committee. The District feels they have a dedicated group of teachers, parents, Board members and administrators ready to plan according to student needs. (The "T.L.C. Plan" will need to be submitted to DE by end of January if participating with implementation likely starting in 2015 or 2016. There are "5 must haves" for all plans.

Standard-Based Grading and Student Feedback System: Michelle Lukavsky and Sara Oswald provided information on Standard-Based Grading (S.B.G.) and Feedback. Michelle provided the questionnaire/responses that the high school students filled out about Standards-Based Grading. Students like S.B.G. because they feel like they're retaining more of what they have learned rather than just memorizing. The staff doing a great job of implementing! ActiveGrade has been seen as a very useful

Professional Learning Communities & Response to

Intervention: Jess Burger provided information on P.L.C./R.T.I. Four (4) critical questions that Professional Learning Communities (P.L.C.) ask are:

1. What is it we want our students to learn?
2. How will we know if they are learning?
3. How will we respond when students do not learn?
4. How will we enrich and extend the learning for students who are proficient

Each teacher in every building is involved in a P.L.C. Response to Intervention (R.T.I.) has been implemented and studies show that R.T.I. greatly improves learning. R.T.I. isn't a *time* or a *thing* to do, it's "the way you do it."

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 19th, 6:30 p.m., Hoover Elem. Library. On behalf of the entire District, thank you for your commitment to this important leadership and input process!

Kevin Hatfield, Superintendent
West Branch Community School District