



Solon Community School District

301 South Iowa Street, Solon, Iowa 52333
www.solon.k12.ia.us • (319) 624-3401 • fax (319) 624-2518

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011
CENTRAL OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
6PM**

MINUTES

SIAC members present: Elizabeth Hickman, Sam Miller, Brandi Radcliffe, Roger Thompson, Matt Townsley, Michael Kuntz, Rod Wittich, Carol Ann Richards, Darren Benzing, Rachel Ahern, Andrew Barenz

Also present: Mike Herdliska, Jodi Rickels, Nathan Wear, Dick Schwab, Lori Grimoskas, Ken Beck, Lauren Cannon, Justin Turner

1. Review: Role of SIAC - *Matt Townsley reviewed the role and purpose of SIAC*

Iowa Code 281—12.8(256)

School improvement advisory committee. To meet requirements of Iowa Code section 280.12(2), the board shall appoint and charge a school improvement advisory committee to make recommendations to the board. Based on the committee members' analysis of the needs assessment data, they shall make recommendations to the board about the following components:

1. Major educational needs;
2. Student learning goals; and
3. Long-range goals that include, but are not limited to, the state indicators that address reading, mathematics, and science achievement.

At least annually, the school improvement advisory committee shall also make recommendations to the board with regard to, but not limited to, the following:

1. Progress achieved with the annual improvement goals for the state indicators that address reading, mathematics, and science in subrule 12.8(3);
2. Progress achieved with other locally determined core indicators; and
3. Annual improvement goals for the state indicators that address reading, mathematics, and science achievement.

2. District Study: Standards-Based Grading (Informational item)

Matt Townsley led the group in an activity related to grading. The committee viewed a video describing the proposed changes related to standards-based grading (www.tinyurl.com/scsdsbgvideo) and then briefly looked at the background of it at SCSD (see handout). Teachers Ken Beck, Lauren Cannon and Justin Turner shared their perspectives using standards-based grading in their classrooms over the past two years. Students Rachel Ahern and Andrew Barenz shared their experiences and thoughts as well. Finally, members of SIAC asked the teachers, administrators and students questions about standards-based grading. A parent/community forum will be held in March/April so that additional community members are provided the opportunity to learn more about standards-based grading.

3. Calendar Committee Update

High School Principal Nathan Wear provided an update from the calendar committee on the proposed 2012-13 academic calendar. A calendar similar to the 2011-12 calendar and an early start calendar will be taken to the board on Monday evening as an informational item. See handouts for these calendars.

4. Iowa Core / Professional Learning Update (Informational item)

Matt Townsley provided an overview of progress towards the district's Iowa Core goals. Please see additional handout.

5. Strategic Planning Process Update (Informational item)

Superintendent Sam Miller shared an update on the board of education's strategic planning process.

6. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled SIAC meeting will take place on April 26, 2012 at 6pm in the Central Office Conference Room.



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Standards-based Grading: Background

2008-2009

- One high school teacher begins to experiment with standards-based grading as a result of learning about it at the Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference.

2009-2010

- A second high school teacher begins to move towards move standards-based grading based on conversations with the first teacher.
- A group of eight high school teachers choose to go through a ten-week study of articles focused on formative assessment and grading. (<http://tinyurl.com/scsdfasbg>)

2010-2011

- High school teachers who completed the study begin to implement changes to their grading and assessment practices.
- Two middle school teachers begin to implement changes to their grading and assessment practices.
- End of year: District establishes a study for 2011-12 that “stakeholders will analyze and study aspects of standards-based grading and reporting at all grade levels.”

2011-12

District study: “SCSD stakeholders will analyze and study aspects of standards-based grading and reporting at all grade levels.”

August

- Solon administrators hear Doug Reeves keynote emphasizing changing grading practices, “Leadership Focus: Doing the Right Things, Right Now” at School Administrators of Iowa conference. (pdf of slides: <http://tinyurl.com/82fczpw>)

October

- High school and middle school teachers discuss assessment and grading during professional learning time.
- High school teachers read and discuss “Making the Case for Standards-Based Grading” article online. (<http://tinyurl.com/mcfsbg>)
- Presentation to Lakeview teachers about ongoing discussions at middle school and high school.

November

- High school teachers currently implementing changes to their grading practices share with colleagues during professional learning time.

December

- SIAC members learn about standards-based grading through presentation and discussion with administrators and teachers.

Upcoming

- January 23 – board work session on standards-based grading
- January/February – middle school & high school teachers will discuss proposed grading guidelines
- February/March – middle school & high school teachers will complete anonymous staff perceptions survey based on grading guidelines
- March/April – SIAC sponsored community forum?

2012-2013 Solon Community School District Calendar

Committee: Lori Grimoskas, 1st Grade
Amanda Stahle, 3rd Grade
Julie Breza, 5th Grade
Lauren Cannon, HS Social Studies
Nathan Wear, HS Principal
Mundi McCarty, Parent
Michelle Hand, Parent

- **Stakeholder input- Lori**
 - Committee met to review options, discuss calendar issues, Blueprint implications for calendar committee
 - Solicited feedback at building staff meetings
 - Reviewed survey from 10-11 school year
 - Presented both options at administrative meeting
 - Presented both options at SIAC meeting
 - Presented both options at December school board meeting

- **Option 1- “Regular”- Amanda**
 - Similar schedule to the 11-12 school year
 - Maintains early releases on Thursday for professional development
 - Graduation date- Sunday, May 19, 2013
 - Starting school on Wednesday allows for an easier student transition at the start of the year

- **Option 2 - “Early Start”- Nathan**
 - Moves the start of the year up six days earlier than the start date in 11-12
 - Maintains early releases on Thursday for professional development
 - Graduation date- Sunday, May 19, 2013
 - Allows first semester to end by winter break
 - Takes advantage of better instructional time (August vs. May/June)
 - Staff concerns over August vacations, state fair, air conditioning, sports/activity schedules, prep work in July

- **District Study for 13-14**
 - Committee felt a change of this magnitude needs advance notice (1 1/2 – 2 years)
 - Alternative calendars should be studied by multiple stakeholders
 - Committee should be expanded to examine calendar options for 13-14 that maximize student learning

SOLON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2012-2013 School Calendar

Regular

M	T	W	TH	F	School Days	DATE	EVENTS
AUGUST 2012							
		1	2	3			
6	7	8	9	10			
13	14	15	16	17			
20	21	22	23	24	3	August 17, 20, 21	District Workshop
27	28	29	30	31	5	August 22, 2012	First Day of School
SEPTEMBER 2012							
3	4	5	6	7	4	September 3, 2012	Labor Day - No School
10	11	12	13	14	5	September 6, 2012	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
17	18	19	20	21	5	September 20, 2012	HS P/T Conferences (1-7:30)
24	25	26	27	28	5	September 20, 2012	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
OCTOBER 2012							
1	2	3	4	5	5	October 4, 2012	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
8	9	10	11	12	4	October 8, 2012	No School - Professional Development
15	16	17	18	19	5	October 18, 2012	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
22	23	24	25	26	5	October 25, 2012	End of 1st Quarter
29	30	31			3		
NOVEMBER 2012							
5	6	7	8	9	2	November 1, 2012	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
12	13	14	15	16	5	November 19 & 20	LV/MS P/T Conferences 1:00 Dismissal
19	20	21	22	23	3	November 21, 22 & 23	Thanksgiving - No School
26	27	28	29	30	5	November 29, 2012	HS P/T Conferences (4-7:30)
DECEMBER 2012							
3	4	5	6	7	5	December 6, 2012	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
10	11	12	13	14	5		
17	18	19	20	21	5	December 21, 2012	11:30 Dismissal - Winter Break
24	25	26	27	28		December 22 - January 2	Winter Break
31							
JANUARY 2013							
7	8	9	10	11	2	January 3, 2013	Classes Resume
14	15	16	17	18	5	January 10, 2013	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
21	22	23	24	25	4	January 10, 2013	End of 2nd Quarter/End of First Semester
28	29	30	31		5	January 14, 2013	No School - Professional Development
					4	January 24, 2013	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
FEBRUARY 2013							
4	5	6	7	8	1	February 7, 2013	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
11	12	13	14	15	5	February 7, 2013	HS P/T Conferences (1-7:30)
18	19	20	21	22	5	February 21, 2013	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
25	26	27	28		4		
MARCH 2013							
4	5	6	7	8	1	March 6 & 7	LV/MS P/T Conferences 1:00 Dismissal
11	12	13	14	15	5	March 8-15 No School	Spring Break
18	19	20	21	22	0	March 21, 2013	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
25	26	27	28	29	5	March 22, 2013	End of 3rd Quarter
					4	March 29, 2013	No School - Professional Development (Good Friday)
APRIL 2013							
1	2	3	4	5	5	April 4, 2013	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
8	9	10	11	12	5		
15	16	17	18	19	5	April 18, 2013	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
22	23	24	25	26	5	April 25, 2013	HS P/T Conferences (4-7:30)
29	30				2		
MAY 2013							
6	7	8	9	10	3	May 2, 2013	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
13	14	15	16	17	5	May 16, 2013	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
20	21	22	23	24	5	May 28, 2013	Last Day of School - End of 4th Quarter/2nd Semester
27	28	29	30	31	5	May 27, 2013	Memorial Day - No School
				DAYS	180	May 29, 2013	Teachers' Last Day

SOLON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2012-2013 School Calendar

Early Start

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28	29	30	31		4		
FEBRUARY 2013							
				1	1		
4	5	6	7	8	5	February 7, 2013	1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development
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				DAYS	180		



TO: SIAC
FROM: Matt Townsley
Director of Instruction
RE: Iowa Core Update
DATE: December 8, 2011

Iowa Core Goals and Progress

All SCSD educators will list the essential concepts and skills taught in their class and these will be connected with the Iowa Core essential concepts and skills. (*Iowa Core actions 1.a.7, 4.b.2*)

- Teachers used the I-CAT tool beginning in August to connect their enacted curriculum with the Iowa Core essential concepts and skills.
- At the October SIAC meeting, a sample I-CAT report was shared with SIAC.
- On January 16, K-12 content teams will meet to discuss their I-CAT reports and alignment progress.
- This goal will be accomplished at the end of the year once all reports have been submitted and “enacted curriculum documents” have been completed by teams who teach content outside of the Iowa Core essential concepts and skills.

The Solon Community School District will conduct an audit/study of internal and external learning supports, which will involve community stakeholders (2.a.3).

- In October and November, staff meetings were held at Lakeview and the Middle School, so that staff members could begin brainstorming internal and external learning supports.
- Beginning in November, this data will be categorized with assistance from AEA learning supports staff.
- This goal will be accomplished once a district audit / map / continuum is in place illustrating our current supports.
- Future action may include looking at gaps and overlaps to identify changes in our programs, personnel and community partnerships.

The Comprehensive School Improvement Plan will be reviewed/revised so that district CSIP goals align with Iowa Core implementation plan priorities (3.c.1).

- This process will begin after Winter Break. Look for an update at the April SIAC meeting.

SCSD staff development plans will make explicit connections between activities and the Iowa Professional Development Model (5.b.1).

- Each professional learning activity is now articulated with an Iowa Professional Development Model target. The professional learning schedule is available online at www.tinyurl.com/scsdpd

SCSD staff members will facilitate staff development to hone their skills as leaders of collaborative learning (6.a.1)

- At each full day of professional learning, members of the Iowa Core team are asked to facilitate portions of the learning activities.