



## Educational Equity Committee Minutes – 11/08/19

**Our Mission:** The Sioux City Community School District exists to educate students to **believe** in their talents and skills, **achieve** academic excellence and **succeed** in reaching their potential.

**Chairperson:** Tito Parker

**Secretary:** Cate Combs

The Educational Equity Committee (EEC) met on Friday, November 8, 2019 at the Education Service Center, Boardroom.

**Committee Members Present:** Tito Parker, Karen Mackey, Stephan Pearson, Joseph Riker

**District Employees and School Board Directors Present:** Dr. Kim Buryanek, Jen Gomez, Cate Combs, Lori Gentry, LaShawna Moyle

**Guests:**

Dr. Paul Gausman, Superintendent  
Jim Vanderloo, Director of Secondary Education  
Katie Towler, Principal, Career Academy

**Call to Order:** 11:30 am

**Presentation:**

**Jim Vanderloo, Director of Secondary Education and Katie Towler, Principal, Career Academy –**  
***Sioux City Community Schools District Educational Planning Handbook***

Additions and revisions to the Course Guide for 2021/22 School Year are being submitted to Committees and the Board for approval. The additions to the Career Academy include: Plumbing (college and high school credit), Mobile Game & App Development (college and high school credit), Fire Science (college and high school credit), Agriculture (high school credit), and Engineering (high school credit).

High School Course – Harmony One (vocal music), a fine arts requirement, is being reactivated for next year.

All courses that are being offered at Western Iowa Tech Community College (“WITCC”) through the Career Academy, students will receive both college and high school credits. Transportation to/from WITCC for these classes are provided by the District.

**Dr. Kim Buryanek, Associate Superintendent –**  
**Modified Supplemental Amount for At-Risk/Dropout Prevention**

We are requesting that the Board approve a modified supplemental amount for At-Risk/Dropout Prevention for the 2020/21 school year. At-Risk/Dropout funding is strictly used for students who are at-risk of dropping out or who have dropped out and returned. The programs funded by the At-Risk/Dropout include:

- Alternative Schools
- School Within a School
- i-JAG
- Academic Supports (after school tutoring and Saturday school)
- Graduation Coaches
- Juvenile Court and Police Department Contracts (School Resource Officers and Juvenile Court Liaisons - 1 at each high school and middle school building)
- Transitional Support (students transitioning from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Credit Recovery
- Mental Health Services
- Mentoring (Equity Liaisons and Mentors from the Sanford Center)

The programs are working. The graduation rate has increased from 78.04% (2007/08) to 85.51% (2017/18). The dropout rate has also substantially declined. Our high schools are almost less than 2%. When the dropout rate is low, we can see the problems and barriers students may be having and work towards removing them.

One of the adjustments that is being made to assist students is having after-school tutoring 3 times per week, and Saturday School 2 times per month. We also want to hire an Intervention Specialist for each of the high schools to help connect students with services that they need to stay in school.

Roundtable discussion.

**Dr. Paul Gausman, Superintendent –**  
**Superintendent as a student of the District 2018-2019**

Two years ago, Dr. Gausman met with staff asking them what was going well, what needs to improve, and what changes they would like to see. Last school year, he met with students through organized groups (band, teams, student council, etc.). Asking them the same types of questions.

Students at the secondary level requested items such as - have more parking available; more advanced Open Response Writing; staff training on technology; consistency in leadership; and keep the current start times in place.

Secondary students enjoy the diversity within the District. For the second year in a row, the District is minority-majority. They appreciate the Career Academy in that they have

classes with students from other districts. Students assisted with the lobby to change the financial literacy requirement with the State. With their help, we were able to get a one-year extension.

Elementary students enjoy field trips; PBIS (rewards for positive behaviors); participating in community service events; the food service teams; and Beyond the Bell. Elementary students indicated that there needs to be boundaries on the computers.

All students like the diversity within the District; feel safe in school; appreciate staff; and feel they need more supports with math.

Roundtable discussion.

**Upcoming Events:**

November 9, 2019, 6:00 – 6:00 pm

JROTC Veterans Day Changing of the Guard, Sergeant Floyd Monument.

November 11, 2019, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

A reception honoring Chris Godfrey, St. Mark Lutheran Church

November 12, 2019, 9:00 – Noon

Chris Godfrey, Sioux City Public Museum

November 14, 2019, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Native American Display, Capital Building, Des Moines

November 25 – 27, 2019 –

17<sup>th</sup> Annual March to Honor Lost Children, Briar Cliff

November 27, 2019 – 7:30 am

Memorial March, War Eagle Park

December 10, 2019 –

Universal Human Rights Day, Award Ceremony, Sioux City Public Museum

**Next Meeting** Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn: 1:10 pm**