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.

Chair: Jodi Speidel
Vice-Chair: Mickey Nelson
Facilitator: Dr. Paul Gausman
Secretary: Cyndi Lloyd

The District Advisory Committee met on Thursday, March 31, 2016, in the Educational Service Center Board Room.


Guests / Visitors: None.

Call to Order: Jodi Speidel called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Dr. Gausman stated for the minutes that Teresa Walker moved out of state and will no longer be a member of the District Advisory Committee.

Discussion Item(s):

1. After reviewing the Community Engagement report, what are the general themes or topics that you thought were most important?
   - Parental Engagement
     - How do we better engage our parents? Although we communicate in a number of ways, it does not seem to be enough.
     - Parental engagement is high in elementary schools (95%), not so much in middle school (60-80%), and not enough in high school (46%).
     - Parents like the online communication, but we need to do more.
     - Community engagement – how can we better engage our community?
   - Cultural Awareness
     - Building cultural awareness with both our parents and community.
     - Host cultural nights at the schools.
   - Getting Community Involved
     - Hosting campaigns similar to United Way campaigns. Utilize a Chair and Co-Chair. Not recruiting for money, but to build awareness.
     - Utilize District apps to get students involved.
     - Host a community event.
• PPEL
  o Community appreciates the new elementary schools, specialty schools, etc., but our high schools are lacking the necessary updates.
  o Possibility of running another PPEL Campaign. What is a PPEL? What does it mean for our District?

• District Success
  o Teacher retention, celebrate the good things more, etc.
  o District communicates more now electronically i.e. Website and Social Media.
  o Parents could help by sharing District information via Facebook and Twitter.

• New Strategic Plan
  o The District’s Strategic Plan is primarily focused on Student Achievement.
  o Other areas include: Fiscal Accountability, Human Resources, Educational Facilities and Community Engagement.

2. If the general themes or topics that you just identified, become the priority areas within the new District Strategic Plan, what should be the outcomes that we want to see in each priority area five years from now?

• Parental Engagement
  o Alison Benson suggested creating a parent university similar to Savannah, GA. Dr. Buryanek has further details regarding this.
  o Siouxland Chamber has a similar desire in cultural awareness and community involvement.
  o District currently offers Principal for a Day program which involves community leaders.
  o Host community forums by feeder school system. Include students.

• Other Suggestions
  o Research the balance of technology and human interaction
  o District is heavily weighted on the arts, music, drama, liberal arts, etc. Kids learn to express themselves through the arts v. technology.
  o Most parents just see what is in front of them. Putting things into perspective and marketing what is available.

3. What steps should we take to achieve the outcomes that you just identified for each of the priority areas?

• Parental Engagement
  o Focus on one or two particular topics each year and what activities fall under that umbrella
  o Publish District events in the local newspaper so parents are aware of what is going on in the District.
  o Get more kids and community involved.
  o Build cultural awareness.
What should the District look like in 2021 or 5 years from now, based on feedback from the community?

- All students are efficient in reading and math.
- When you walk into a classroom, you are unable to see which student(s) receive special services.
- Community and area businesses are engaged in our School District.
- PPEL passes and funds are being utilized to update District facilities.

The next meeting of the District Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 5:15 p.m. in the ESC Board Room. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.