



South Winneshiek Community School District School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)

October 21, 2020, 4:30 pm
District Board Room, Calmar

District Vision: The vision of the South Winneshiek School District, with shared responsibility of school, home, and community, is to provide the best teaching and learning environment while developing skills needed to develop life-long learners.

District Mission: The mission of the South Winneshiek Community School District program is to assist and ensure that every student achieves his/her level of educational excellence in the areas of academic, career, and social/emotional development through a collaborative partnership with students, family, educators, and community.

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Meeting was called to order 4:30 P.M. Mr. Einck provided a background of the Committee's purpose. School-wide achievement is typically the focus of the September meeting, but no data was available.
2. Members present: Kris Einck, Connie, Evans, Clark Goltz, Anna Olson Johnson, Mary Kleve, Andrea Ondrashek. Molly Tjossem, Nicole Wiltgen.
3. Approval of Agenda:
4. New Business
 - A. Review of School Year specifically hybrid schedules and mitigation strategies.
 1. District was asked to develop a Return-2-Learn Plan including all aspects of the school year. There were numerous subcommittees which worked to develop the plan. The goal was to get students back to school in a safe and responsible manner. The Governor's mandate changed the developed plan from (1) Hybrid, (2) Face-to-Face and (3) Virtual Plan to only two options: (1) Face-to Face and (2) Hybrid Option.
 2. If changes in the Covid-19 positivity rate occur, schedules and options may vary. Concern about the increase in the positivity rates over the holidays is an area of concern and something that will be observed.
 3. Learning Options
 1. E/MS - Cohorts or learning pods are utilized in the elementary/middle school. This option allows for the students to remain in the same classroom and the instructor moves. At the elementary/middle school Seesaw is the selected software platform. If they had to switch to all virtual,

the students would be ready. The guidance was that there should be no more than 30 minutes of work for a student in the core classes. Assignments and online work vary between teachers and content. Concern over the lack of rigor for the “Friday” online work was discussed. Teachers felt that the elementary teachers will require more assignments and higher academic expectations on Seesaw than they have the first quarter. Schoology is used at the middle school level. The general consensus is that the majority of elementary/middle school students want to be in school.

2. HS - Currently half of the students are in the building at a time. The option now is that 50 students attend online all of the time and 52 students are in the building all of the time. Now that it is the end of the quarter, high school students who were not successful online have been encouraged to come into the school. Several teachers at the high school have quizzes at different times throughout the class period. Attendance is taken every period, every day at the high school.
4. Mitigation Strategies:
 1. All students/staff are encouraged to wear masks.
 2. Handwashing and sanitizing are encouraged as much as possible.
 3. Lunches are taking place in the classroom.
 4. Cohorts and pods are used when possible to reduce the student class size.
 5. Instruments and covers for the instrument openings.
 6. The busing at the end of the day changed to various exits based on the grade level. Snow days will be total “online learning” days; combination of asynchronous and synchronous options.
5. Snow days will be total “online learning” days; combination of asynchronous and synchronous options. The plan is for elementary students to send their computers home on days if there is enough lead time. Seesaw for grades K-5 and Schoology for grades 5-12 can be accessed at home as well.
 1. Parents were surveyed regarding internet service. In most cases, there is adequate access. Jet Packs were purchased for Horizon which provide “hotspots” for selected families.
6. The Covid-19 Meal Programs at St Teresa of Calcutta was established from March through the end of summer. It provided free meals to any student up through age 18 who resided in the district. The State of Iowa approved in August that all schools and students in the South Winneshiek CSD and St. Teresa of Calcutta Schools

are eligible and will receive free meals through the remainder of the school year.

7. The plan for Fridays for the elementary/middle school beginning at the start of the second semester is yet to be decided. The issue is that holidays/winter break may cause an increase in the positivity rate. Parents are concerned about the loss of education and the lack of childcare. Teachers are concerned about the lack of additional planning time if Fridays were not used as they are now for planning.
5. Announcement
 - A. Next Regular Meeting: January 20, 2021, Calmar Board Room, 4:30 P.M.
6. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Suggested Items for the April 2021 SIAC Meeting Agenda:

1. **Review of Industrial Education Program from Mr. Bakewell**
2. **Review of Agriculture Education Program from Mrs. Hageman**
3. **Review of Business Education Program from Mrs. Roys**