

Irvine Unified School District

Education Advisory Committee Minutes

February 28, 2019

Thursday, 6:03 p.m.

Administrative Center

5050 Barranca Parkway

Irvine, CA 92604

- Call to Order:** Cassie Parham called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.
- Roll Call:** Attendance taken via sign-in sheet
- Members Present:** Beatrice Tseng-Chen, Cassie Parham, Cathryn Mah, Christina Masciel, Kathy Overman, Kevork Abazajian, Lynzi Gorzycki, Mike Genest, Naveed Siddiqui, Phoebe Lo-Wang, Sandi Lester
- Members Absent:** Allison Shi, Aniela Lynn Bokota, Diane Kim, Divya Ponniah, Janelle Cranch, Jim Leung, Jo-Ann Welche, Mary Kelly, Neiman Araque, Sofia Chambers, Teri Sorey, Terry Walker
- Staff Present:** Alan Schlichting, Alyssa McCanne, Annie Brown, Catherine Holmes, Chris Weber, Heather Phillips, Keith Tuominen, Stan Machesky
- Next Meeting Date:** May 16, 2019
- Check-in:** Committee and staff members introduced themselves.
- Approval of Minutes:** Approve the minutes of the December 6, 2018 meeting as presented. Passed with a motion by Phoebe Lo-Wang, and seconded by Mike Genest.
- Adoption of the Agenda:** Adopt agenda as presented. Passed with a motion by Beatrice Tseng-Chen and seconded by Kevork Abazajian.

Education Advisory Committee Business

- **Grading Practices That Support Student Learning**
Catherine Holmes, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning and Alyssa McCanne, Coordinator Data & Assessment presented an overview IUSD's shift to Standards Based Grading.
 - We are missing the mark
 - What is the most important thing that a grade needs to convey
 - Grading True North - Efficacy and Accuracy
 - Standards Based Mindset
 - Give Students Full Credit for what they know

- Zero on the 100 Point Scale
- Averaging: The Mean Can Be Mean
- Reassessment
- Redefining Our Homework as Practice
- Redefine Responsibility
- Examining Our Practices
 - Heather Phillips, Director of Literacy, explained what professional learning for our teachers will look like moving forward to support this shift.
 - Chris Weber, Director of STEM, described the work of District staff, site Administrators, and site PLC Facilitator coaches to train and support teachers in this shift.
- Question and Answer:
 - Cathryn Mah asked about the timing for implementation and what will the communication to parents be about this shift?
 - Has there been buy in from Universities?
 - Regarding transcripts - will the weight of each letter grade remain the same?
 - Kevork Abazajian mentioned that this shift is also happening at the University level.
 - Naveed Siddiqui - At the teacher level this is going to take a lot of work. Do we have an example of where this has already worked?
 - Lynzi Gorzycki, Woodbridge High School math teacher, shared what the WHS math department is doing regarding their shift to standards based grading.
 - Christina Masciel, Jeffrey Trail Middle School social science teacher, described some of the challenges teachers face with this shift and how they are working through them.
 - Mike Genest asked if students feel like they are falling behind on other parts of math when they are spending time relearning and reassessing missed learning targets?
 - Beatrice Tseng-Chen asked how do teachers continue to teach new content while they are continuing to reteach missed standards?
- **Small Group Breakouts:**
 - What do parents need to know about grading reform? What message points about grading reform would most resonate with our parent community?
 - Top three feedback ideas:
 - How can parents help?
 - It's not about 'when' learning occurs
 - Transcripts and letter grades are not going to change
 - What might be the most common concerns about grading reform that our parents may have?
 - Top three feedback idea:
 - How will this impact high school transcripts for college?

- Parents may not understand / may be confused by a new system (ex. 1-5)
 - Will students have equity when transferring in to high school? Into middle school? All transitions within a school?
 - What are the best methods and strategies to communicate with our community about grading reform?
 - Top three feedback ideas:
 - Information night
 - Continual exposure
 - Via students
- **Suggested topics for future**
 - What are the changes in Science curriculum?
 - What is the assimilation process to navigate school as a new or immigrant student, parent engagement and how does IUSD embrace diversity across our district?
 - Student to teacher ratio - what is happening moving forward?
- **Adjournment**
 - Meet was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. on a motion made by, Kevork Abazajian and seconded by Beatrice Tseng.