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Date Submitted: Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Date of Board Meeting: Monday, August 9, 2021

Board Member Making Request: Director Dan Greenwell

Submission(s): 1 Letters and 6 Exhibits re: ESSER Funds and Iowa Assessments

Regular Board Meeting Agenda Item: **XI.B** Return to Learn Plan and ESSER III Budget

August 4, 2021

Dr. Paul Gausman
Superintendent
Sioux City Community School District
627 4th Street
Sioux City, IA 51101

Dr. Gausman:

The Sioux City Community School District has been allocated an additional \$38 million dollars of ESSER III funding to assist in recovering from COVID impacted learning gaps and for improvements in operating conditions and facilities. This most recent allocation is in addition to approximately \$30 million dollars from ESSER II and ESSER I allocations.

To assist in determining where this windfall funding should be spent, your Administration provided a listing of potential items, with no dollar amounts identified, to the Board, All Staff and Parents. You asked us to rank them in order of priority. During the Finance Committee meeting on August 2, 2021, I shared a comparison, from the Board Meeting held on June 28, 2021, between the Administration's ranking and the Board's ranking. That comparison ranking is attached to this letter as Attachment 1. At the August 2, 2021, Finance Committee meeting you indicated the priority comparison document creates division. I strongly disagreed. Your Administration may not subscribe to the practice of transparency and accountability. However, you should. I do recognize these significant ranking differences may be embarrassing for you.

The document (Attachment 1) does show that your Administration's priorities are significantly different from the Board's. For example, your Administration's 1st, 2nd and 3rd priorities were ranked well down the list by the Board at ranking order of 15, 13, and 14, respectively. It also highlights key Board priorities that were ranked much higher than your Administration's.

When ESSER III funding of \$38 million dollars is being committed it deserves strong review, robust discussion, debate, and oversight. This is not a "blank check program". The public is entitled to and deserves transparency and accountability by both your Administration and the Board. I anticipate finalizing the comparisons by including the staff and parent's ranking results. I will want to see the underlying data of the staff and parent ranking which supports their aggregated results on which your Administration will report.

Also attached are the Spring 2021 Iowa Assessment preliminary results in Exhibits A – E. These graphs and tables indicate shocking under performance which contradicts your earlier "accelerated" performance notes to the Board. As I have discussed several times, much of our spending focus of ESSER II and ESSER III should be directed toward the classrooms (students and teachers). These assessment results clearly show that we are struggling in most subject areas and grades. I have highlighted areas in "red" where non-proficiency exceeds 50% of total students. There are a huge number of areas where non-proficiency exceeds 40% of total students. These poor results should generate a call for action.

Dr. Paul Gausman

August 4, 2021

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The sobering reality of these assessment results show that significant effort and funds should be focused on instructional recovery and remediation. Based on actions and discussions to date, I believe you and your Administration are not focused on the classroom recovery with the ESSER II and III funds. We have a responsibility and obligation to provide a quality education to students under our watch. These assessment results do not demonstrate we are accomplishing that goal. We need significant intervention and remediation action, and we should use the ESSER funds accordingly.

I remain very concerned that your Administration's current direction (based on your rankings and numerous discussions) is not focused on the classrooms and student learning. Instead, they largely appear to target pet projects and "things", not students and teachers. Let's focus the right thing – classrooms.

Sincerely,



Daniel Greenwell

Director

Sioux City Community School District

Sioux City Community School District

ATTACHMENT 1

ESSER III - Priority Ranking Comparison - June 28, 2021

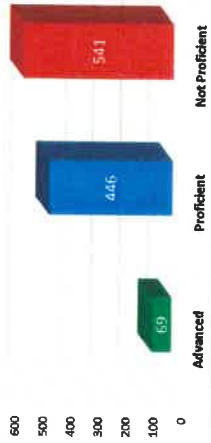
Principles 1 - 22				
Top 10 Disconnect Rank	[A] - [B] Level of Disconnect	[A] Board Rank	[B] Admin Rank	Description
6	-10	1	11	Mental health services
1	-20	2	22	Add teachers up to the number as is practical
	-4	3	7	Extend items approved in ESSER II into ESSER III
	-1	4	5	Request for Proposal - Homework club and summer programming
	-3	5	8	Trades building
	2	6	4	Curriculum work
8	-7	7	14	Family Support Coordinator
7	-8	8	16	Permanent substitute teacher
9	-6	9	15	Mentoring program
	-3	10	13	Expand connectivity
	2	11	9	Pay increase in transportation costs
10	6	12	6	Relief to general fund
4	11	13	2	Lease teaching space for virtual teachers
5	11	14	3	Air ventilation systems
2	14	15	1	Develop second floor of the Career Academy
	4	16	12	Add two months to preschool secretary's contract
	-1	17	18	Extra bus
	-1	18	19	Work days for librarians and library assistants
	2	19	17	Employee to review utilization of software
	0	20	20	IJAG program
	0	21	21	Transportation for all students
3	12	22	10	Update Board Room equipment

Principles 1 - 9				
Top 3 Disconnect Rank	[C] - [D] Level of Disconnect	[C] Board Rank	[D] Admin Rank	Description
	0	1	1	Learning opportunities regarding accelerating learning
	0	2	2	Learning opportunities regarding use of interventions and skill development
	-2	3	5	Intervention materials
2	-4	4	8	After school tutoring
3	-4	5	9	Summer school
	2	6	4	Assessment system
	0	7	7	Home visits
	2	8	6	Learning opportunities regarding virtual learning
1	6	9	3	Solution Tree RtI at Work virtual conference

HIGH SCHOOL - Iowa Assessments - Preliminary Results

EXHIBIT A

9th Grade Math - Spring 2021



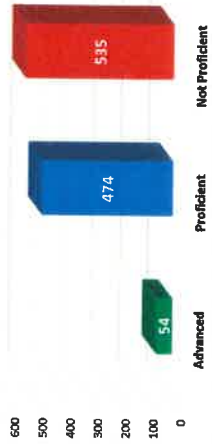
9th - Math	Math %
Advanced	69
Proficient	446
Not Proficient	541
	1,056
	7%
	42%
	51%
	100%

9th Grade English Language Arts - Spring 2021



9th - ELA	ELA %
Advanced	51
Proficient	574
Not Proficient	439
	1,064
	5%
	54%
	41%
	100%

10th Grade Math - Spring 2021



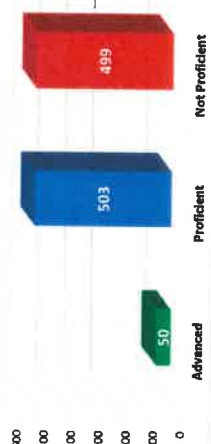
10th - Math	Math %
Advanced	54
Proficient	474
Not Proficient	535
	1,063
	5%
	45%
	50%
	100%

10th Grade English Language Arts - Spring 2021



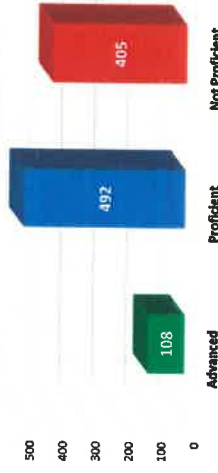
10th - ELA	ELA %
Advanced	53
Proficient	593
Not Proficient	400
	1,046
	5%
	57%
	38%
	100%

10th Grade Science - Spring 2021



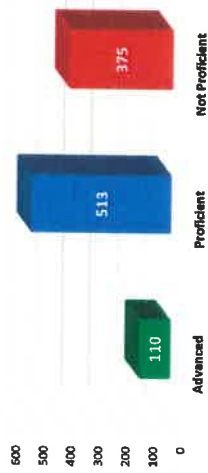
10th Science	Science %
Advanced	50
Proficient	503
Not Proficient	499
	1,052
	5%
	48%
	47%
	100%

11th Grade Math - Spring 2021



11th - Math	Math %
Advanced	108
Proficient	492
Not Proficient	405
	1,005
	11%
	49%
	40%
	100%

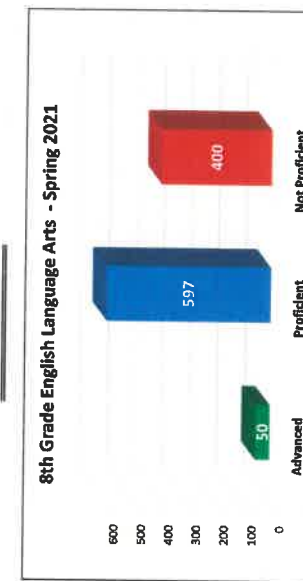
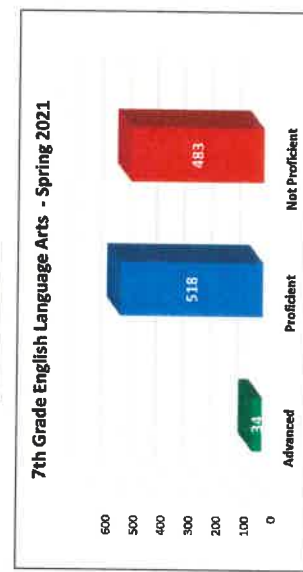
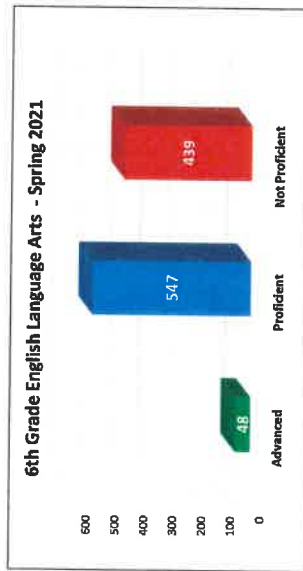
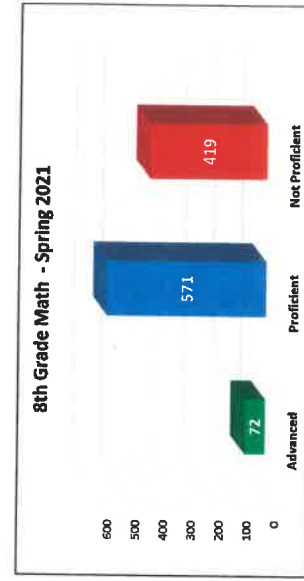
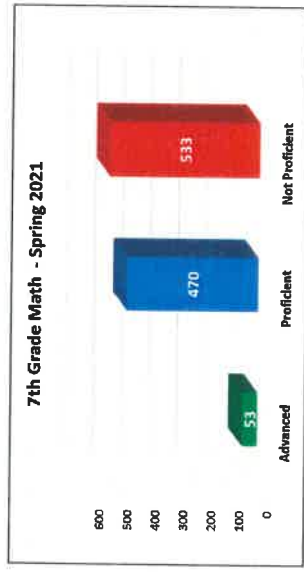
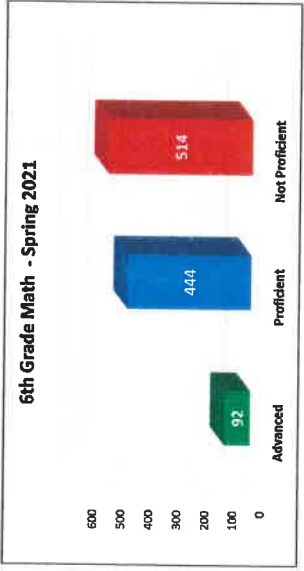
11th Grade English Language Arts - Spring 2021



11th - ELA	ELA %
Advanced	110
Proficient	513
Not Proficient	375
	998
	11%
	51%
	38%
	100%

MIDDLE SCHOOL - Iowa Assessments - Preliminary Results

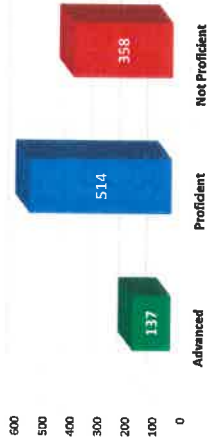
EXHIBIT B



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Iowa Assessments - Preliminary Results

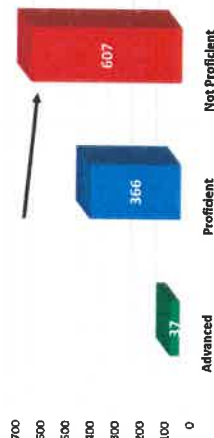
EXHIBIT C

3rd Grade Math - Spring 2021



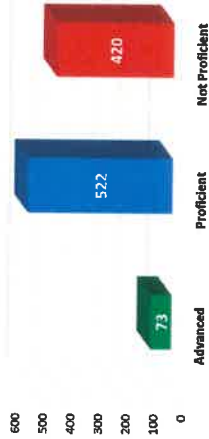
3rd - Math	Math %
Advanced	14%
Proficient	51%
Not Proficient	35%
	1,009
	100%

3rd Grade English Language Arts - Spring 2021



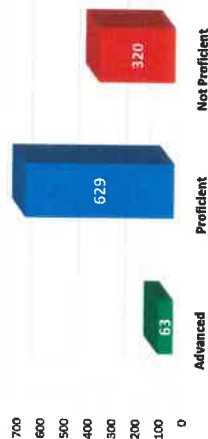
3rd - ELA	ELA %
Advanced	4%
Proficient	36%
Not Proficient	60% HOLY COW !!!
	1,010
	100%

4th Grade Math - Spring 2021



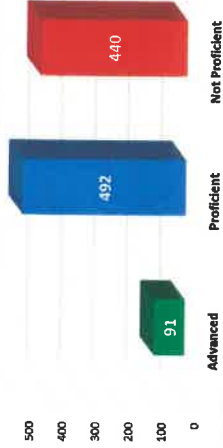
4th - Math	Math %
Advanced	7%
Proficient	51%
Not Proficient	41%
	1,015
	100%

4th Grade English Language Arts - Spring 2021



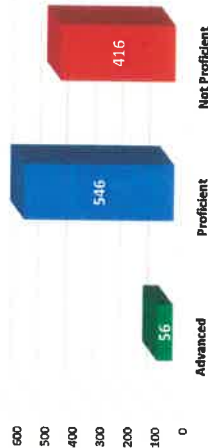
4th - ELA	ELA %
Advanced	6%
Proficient	62%
Not Proficient	32%
	1,012
	100%

5th Grade Math - Spring 2021



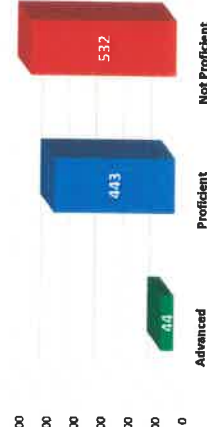
5th - Math	Math %
Advanced	9%
Proficient	48%
Not Proficient	43%
	1,023
	100%

5th Grade English Language Arts - Spring 2021



5th - ELA	ELA %
Advanced	6%
Proficient	54%
Not Proficient	41%
	1,018
	100%

5th Grade Science - Spring 2021



5th Science	Science %
Advanced	4%
Proficient	43%
Not Proficient	52%
	1,019
	100%

Sioux City Community School District Iowa Assessment Preliminary Results - Spring 2021

HIGH SCHOOL

EXHIBIT D

9				
	Advanced	Proficient	Not Prof.	NP %
EAST ELA	24	206	133	37%
NORTH ELA	13	208	174	44%
WEST ELA	14	160	121	41%
Total	51	574	428	41%

10				
	Advanced	Proficient	Not Prof.	NP %
EAST Math	32	151	181	50%
NORTH Math	23	182	184	47%
WEST Math	14	113	176	58%
Total	69	446	541	51%

11				
	Advanced	Proficient	Not Prof.	NP %
EAST Math	39	161	139	41%
NORTH Math	30	170	127	39%
WEST Math	39	161	139	41%
Total	108	492	405	40%

EAST Science				
NORTH Science				
WEST Science				
Total				

EAST Science	21	174	167	46%
NORTH Science	19	199	182	46%
WEST Science	10	130	150	52%
Total	50	503	499	47%

MIDDLE SCHOOL

6				
	Advanced	Proficient	Not Prof.	NP %
EAST ELA	29	209	79	25%
NORTH ELA	11	197	218	51%
WEST ELA	8	141	142	49%
Total	48	547	439	42%

7				
	Advanced	Proficient	Not Prof.	NP %
EAST ELA	11	208	124	36%
NORTH ELA	16	178	219	53%
WEST ELA	7	132	140	50%
Total	34	518	483	47%

8				
	Advanced	Proficient	Not Prof.	NP %
EAST ELA	21	210	95	29%
NORTH ELA	21	205	184	45%
WEST ELA	8	182	121	39%
Total	50	597	400	38%

EAST Math	40	171	121	36%
NORTH Math	33	142	252	59%
WEST Math	19	131	141	48%
Total	92	444	514	49%

EAST Math	27	190	144	40%
NORTH Math	16	155	245	59%
WEST Math	10	125	144	52%
Total	53	470	533	50%

EAST Math	31	178	126	38%
NORTH Math	24	212	174	42%
WEST Math	17	181	119	38%
Total	72	571	419	39%

EAST Science	44	165	128	38%
NORTH Science	26	150	224	56%
WEST Science	25	148	144	45%
Total	95	463	496	47%

Sioux City Community School District Iowa Assessment Preliminary Results - Spring 2021

ELEMENTARY

EXHIBIT E

		3		
		Advanced	Proficient	NP %
Bryant	Eng. Lang. Arts	2	30	41
Hunt	Eng. Lang. Arts	3	8	30
Irving	Eng. Lang. Arts	3	15	94
Leeds	Eng. Lang. Arts	3	34	64
Liberty	Eng. Lang. Arts	2	29	80
Loess Hills	Eng. Lang. Arts	2	32	65
Morningside	Eng. Lang. Arts	4	33	50
Perry Creek	Eng. Lang. Arts	11	57	30
Riverside	Eng. Lang. Arts	3	13	21
Spalding Park	Eng. Lang. Arts	0	35	62
Sunnyside	Eng. Lang. Arts	2	47	33
Unity	Eng. Lang. Arts	2	33	37
Total	Eng. Lang. Arts	37	366	607

		4		
		Advanced	Proficient	NP %
Bryant	Eng. Lang. Arts	5	48	20
Hunt	Eng. Lang. Arts	3	29	10
Irving	Eng. Lang. Arts	1	63	62
Leeds	Eng. Lang. Arts	6	68	33
Liberty	Eng. Lang. Arts	3	54	43
Loess Hills	Eng. Lang. Arts	6	55	34
Morningside	Eng. Lang. Arts	2	59	40
Perry Creek	Eng. Lang. Arts	19	74	15
Riverside	Eng. Lang. Arts	2	25	15
Spalding Park	Eng. Lang. Arts	7	66	19
Sunnyside	Eng. Lang. Arts	6	48	14
Unity	Eng. Lang. Arts	3	40	15
Total	Eng. Lang. Arts	63	629	320

		5		
		Advanced	Proficient	NP %
Bryant	Eng. Lang. Arts	2	38	14
Hunt	Eng. Lang. Arts	0	19	18
Irving	Eng. Lang. Arts	0	44	72
Leeds	Eng. Lang. Arts	4	58	54
Liberty	Eng. Lang. Arts	1	44	73
Loess Hills	Eng. Lang. Arts	5	57	36
Morningside	Eng. Lang. Arts	9	62	40
Perry Creek	Eng. Lang. Arts	5	66	27
Riverside	Eng. Lang. Arts	2	26	8
Spalding Park	Eng. Lang. Arts	9	40	32
Sunnyside	Eng. Lang. Arts	14	61	11
Unity	Eng. Lang. Arts	5	31	31
Total	Eng. Lang. Arts	56	546	416

		3		
		Advanced	Proficient	NP %
Bryant	Math	10	43	20
Hunt	Math	3	21	17
Irving	Math	6	46	60
Leeds	Math	6	57	38
Liberty	Math	6	51	53
Loess Hills	Math	17	54	28
Morningside	Math	11	47	29
Perry Creek	Math	38	44	16
Riverside	Math	2	22	13
Spalding Park	Math	10	44	43
Sunnyside	Math	21	47	14
Unity	Math	7	38	27
Total	Math	137	514	358

		4		
		Advanced	Proficient	NP %
Bryant	Math	4	40	30
Hunt	Math	3	30	9
Irving	Math	2	50	76
Leeds	Math	8	57	43
Liberty	Math	4	40	56
Loess Hills	Math	5	48	42
Morningside	Math	5	53	42
Perry Creek	Math	17	63	28
Riverside	Math	2	23	17
Spalding Park	Math	12	44	36
Sunnyside	Math	11	44	13
Unity	Math	0	30	28
Total	Math	73	522	420

		5		
		Advanced	Proficient	NP %
Bryant	Math	7	30	18
Hunt	Math	2	16	19
Irving	Math	1	41	75
Leeds	Math	6	55	55
Liberty	Math	2	36	80
Loess Hills	Math	10	54	35
Morningside	Math	12	59	42
Perry Creek	Math	14	54	30
Riverside	Math	5	24	7
Spalding Park	Math	3	38	40
Sunnyside	Math	26	52	8
Unity	Math	3	33	31
Total	Math	91	492	440

		3		
		Advanced	Proficient	NP %
Bryant	Science	1	28	26
Hunt	Science	1	20	16
Irving	Science	1	27	88
Leeds	Science	1	49	64
Liberty	Science	1	36	81
Loess Hills	Science	4	45	51
Morningside	Science	9	43	59
Perry Creek	Science	9	59	29
Riverside	Science	1	16	19
Spalding Park	Science	3	35	43
Sunnyside	Science	10	64	13
Unity	Science	3	21	43
Total	Science	44	443	532

		4		
		Advanced	Proficient	NP %
Bryant	Science	1	28	26
Hunt	Science	1	20	16
Irving	Science	1	27	88
Leeds	Science	1	49	64
Liberty	Science	1	36	81
Loess Hills	Science	4	45	51
Morningside	Science	9	43	59
Perry Creek	Science	9	59	29
Riverside	Science	1	16	19
Spalding Park	Science	3	35	43
Sunnyside	Science	10	64	13
Unity	Science	3	21	43
Total	Science	44	443	532

		5		
		Advanced	Proficient	NP %
Bryant	Science	1	28	26
Hunt	Science	1	20	16
Irving	Science	1	27	88
Leeds	Science	1	49	64
Liberty	Science	1	36	81
Loess Hills	Science	4	45	51
Morningside	Science	9	43	59
Perry Creek	Science	9	59	29
Riverside	Science	1	16	19
Spalding Park	Science	3	35	43
Sunnyside	Science	10	64	13
Unity	Science	3	21	43
Total	Science	44	443	532