

## Steele SAC Meeting - 10/18/22

### **Attendees:**

Susana Moreno  
Amanda Walls  
Maggie Couper  
Marika Gillis  
Terry Spotts  
Alli Klein  
Jessica Gemm  
Ryan Capp

1. **4th/5th grades check-in:** socio-emotional side, since academic side is more dialed in. Mr. Capp shared a few highlights of how things are going:
  - a. Culturally, it's more the norm this year compared to last year when it was unexpected. Team of up to 6 different teachers meeting to work with these two grades - that is new this year, more coordinated, planning and working together. (Field trips is one way this work is coming together - combined efforts going to the same place with different focuses depending on grade.)
  - b. Some student disagreements have been handled through the procedures that are relevant that staff are trained in. (Can't share specifics, but has been regularly monitored and there haven't been issues in the last two weeks.) Seems to be a by-product of kids moving around during the pandemic, or not going to school for a while. This year we have 40+ new kids, and 7-10+ of them were not typically schooled last year or longer. Still sorting out who needs different kinds of support - academic, counseling, special education, etc. These kids are scattered across multiple grades.
  - c. We have an awesome mental health team - they have crafted a proactive plan, talk about specific students at MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) meetings each week as a team. The whole building team meets every 5-6 weeks for a whole day for each teacher to rotate in for part of, more to focus on academics, but the mental health team and special ed team are there as well to figure out actions for specific students. This is the 3rd year of having a counselor at Steele, and Anna Donovan got some important foundations in place. This year, Meg Ford has been adding analysis of data as well as her skills in talking to kids. Emotional regulation is an area rated a little lower by teachers this year - may be more accurate/aligned with how kids rate themselves.
  - d. Teachers in the 4 / 5 classes are doing better this year. Rhonda Toombs was tapped by the district to be a mentor to a new 4/5 teacher, showing leadership in that area.
  
2. **Kinder numbers check-in, recruiting ideas to plan ahead for**
  - a. Kinder enrollment in the two classes is 22 and 23. Overall enrollment at Steele is 255 (slightly higher than last year). We've recently had 3 new applications come

in but two are in 5th grade and we don't have space. Mr. Capp has already raised this issue with his boss - we discussed how being down a teacher makes it more difficult to fix our enrollment issues, that it risks being a continuous cycle.

- b. Ideas for recruiting to consider, in partnership with PTA:
  - i. Tapping people who have choiced in to put up signs in their neighborhoods
  - ii. Little ones who aren't in school yet (we don't have space for preschool as most other elementary schools do, and we recognize that's a natural feeder).
  - iii. Community events options - share pictures on Facebook/Instagram with a tag to Steele so it's more top of mind for people. Think about a PTA sponsored event / open house to introduce people to Steele. Similar to Art Night - different activities, food available. Another idea is a family night - one night per grade level at a time, related activity to something they're doing (Marika's school does it around a concert). Providing pizza is an easy way to make these events more accessible.
  - iv. Mailers would be a good thing to do in the spring
- c. We will check back in on this at January's SAC meeting when the timing will be right to go deeper.

### **3. Special education numbers and support**

- a. 16-17 students on the caseload, higher than expected. 4-5 of these students are new to the system, 3 of them higher impact (requiring more services such as a dedicated aide).
  - b. We are approved for another paraprofessional position but it's challenging to fill as with most positions right now. Special ed team is really strong, wide range of skills, flexible in meeting needs. Would be a great team to join, likely for someone who is already in our community!
  - c. Mr. Capp is in conversation with other principals about more highly impacted students (higher numbers across the district).
  - d. "Funnel" of assessments and interventions for three tiers of kids - harder to identify kids until they are 7 or 8 due to the way the tests work for younger kids, but READ Act will inform what interventions are needed in the interim (before assessments can be effective).
4. **Other hiring:** Health tech and evening custodian are getting close to hiring. We've had a custodial company filling the gap in the evenings but they are limited in what they are allowed to do (e.g. no evening event support).
5. **Updates from SAC Training:** Jessica shared about attending the training put on by the District Accountability Committee last month (Tyler attended as well.) [Here](#) is a link to the handouts from each of the sessions.
- a. Superintendent intro

- i. Mr. Gaal has big plans to shift the orientation of the central office to be centered on schools, going out to schools, rebuilding those relationships. He mentioned wanting to stay in this role for the long-term, knows and loves Colorado Springs, and is waiting on the school board to determine that next step.
  - ii. Mr. Capp shared about how things are working so far: Change in the structure of principal support - seems to be working faster, more accountability toward Mr. Capp's director from other central departments. Before, it took multiple conversations to try to get questions answered or things accomplished. Seems more responsive now.
  - iii. First quarterly update involved representatives from several departments, felt they really listened to our situation. Mr. Capp shared that it seems hard to keep up that kind of involvement given the number of schools and meeting 3 times per year for each.
  - iv. Mr. Gaal mentioned at a school board meeting about starting the hiring process earlier so D11 can be more competitive with other districts in attracting the best teachers.
- b. Parent engagement breakout session/materials
- i. Jessica shared a presentation and report from this session (linked above). Since parent / community engagement isn't specifically a goal in our OnePlan, this is something to keep talking about how we can continue to make Steele more accessible to new families. More to explore with the PTA about some concrete ways to do this in the coming year, which will also support our enrollment efforts.
  - ii. We also talked about the idea of how can we tell the story of our school to the community, as much as possible, in different ways.

## **6. Fall test results and related topics:**

- a. STAR testing (district benchmark tests) happened in September. We took a look at Steele's results compared with other elementary schools in the district.
  - i. District-wide, new testing that replaces Galileo. We are doing it for grades 2-5.
  - ii. This round of testing gave us baseline data - 58% showing end of year (EOY) mastery already, among the highest in the district.
  - iii. Next round of testing is first week of December - can discuss in January, when that will allow us to see the progress from the September data.

## **7. November meeting: Tuesday, November 15 from 5-6 in the library**