

Steele SAC Meeting Notes - 3/21/23

Attendees:

Terry Spotts
Maggie Couper
Marika Gillis
Mona Cousino
Rob Seel
Jessica Warren
Liz Harris
Ryan Capp
Jessica Gemm

1. IB International Baccalaureate (IB) Designation/Pathway follow-up discussion.

- a. **DAC presentation last week:** To make sure the people paying attention to bigger district moves like the Academic Master Plan process know what's going on, seems to be the process step before submitting to the Board of Ed.
- b. **School board presentation 3/22** - speakers, supporters, public comment process. Non-action item for the BOE to know about the plan. In 2 weeks (4/12), BOE will vote about whether to include Steele as part of the IB pathway (they did this last year with the other pathways).
 - i. Sharing 4th/5th example about shift from wax museum to this year - had options, and had to defend their choice - huge difference in their ability to prioritize, analyze, think critically. Show that they have thought about the project in a much deeper way. Was essentially an IB project (don't all need to be that intense or long-term).
 - ii. Public comment time - starts at 9am to sign up.
- c. Put in requisitions for IB coordinator and foreign language teacher (for Spanish, for now) - in the process with HR. For 2023-24 school year. Should be ready within a few days.
- d. August 9-10 set aside for IB professional development training, here on site.
- e. IB application is in - will hear within about a month
- f. Q: What about subs? Shouldn't change anything - won't need special training or skills, will just work into existing projects and plans.

2. Enrollment and marketing ideas follow-up

- a. Signs in the office - a few left
- b. Kindergarten previews - April 7 during the day, see both rooms with kids. April 14 after school, can be without kids, overview of kinder and Steele. Social media postings for those.
- c. Advertise with district's support after the board meeting on 4/12, think about getting info out in a variety of ways. Not wait on the IB logo - just talk about what's going to happen, added positions. Could we do radio ads with district budget?

- d. UCCS outreach, maybe PPSC too.
- e. First Pres, FUMC, Early Connections
- f. Bulletin boards - flier ideas (City Rock, Y, Flipshack)

3. **Staffing allocations for 2023-2024 school year / hiring updates**

- a. Best staffing allocations we've ever had!
- b. Interviewing several candidates for openings in 4th and 5th. One person have an offer accepted for already - highly regarded teacher who has subbed here, been in the district.
- c. Matching skill sets of existing team with new team members as we interview candidates
- d. Slothower, Toombs, Pachon, Olson, Brakefield, Capp on the hiring committee; Kelly Mathews where she could. Started interviewing candidates before we could say we are in the IB process, and couldn't change the question set partway through; doing some follow-up through references to get at IB, and following up with the final candidates too - collaboration, IB qualities.
- e. 15 applications for both positions at this point, and the number of quality candidates a little lower than usual (3-4 candidates for each who are solid). Marika says the number of candidates at her school is about at that level and it's a solid number of candidates given overall hiring challenges.

4. **Testing check-in**

- a. Michelle Patchen in charge, working with Ali Ogren to get the 3-5th graders ready for the tests - playing with some tools to try them out, get familiar with how the tests work. How to process what to do with 4 choices, what strategies to use; extra time for typing. Feeling ready. Teachers are calm about it and that's coming across to the kids.
- b. Scheduling - have to coordinate some smaller groups, 1x1 needs to help kids focus the best. 5th grade also has to take science (3 more testing sessions).
- c. STAR testing the week after spring break (1-2 hours total). CMAS starts 4/11 and goes for two weeks.
- d. Q: Does IB affect state testing? Not really - would still have to do the same testing.

5. **Summer Bridge site** - Steele was asked to provide our school for a summer school site for the whole month of June. Specifically serving Stratton and Edison communities, as well as Steele (many buildings in the central area will be off-line for maintenance work this summer). Mr Capp has a meeting this week to understand more about what we're required to do, how it's structured. Have a few Steele teachers interested in teaching. Might be busing from the other schools to Steele. Shorter than the school day - morning to just a little after lunchtime.

6. **SAC leadership interest**

- a. Would love to create a gradual transition to the next SAC chair! Think about spending next year shadowing and then transitioning into chair for the following year. Time commitment is fairly small - a few hours per month at most.
- b. SAC chair role focuses on partnering with Mr. Capp to adapt the standard agenda put together by the DAC to address topics most relevant to Steele, facilitating the SAC meetings and communication about SAC to the community. Additionally, along with the PTA president, SAC chair may have the ability to see/hear issues and patterns and bring those to Mr. Capp to problem-solve, sometimes outside of regular SAC meetings.
- c. Another role for next year would be a note-taker so the SAC chair doesn't also have to do that.
- d. Let Jessica know if you're interested and have questions about either of these roles.

7. Next SAC activities

- a. SAC Training - April 6, 6-8pm - Q&A with district leadership in small groups. In person at Tesla Professional Development Center.
- b. Steele SAC meeting: April 18, 5-6 in the library