

## Steele SAC Meeting Notes - 4/18/23

### **Attendees:**

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

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

- a. Officially IB - application accepted as candidate school, and unanimous school board vote on 4/12! Board is clearly excited about it, feel accomplished in completing an entire K-12 pathway. Conversations with North principal and there's some renewal with their IB process - moving IB coordinator to full time, training for teachers that hasn't been done in a while. New principal at Palmer is excited about IB track as well, familiar with it from Discovery Canyon.
- b. Now will be able to access additional D11 pot of money for teacher training, extra pay for teachers to do unit work.
- c. Spanish teacher allocated, IB coordinator.
- d. Interviewed and hired Rhonda Toombs for IB coordinator next year - well researched, high caliber and excitement about the opportunity. Marika Gillis willing to be a resource, encourages attendance at IB ARMS meetings in Denver as much as possible - great network of support.
- e. IB dynamics - handed off now to the IB person who oversees the process to being authorized - as fast as we can do the steps well, getting the different pieces in place (building units, Spanish teacher). May be a combination of how many units you have to write and teach before authorization. Meeting with the contact person later this week to understand more about the process. IB doesn't take over our identity as a school - asks us to put more inquiry options in curriculum, more paths of understanding, building conceptual/critical thinking into their work, but doesn't get rid of early literacy or tutoring, or other things we are already doing. IB has to create parameters that fit
- f. District support - very strong, looking forward to partnering
- g. School communication - great Gazette article about IB.
- h. Advertising strategy - Paige Karn from D11 has been working on stuff - front and center on district website for now. Shared with them about 4th and 5th grade space especially. Starting to get cold calls from parents asking about IB - that is starting to trickle out.
- i. OnePlan Symposium to shape goals and focus for next year

- i. Every year schools create improvement plans - currently called OnePlan. Start with gathering data (STAR data, growth data), then on June 1-2 a small group of teachers and staff gather to review data, build the goals for next year. SAC are welcome to join the whole thing, or can plan for a 1-hour overview.
- ii. Build 2-3 goals for the year. Main goals will focus on IB implementation.
- iii. Will also look at SEL data - 5E survey and Panorama surveys, assessments of belonging. Q: Are parents opting out of surveys? A: Haven't seen that happening (some lack of clarity about new BOE policy for external surveys vs. surveys the district specifically has contracted to do like these two)

## 2. Enrollment and marketing ideas follow-up

- a. Check in on projected numbers so far - don't have updated numbers, but we are about where we should be for K and 1, 24-26 for each class. (IB doesn't change class size requirements.)
- b. What does "capacity" for the building mean? We are rated for 274, highest it's been recently is 312, but we had 5 fewer adults then (and more space for kids to be), so it's not clear where everyone would fit with all the small groups.

## 3. Hiring updates

- a. 4th and 5th - Hannah Jameson hired from Columbia; have done some other interviews but not quite the right fit yet for other roles, 3 more candidates coming in this week. Keeping the jobs posted until filled, applications are trickling in.
- b. Spanish - have a few applicants, in the middle of interviews. Tricky because have to be able to work with all levels of kids, collaborate with teachers, understand IB philosophy, and speak two languages. Spreading the word is helpful - don't want someone new to teaching; would be helpful if they have some expertise to manage all the dynamics.
- c. IB coordinator - hired!
- d. Thinking about doing a meet-the-new-staff night if we have hired them before the end of the year.
- e. Looking ahead to other support positions - special ed? - Fully staffed in special ed again, 3 people here full-time. Better right away! Have a few more special ed approvals happening for students, and may cause another special ed position to be added. Not sure about next year's staffing depending on bargaining; school board seems to be aware of the issues they need to address around pay.
- f. Space challenges - looking at how to partition spaces to make better use of the space for small group and 1x1 work. Mindful of Y's needs for space and their after school programs will continue.
- g. Mr Capp met with North principal and AP today - will continue the partnership on 5th grade math group, may be a different teacher next year. Idea they're working on to extend to other schools in the North feeder system, maybe use an activity bus to move kids around from multiple schools, possibly to host here - very early

in planning (likely not for next fall). Would be a great way to connect kids across schools who would be in class together. 15 kids in that program now, would like to get it to 18.

#### 4. General updates:

- a. Testing so far (if updates)
  - i. STAR data - math growth data from most recent is above the district (one of the top 2 scores in district!), ELA data really good too. (More specific numbers to share at next meeting.)
  - ii. CMAS is on the rise in importance again in the state and district. Low makeups, not too many opt-outs (should be above 95% threshold the state watches - can lose points in the school performance rating if too many opt out). Not a lot of reports of kids flying through, more taking their time. Finishing this week. Stamina gets harder the last few days.
- b. Summer Bridge (summer school) updates:
  - i. Steele will host for our students, as well as Edison, Stratton. Have 11-12 teachers who are interested in teaching, many from the other two schools - will prioritize Edison teachers since they will bring the most kids (and having teachers from the other schools helps students feel more "at home" even if not in their building). Mr Capp will be the principal. Could run as many as 12 classrooms, 15 kids max per classroom.
  - ii. Invitation-only, based on data - kids on READ plans, early literacy and math plans. (District is trying to use up Covid funds so there are some strings attached in how to use it.) Other needs identified. Will go backward to focus on skill work, then preview what will come for the next grade.
  - iii. PE and other experiences as well, move kids around throughout the week, money for field trips for a summer feel.
  - iv. Q: Timing? 8-1 each day, breakfast and lunch included. Month-long in June.
  - v. Q: Why is Steele hosting, what's the benefit? When it's been at Taylor, the kids just tend not to go; benefit is we'll have more of our kids who need it because it's home base.
- c. SAC training report-out:
  - i. SAC Training is put on by District Accountability Committee (DAC) each quarter. Different topics throughout the year; good opportunity to understand more about what's happening across the district, at different levels.
  - ii. The April SAC training was focused on a superintendent report on the progress thus far this year, and then breakout groups by area superintendent. Good exposure to common issues and questions; Bryan Relich (Steele's area superintendent) was very open to all questions and did his best to take feedback and tried to provide answers.

- d. SAC leadership for next year: Open to others who might want to chair SAC or be interested in using next year to “train” with Jessica and then take on the chair the following year; Rob Seel has offered to take notes next year.

**5. Next SAC activities**

- a. Last meeting for the year: May 16, 5-6 in the library - after track and field day (5th graders gone May 8-10). Will keep this on the calendar as we'll have a few topics to check in on.
- b. OnePlan symposium: June 1-2 if SAC members want to join
- c. SAC schedule for next year: plan to keep 3rd Tuesday, 5-6pm, starting in September. Those dates are:

September 19

October 17

\*November 14 (2nd Tuesday, pending confirmation with PTA)

December 19

January 16, 2024

February 20

March 19

April 16

\*May TBD (will coordinate with PTA calendar and avoid last day of school)