12/5/22 Mandarin Immersion Magnet School SDMC meeting minutes

Attendees:
Principal Ying
Steven Wang
Patricia Butler
Patrinia Baksmaty
Bin Wang
Ms. Sharma
Niraj Jain
Mr. Pineda

Topics:

1. Blue ribbon school:
   ○ What is it? Award provided by Washington DC, accredited school can apply for it, need to meet a certain criteria, need to show growth if they are a low performing school, but if high performing school then show what sets us apart (language, athletics, UIL and chess)
   ○ Benefits of the Blue ribbon school: recognition -
   ○ Will take min. 3-5 years, will require significant work, teachers will have to work together, have to put teachers and committees. Largest group will be curriculum.
   ○ 3 of teacher's schools are Blue Ribbon -
   ○ Does not need to just be core classes of english / math / etc. Other schools throw in drama, art, special services,
   ○ How to gain agreement? To bring it up with parents, can ask the parents on the PTO to raise it at a meeting. Also need to raise it with HISD for district support
   ○ Certain items of interest: how will it affect enrollment? Also how will it align with our student achievement goals?
   ○ Will need department chairs that will align vertically all the goals for the core subjects (like english / math) for the blue ribbon - but need to collect data on STAAR tests or other standardized testing tools to demonstrate improvement
   ○ Need to interview for the dept chair positions since it will take significant time and work
   ○ There needs to be some incentive for the teachers / dept chairs to follow through
   ○ For other things like science, history, math etc. suggestion to bring that in-house
   ○ Need to check whether we can self-nominate
   ○ At magnet events, MIMS is promoting performance of middle school
   ○ Request to collect feedback from other parents and teachers on whether to pursue. Possible do a Q&A session to collect more info.

2. Level Chinese and beyond:
   ○ The way instruction has been done has not changed, despite a change in the curriculum to Level Chinese
   ○ Is it worth considering to group the kids differently? Target groupings according to skill level
   ○ It can make it easier to target teaching skill level, the more advanced kids will get less bored and can be challenged more
   ○ It can make it more difficult to group the lower performing students with bad behavior, also more difficult for teachers to teach this group
HISD used to do GT class and ESL classes separate - can sacrifice the learning objectives if the kids are not mature enough to deal with the arrangement

3. Student recruitment:
   - Our recruiting number has been 820 every year at our optimistic goal. Every year we have been short of that goal by 60 - 80 students.
   - Drop in % acceptances are seen more in lower grades than in higher grades.
   - Yoy expecting to grow about 20 students in middle school - will need to recruit more teachers
   - Try to minimize the number of waivers filled due to student / teacher ratio generally
   - The additional budget is not proportional to the additional students and type of students that we get. Could detract from the blue ribbon goal.

4. School improvement: AppleTv, Chromecast, etc.
   - $1000 per classroom to update the software every year. A lot of boards the connections are not very good
   - Advantage of classroom management, detached from the board, can walk around the classroom and have notes digitized
   - Can we do mirror360 app on the school laptop to cast?
   - User education will be an investment in time and effort, so that leads us to want to select a single mode.
   - Implementation would be gradual, grade by grade

5. Request for SDMC meeting policy and procedures:
   - Was not given the opportunity to add item to the agenda for this meeting. Ms. Baksmaty requested to add an item of special education to the agenda and was not provided the opportunity to discuss it, since it was not added to the meeting agenda.
   - Also, Ms. Baksmaty requested clarification on the SIP and how it was finalized. Principal Ying said that SIP needs to be finalized and so it was signed off at the time of the deadline.