

### **GROUP 1 SCHOOLS**

I am applying for:

- ☒ Certified Teacher, PK/Elem
- ☐ Certified Teacher, Middle/High
- ☐ Certified, Special Education, PK-12

### **GROUP 2 SCHOOLS**

I am applying for:

- ☐ Certified Teacher, At-Large, PK-12
- ☐ Certified, Performing/Visual Arts, PK-12
- ☐ Certified, Gifted/Talented, PK-12

### **GROUP 3 SCHOOLS**

I am applying for:

- ☐ Certified Teacher, At-Large, PK-12
- ☐ Certified, Non-Teaching, At-Large, PK-12
- ☐ Certified, Foreign Language, PK-12

Name \*

Grace Tolleson

Campus \*

Pine Shadows Elementary

Certification \*

EC-6 and 7-12 ELA

Subject(s) currently teaching \*

Two way Dual math and science

Grade level(s) currently teaching \*

2

Years of service in SBISD \*

3

What skills and experience do you bring that would enhance your contribution to the DIT? \*

I believe that I have been in many different positions in quite a few different schools and districts and would be able to bring insight on what could be better and what we are doing awesome already! I also love SBISD more than any other district and am committed to making it the best it can be. I have a very positive attitude and want to make sure that I can bring that to all levels of my job.

What are the major challenges you see SBISD facing in the next two years? \*

I believe the challenges will be the teacher shortage, the rising standards and expectations on teachers and students, and additionally, the ever growing academic gaps in our students. Covid is finally showing it's affect and I think it is important that we come up with plans to support students, kids AND teachers in this transition time. We need to make sure the people making decisions are aware of the challenges we are now facing in schools. All types of teachers are leaving because of the stress we are under and I believe that even at a district level, there are things we can do to help that. I believe my insights come from all different places. They come from the perspective of currently being in the classroom and still loving it, and also come from another time in my career when I left because I did not think teaching was for me. Different points of view are very important and I want to contribute mine!

What role do you see the DIT having to address these challenges? \*

I believe I can speak from the point of view as someone who is inside a school everyday and who genuinely loves being here. I am not immune to it's challenges and overwhelming responsibilities at times, but I find that it only makes me more passionate, and I need to find an avenue to drive that passion. I want to find realistic and useful solutions to our problems, without asking the teachers to do more than we are already doing, but still maintaining accountability for our schools, teachers and students.

What knowledge and/or experience do you hope to gain by serving as a DIT member? \*

I hope to gain some insight on what goes on in a different level of education. I think it would be beneficial to bring back to my team/ campus a different perspective on what the people above us are being asked to do. I want to find a middle ground between the admin building and the classroom. Also, personally, I would like to gain some leadership experience. I am not yet ready to move out of the classroom, but I am interested in something like that eventually and I think any experience at a different level is necessary. This seems an especially great opportunity because the impact and work I could do would be positive and beneficial for everyone.