



The 30th Avenue School (Q300)
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Middle School Campus
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www.Q300.org
Vasilios Biniaris, IA Principal

SLT Meeting - 11/7/16

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Members present

Alex Lunz
Andrea Tappert
Pooja O'Hanlon
Betty Eck
Jill Kaufman
Kalliopi Hatziathanasiou
Bill Biniaris
Kristina Jelinek (guest)
Mara Cusker Gonzalez
Elizabeth Yarmy

Members Not Present

Jason Booher
Ali Lisberger
Maria Hantzopoulos
Minnie Zen

Review and Approval of Minutes from 10/20/16

Alex - motioned to approve
Kallie - second
All in favor to pass approval of minutes

Principal's Report -

Bill and Kristina met with a group of parents Thursday, 11/3 about how the MS schedule has been impacted after Annette's resignation and about using current teachers to fill in. They answered parents' questions about their choices and plans. The decision to work

with our teachers was made because our teachers know about our school, students and courses. This decision seemed less risky. Bill and Kristina met with teachers as well about their concerns.

This decision leaves room to address the MS Spanish issue that has come up in the past. We are hoping to get an F status Spanish teacher (part time certified) teacher at the MS. The longer term vision is to have a full time staff person to teach Spanish.

Recess and lunch at the ES: We are using two spaces (cafeteria and the 30th Avenue yard).

For safety, the kids are broken up into groups at stations for recess. Bill reported that some parents feel it is too structured. Others feel that it is unstructured and not safe. Bill feels that things are safe and all students have an opportunity for 20-25 minutes of recess time. He is still waiting for HR to get information on sharing a school aide with PS 17 in order to open up the other recess yard.

The MS Taconic Outdoor Education Center overnight trip is taking place on Monday and Tuesday (11/14 and 11/15).

The school Quality Review will be taking place on November 15th and 16th. It will be a comprehensive look at instruction, planning, culture and stakeholder involvement. There is a parent group who will be involved in the QR.

Andrea posed the question: What is the status with the books/materials? Has the lack of books and curriculum impacted the reading groups?

Alex answered that he has been teaching strategies for comprehension (for example). When the books arrive, he will have more opportunity for targeted instruction.

Bill will be calling tomorrow to follow up on the book/materials order.

A question was posed: Has there been a delay in the start of the reading groups?

Alex answered that assessment has taken awhile. With each individual assessment, depending on the progress over the summer, teachers may be reading several books with a student. The average assessment time is 15-20 minutes per child. An entire curriculum in terms of book sets was disposed of over the summer. Normally we would have students on each level interact with one text in a small group. Alex has been working on skills in the whole group. For example, inferring characters' feelings.

Pooja posed a question: What is the new report card system?

Bill answered that STARS is the NYC system. In the past we have used a customized Q300 report card. There is space for qualitative comments on the DOE report card. Bill

shared that the reasons to use STARS are consistency and the customized version was a lot more work for teachers.

Alex shared that the difference is that with the customized report card, parents were given assessment data in each strand of a particular subject. For ELA for example, parents will not get specific data for reading, writing, speaking and listening on the STARS report card.

Bill brought up the point that for middle school admissions, the enrollment office pulls data from 4th grade report cards. We don't know how customized report cards would be accessed for middle school admissions.

Alex reported that the staff will continue to look into STARS to see what is available in order to provide as much information as possible to parents.

CEP goals

Bill posed a question about the strong family and community ties goal.

Bill asked about clarity on the goal regarding parent involvement and feeling informed.

Bill reported family involvement seems very high.

The group reported differences in the level of parent involvement: classroom, PTA, events, etc.

There was discussion about how to structure a goal that is relevant for the future.

Pooja brought up the recent Diwali celebration in Jackson Heights. Parents were very thankful for a community based event. It was very successful. There is a feeling of lack of community due to the realities of a "commuter school".

Bill reported that there will be a 12/16 event. BCM, Alvin Ailey and Art House Astoria will have culminating showcases of student work in an evening presentation.

There will possibly be another event like this at the end of the year.

Andrea posed a question. Should we add a PTA meeting to the December showcase?

The group said yes, if the agenda is light and it is more of a presentation.

Parent Report – Andrea

Potluck will be planned for Jan or Feb.

Costume party was a big success. There were about 400 people, 55 pizzas and \$3000 raised.

Pie fundraisers are coming up on November 22. Last date to place orders was November 14th.

The Art and wine at the gallery event will be held on 11/18. Staff are invited to go for free.

There will be a PTA meeting on 11/17 at the MS. A 6th grader will lead an origami event for the kids.

There will be a PTA December community service sock drive (new socks) and a coat drive with New York Cares

The PTA has raised \$37,500 so far in the direct appeal. We could expect more giving around tax time.

Pizza parties were held for for K, 3rd and 6th grades as a result of the Read-a-thon.

There will be a 12/9 movie night co hosted with PS 17, geared toward elementary kids.

Movie is free and food will be sold.

Bill mentioned that a PS 17 parent on the PTA approached him about the two parent communities coming together together. He will get the parent's contact information if he has the opportunity.

UFT Report - Betty

Ali Lisberger is our new chapter leader. Edwin Mora is still our delegate. The MS teachers are currently navigating Annette's departure with administration.

Staff SLT representation

Betty reported that she will be stepping down from SLT to redistribute her time for other Q300 events and projects. Ali will be working on filling Betty's seat.

Core value action teams

Members volunteered for action groups:

Inquiry: Alex, Kristina, Andrea

Responsibility: Mara, Bill, Kalli

Inclusion: Pooja, Jill, Liz

Inquiry report (Andrea and Alex)

They will be working on a short term plan to update documents, do a better job of documenting the Q300 way and using consistent language.

A longer term goal is to be clear about what Q300 does and how. They would like to have PR material to reflect school practices. They discussed a decision making process that involves operating through the lens of the core values. They would like to work on a process for onboarding teachers and staff and making sure that teachers are consistent.

Inclusion report (Pooja)

This group would like to define a volunteer process. Volunteers would meet with staff once they express interest to understand expectations. This group would also like to assess family and student needs. They would like to revise the tip sheet/handout and possibly create an orientation for volunteers.

Responsibility report (Bill)

This group looked at the links that Maria provided for grant opportunities.

They discussed civic responsibility connected to service learning.

The database systems were huge so they started to narrow down.

They asked the question: How do you foster the responsibility value and teaching kids how to value responsibility?

Remuneration Logs

Logs were updated.

New Business: C30

The C30 will be occurring on 11/29 at 5:30

First is the training process.

Interviews start at 6:30

The group discussed the regulation regarding timing for the C30.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30