

SLT Meeting — 12/5/16

Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm

Members Present

Alex Lunz
Jill Kaufman
Bill Biniaris
Kristina Jelinek (guest)
Ali Lisberger
Olena Kebalo
Elizabeth Yarmy
Mara Cusker Gonzalez
Minnie Zen
Jason Booher

Members Not Present

Pooja O'Hanlon
Kalliopi Hatziathanasiou
Andrea Tappert

Review and Approval of Minutes from 11/7/16

Motion to approve- Bill
Second- Jill
All in favor to pass approval of minutes

Principal's Report:

General Updates:

Kristina and some staff members attended a symposium in LIC, shared information about our school, and spoke to parents about opportunities with schools in the community. Two of our parents are leaders of this symposium. The date for the next one is Saturday, February 4, 2016. Alex asked if it's possible to share with parents information about how to apply for the G&T test -- specifically share that information with PS17 students and neighboring schools. Alex would be comfortable going into other schools to hand out testing forms, explain what G&T is and how to sign up. Maria mentioned BSI. There's also a chancellor's initiative to desegregate schools and BSI has signed on. It was announced in mid October and there's a pilot program that you have to apply for. Jill mentioned

that there's a UPK initiative which offers workshops, notices, they distribute booklets, and work on outreach efforts to all these new students entering the system.

Bill talked about the Information Session that recently took place. The auditorium was filled. Bill discussed possibly making some changes for next year. It was hard for some folks to hear and some people went to the wrong location but overall it was a success and a lot of interest in our school was shown.

\$37,000 has been allocated to our school for discretionary funds. Bill was interested to hear how parents and teachers would like to spend the money. We still need more information about limitations but possible projects that could be funded include:

- Another science lab at the MS
- White boards for classrooms
- iPads for teachers
- A laptop cart of chromebooks for classrooms to share
- Supplementary Instruments for Music
- Money for the arts/visual arts
- An Explorations room for older students (possibly a lego room, Imagination playgrounds)
- A toolkit of supports for students with OT needs (ex. supports for chairs, elastic bands, weighted vests)
- PD for teachers

Bill asked, how do parents feel about students' use of technology and amount of screentime? Maria feels parents care about excessive screen time. Jason spoke about possible technological problems that could happen but think it's a good idea with clear guidelines. Alex spoke about not necessarily needing a laptop for every student, but even a half dozen could be extremely helpful in the classroom.

Jill and Gracie (our social work intern) are going to work with TA's. They just had a meeting and reflected on challenges, shared grows and glows, discussed boundaries in the classroom and knowing their role and expectations. They are hoping to continue this monthly.

SLT Open Meetings Law:

SLT meetings are now open to the general public and press and we are required to announce SLT meeting dates to the public. Our calendar is considered one way

of doing that. We can also post the dates on our school website and/or post a flyer in the school buildings. It's also available on the PTA page. Schools are required to share our schedule with boro field support. We talked about ground rules for recording, if we were ever to have NY1 or a local paper present for a meeting. If we were ever discussing sensitive information (such as the school safety plan) we would have to leave and keep that information private. Jill asked if we would be given advance notice of visitors? The answer is unclear at this time. Bill will forward our schedule to boro field support. We may have to move our proceedings to the first floor to allow access to everyone.

SLT Mailbox/Email Address:

Scott will set up an email for the SLT team. It was brought up that we should all have access to the email. We'll discuss this more at the next meeting.

Parent Report:

Past Events: Gallery Night was a success. They hope to do it again next year. There were about 45 people. Pie sales went really well, they raised \$450.

Upcoming Events: January 29th (Friday) there will be a brief PTA meeting followed by a Potluck. In the future, the PTA would like to have exhibits and make it more of a cultural fest with music and dancing. The PTA will provide a staff breakfast on December 21st for the MS and December 22nd for the ES.

The PTA is making New Year's Packets for Parents with welcome to Q300 notice. Pencils, a warm, inclusive gift.

The auction committee is starting to form. It's the PTA's biggest schoolwide event. It's called Stepping Into Summer. It includes food, a DJ, music, and games. They have silent auctions and a staff raffle. Tons of parents donate and solicit prizes. If you know of anyone or anything, please let the PTA know. Last year there were about 50 or 60 prizes.

There's an auction going on right now for Jets Vs. Dolphins tickets. The game is on Dec. 17th. There are also two Hamilton tickets coming for community members to auction or raffle.

Core Value Action Teams:

SLT members who were absent from the last meeting picked action teams to join. Then, the groups divided and brainstormed projects to work on. Alex mentioned that whatever we do, all the teachers should be briefed and included in the process. Kristina also suggested possibly having a common template/work plan to guide us with these projects. Maria will share a template that is used for PTA projects.

Inclusion Team:

This group discussed how to create a parent volunteer system at the ES. They wondered what the process should look like for interested parents and began creating a document that parent volunteers will use to help guide them. The sheet will outline what the role entails, expectations, and verbal prompts to use with children.

Inquiry Team:

The group discussed the idea of how to better communicate the deep work that happens at Q300 more effectively to parents. For example, information on what's happening across grades, which curriculums are being used, or big ideas that students learn on each grade. Some parents feel very well informed while others feel less informed. There was talk of updating and adding more materials to the school's website to have transparency in what we do and better promote our school. There was also talk of creating a menu of inquiry activities that learners could employ throughout the year. Group members wondered how we could look externally to bring in resources?

Responsibility Team:

This group discussed grants, engagement with potential citizenship, civic responsibility, and how they can bring education to the school for parents and teachers. They also questioned how kids can be successful in other settings and larger schools and discussed teaching students how to take notes, for example.

UFT Report:

Thank You Parents:

Staff members thanked the parents for all their support and generosity. The staff lunch that was provided last month was greatly appreciated.

Safety:

There have been some safety issues with student in the bathrooms such as water spills, paper towels in the sinks and urinals, which cause backup and water spills

as well as general health concerns. Some students use the bathroom often and for long periods of time. Alex mentioned possibly have staff members sweep the bathrooms at certain parts of the day. Bill agreed to mention it at the PTA meeting. Teachers have mentioned this several times to students in class and had morning meetings about this. The problems still continue so we wanted to see if parents could please talk to their children about responsible use of bathrooms in school.

Professional Development for TA's and Paras:

Teachers are thankful to have help from TA's and paras but feel they could use some professional development and training. Having Jill and Gracie meet with these staff members was helpful and it would be great if that could continue.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 pm