



The 30th Avenue School (Q300)

Elementary Campus

28-37 29th Street, 4th Floor, Astoria, NY 11102

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Middle School Campus

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www.Q300.org

Vasilios Biniaris, Principal

**School Leadership Meeting
Elementary School Campus**

June 5, 2017

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Members Present

Bill Biniaris

Maria Hantzopoulos

Ali Lisberger

Olena Kebalo

Pooja O'Hanlon

Alex Lunz

Mara Cusker Gonzalez

Elizabeth Yarmy

Members Not Present

Minnie Zen

Kalliopi Hatziathanasiou

Kristina Jelinek (guest)

Jill Kaufman

Jason Booher

Andrea Tappert

Review and Approval of Minutes from 5/1/17

Motion to approve- Alex

Second- Elizabeth

All in favor to pass approval of minutes

Executive Session Called

Principal's Report



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Bill discussed plans for next year and proposed moving the teacher workroom (TWR) to Room 300, the new room we're acquiring on the third floor. Pooja asked how the teachers felt about that and wondered if moving the TWR would make the teachers less accessible to kids. Bill answered that while it's a good point, he doesn't think it would affect student/teacher relationships. Alex added that as a teacher, the room is rarely used with children. It's more for teachers to conduct meetings and a space to get work done. Ali mentioned that she thinks it makes sense to move the TWR rather than isolate one class from the rest of the school. Bill mentioned using movers to help move furniture and Maria asked if it would be possible to have someone oversee the move to make sure things go properly and avoid items being lost or displaced.

New student registration begins June 6 from 10-11:00 am through Friday. Emails have been sent out to new parents. Bill shared that the format will be different than previous years. There will be a small group meeting in the main office for about a half hour. During that, some parents will meet with the PTA and then they will swap. Maria indicated that some parents wanted to inquire about unique needs of their kids and asked when they would be able to ask questions. Bill answered that last year he heard a lot of conversations that revolved about personal information and this year he wants to focus more on small group meetings.

June 16th is the ES Field Day. Students will be leaving the building at 9-9:15 am. Unfortunately, the permit date couldn't be changed which means that children will have to walk to the park. Elizabeth mentioned that if you call the police precinct, they will block off certain streets and escort students while they walk. This year, school will send out a permission slip for parents or adults on the blue card who want to take their child home from the park.

Graduations are coming up. June 21st is the Kindergarten Moving-Up Ceremony. Students are beginning to practice. The MS ceremony is on June 23rd. School is putting together a program and will have some guest speakers such as Dr. Composto, District 30 Superintendent.

Interviews will begin soon for new hires/staffing.



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Bill spoke to legal counsel at DOE and shared that the auction prizes for teachers experiences that are out of school location and hours, are not recommended. Teachers and PTA will have to think of different prizes.

PTA/Parent Report

The spring auction and party raised over \$25,000 (3,000 more than last year).

The new family welcome breakfast is on Saturday June 10th.

Parents have volunteered to help out with registration. This year there are packets available to incoming families with Q300 buttons and pencils.

There will be a Read-A-Thon again this year. Details will be shared with families soon.

The PTA is beginning to talk to Bill about the Back To School event/informal picnic in August.

There's an active one school group. They are putting together a fact sheet and want to present to local leaders at different events.

The Mülee school supplies and ordering details will be shared with families soon.

Ballet Tech is coming to Q300 on June 20th. It's for 2nd and 3rd graders. They can audition during the school day. If they make it, they can get a free 6 week class. It's a great program so Q300 is excited to have this opportunity.

The PTA is determining enrichments for next year. BCM has put together a good proposal. The art residencies will continue. The school is also looking into having a chess program.

As far of the Teaching Assistants (TA's), the teacher surveys were varied. The lower grades seemed to really want TA's while the upper grades prefer shared TA's. Alex mentioned that he finds TA's incredibly invaluable and thinks we can find a way to help teachers who feel otherwise. He also proposed having a lead TA, that can help other TAs.



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Maria thinks that most parents prefer having a TA in each class. Maria asked Bill if teachers can help interview TA's. Bill mentioned that some TA's will be returning.

Maria also discussed having a pilot program for professional development (PD) and indicated that there was some pushback from parents about funding it. She explained that we might have a small fund that teachers could use for PD that isn't covered by the school. However, the PD should be aligned to the core values, mindfulness, or be instructional. This is all contingent upon funding. Alex loves the idea of applying for funds for PD and suggested an someone to take on the role of an in house specialist who can turn key information to all staff members.

PTA elections were held at the end of May and new Board members were elected.

Pooja asked for an update about the chess tournament hosted by NY Chess Kids. Bill mentioned that Q300 won a trophy. Maria mentioned that a lot of people didn't know about the NY Chess Kids summer program. Bill would follow up with the organization to advertise this better.

CEP Goals 2017-2018

Bill went to a workshop about CEP writing and learned that the portal that he uses to write the CEP goals can be shared with parents and teachers. He'd like to do that before the goals are finalized as he wants to offer everyone the opportunity to read them and comment. Bill also recommended that the CEP goals that were drafted so far had to be more specific, he will work on them with the group.

Remuneration Logs were completed and packet handed to Bill.

With their being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.