



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 Team Meeting (Budget Review)

June 11, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Vasilios Biniaris, Principal
Elijah Cho, Teacher
Ali Lisberger, UFT Rep
Alex Lunz, Teacher
Maria Hantzopoulos, PTA Co President
Monica Mohan, Parent
Elizabeth Yarmy, Parent

Absent:

Jennifer Choi, Parent
Sarah Duer, Teacher
Mara Cusker Gonzalez, Parent

Budget Review

- Bill shared and reviewed the proposed 2018-2019 budget.
- There is money set aside to hire a school counselor or social worker, however, there is a hiring freeze on these 2 positions. Only current DOE employees can be hired. Bill and others (Christine, Erika, Maria H. and sometimes Anna M.) are currently interviewing candidates and have already interviewed 8.
- New teacher interviews have also started and will continue.
- In the ES campus, Bill has already filled the 5th grade vacancy (Taylor Krug) and is pretty confident that he has someone to fill the Spanish vacancy. (Edwin will only cover ENL).
- In MS, there are in the process of interviewing for the two 2 Special Education ICT vacancies.
- Fourth grade teacher Brooke Barnard announced she is leaving the school. Bill is confident that he has another candidate to fill this position. He would like to retain Brooke and offered her a position to be the IEP coordinator for the school. He believes that there is enough money in the budget (if he shifts things and PTA helps support supplies and other items) to hire an IEP teacher. It will be tight, but it is important to have someone at the school who will work with students who have an IEP or might need an IEP or at-risk support services.



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- SLT members are concerned that this teacher may be used for emergency coverages (like Erika and Ali this year) or any other duties not pertaining to the position.
 - Bill shared that there is plenty of work for an IEP teacher in ES and MS that the teacher will have a full schedule.
 - If all the budgeted positions are filled, there should be no need for readjustment.
 - The posting will be clearly defined as to job requirements/role.
 - This teacher will also work to help identify students in need of extra support/services as well as pull these students so they can receive this support.
 - **Question:** What would be the identifying process for students in need of support or an IEP?
 - Referral from parent, testing, evaluation and other student data.

CEP

- Individual groups have been working on the CEP goals.
- Elijah set up google doc but not all can access.
- Bill proposed that we sent all send the group goals to him so that he can put in portal. We can then as a group comment on them through the portal.
- CEP goals will be sent by June 18.
- Bill will upload to portal that night and then share with us how to comment
- We will then have the next week to comment (final by June 30)

PD

- Responsive Classroom trainings are in the middle of the summer and many cannot attend
- Maria reached out to RC to see if they could come to school (for 21K) and train up to 30 people. The only time available is week of July 9th.
- 9 staff members are available for this Responsive Classroom PD however, and only four are teachers (rest TAs, aides, etc...)
- It has been decided that it is not cost effective to run the training at the school



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since so few teachers would be trained and there would be little money left to train them later.

- In the interim, we decided that teachers who are already trained and minimally attended the 4-day training (Alex, Ali, Brooke, Sarah, Cristina, Edwin and Scott) would be invited to lead training for Q300 staff members in-house over the last week of August when most staff were available.
- We discussed ways for teachers to serve as supports for teachers new to the model (buddies, triads, etc..) throughout the year.
- We also decided the Bill needed to book the August 2019 dates now for Responsive Classroom to come the school (so all teachers can be trained by them)
- Both Alex and Ali said they would be happy to turn key what they have learned and what they find to be successful with the Q300 population.
- All would be paid training rate for attending and teachers running PD would get planning compensation too.
- Bill will now reach out to teachers and all to organize for August.

UFT Report

- Ali thanked the PTA for funding the Team building activity for staff members. It was a success. They would like more of these throughout the year (beginning, middle, and end)
- There is some questions from teachers regarding parent google group. Teachers are uncomfortable about some of the conversations that might be taking place on the group about teachers. Parents assured Ali that teachers are rarely mentioned on the group and any drama is mostly in house bickering among a few parents. If names do come up, the conversation is usually shut down. The group is not PTA sponsored so PTA has limited control over group. Group leaders continually repost proper protocol and monitor conversations.
- Discussion took place regarding how teachers should be referred to by students and parents. Ali raised that originally every staff member was called by their first name. It was a requirement to be part of the school. Now there is a mix of teachers using their last name and their first, creating divisions among teachers. Other SLT members shared their concerns that this has created a split culture and is confusing, particularly for the kids. A few teachers debated pros and cons. One parent shared that this was an existing aspect of school culture and allowing people to choose to begin with created this fissure (and this choice was a



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mistake). All agreed that the clarity should come from the administration. Bill will bring this up with staff members.