



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

October 22, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Members Present:

Bill Biniaris

Ali Lisberger

Elijah Cho

Monica Mohan

LaShawwna Harris

Raj Jalall

Maria Panagiotakis

Sonita Ramkishun

Julissa McHugh

Laura Marks

Members Not Present

Paula Marsi

Review and Approval of Minutes from 09/24/18

Motioned to approve - Ali

Second- Elijah

All in favor to pass approval of minutes



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Bill brings up whether we should discuss bylaws now or later. Monica states by-laws have been posted on Trello with other SLT documents.

Ali moves motion to approve minutes.

PTA Report

\$7700 raised at the Read-A-Thon

Tea Collection waiting to find how much we raised

\$22,000 raised in direct appeal

Costume Party in schedule

Unos on November 6

Picture Day Nov 13

Night at the Gallery Nov 16

Pie sale in full force and hoping to raise more money

Lastly, PTA is exploring how to expand service learning projects into a year long project.

Feelers out to Horace Mann and Ethical Culture

Thursday PTA meeting at UD-will vote if we want all to be at LD because train station closed due to construction.

Principal's Report:

Bill was present at Chancellors Town Hall and push is diversity initiative throughout the city. Tomorrow, families are invited to join us as staff member discuss what diversity means and to proceed wisely with next steps. Sonita & Elijah attended training and will be facilitating the meeting with Q300 community.

Social Worker Update:

Convo on Thursday, shared with Paula & Julissa at Principals Meeting. Show proof that outreach was made to members on excess list and we will be getting exception to hire outside of pool for social worker. It's not 100% but most likely. Freeze is still in place but an exception would be made for Q300. Monica asks about pay coming out of our budget per Chancellor meeting and Bill mentions that central pays for first year if we had found someone reputable from the ATR. One candidate interested in reaching out to (charter school worker) but Bill has not been in contact with since the summer.



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Monica brought up when Jill was exceeded Bill did not think it was necessary to have someone with a high salary supervise recess. She referred to an incident during recess on last Thursday, which resulted in students de-escalating an altercation in the courtyard because there were no adults supervising. Bill states that several adults are in cafeteria and yard everyday. Bill asked to move on because we need to stay on task and be focused. Monica stated that she brought it up because the school needs a trained social worker.

PD and SEL/Special Education Calendar:

Push for staff members trained in Responsive Classroom which was done in August of both UD & LD staff which included teachers, and school aids, and secretaries.

Communicated instructional expectations to the staff for the year.

Push for differentiation and tasks aligned to objective and first observation cycle for instructional focus. Sonita mentions the Professional Learning calendar and committee created calendar based on teacher needs. Surveys are done after PD and staff is happy. Julissa mentions about 2xE students not seen on the calendar. Bill mentions about teamwork and team meetings for Tuesdays PD will cover that work.

Maria mentions the G & T differentiation PD that was on the PD Calendar. Sonita mentions that Hailey comes to the LD 2x a week and works with students and teachers. Hailey has a numerous tool bag of strategies. Monica suggests that the the school needs a system to identify special education needs in students. Laura states that the teachers should be the first to identify students with special needs. Monica raises concerns over having so many new teachers. LaShawna mentions inquiry work. Raj mentions that IEP students from data from 2017 state tests are underperforming compared to others. Why is Special Ed population not meeting the targets? What is the schools RTI plan? Raj comes back to CEP goals. States how he writes his goals and in CEP he does not see any reference to kids. First is teachers, second is staff. Items mentioned are actionable steps and not areas of growth. Monica notices that there are more 3's in boys than in girls. Raj wants to ensure that these goals are measurable and statistical. His students do not read critically. We began a whole school annotation system. Everyone was going to annotate to think about the questions.



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LaShawna - what are conversations like around the classroom and ensure that critical thinking is happening. Needs assessment doesn't share that and goals don't match. Monica mentions most students are high performing but may need extra support. Bill asks for an example from Monica. Monica suggests that teachers should work with a special education teacher to observe in the classroom and look for students with focus needs or flexibility needs and provides strategies for teachers to help those students. Raj comes back to special ed, and asking if we're collecting data in real time and get the sense of parallel teaching, alternative teaching for small group instruction. Scaffold looks different for everyone and every classroom. Bill says we're doing this and Raj says where is the data for this. Day 1 start unpacking data. Look at the standards that are the same where students are struggling. Raj asked Elijah for a day of differentiation in his classroom and what it looks like. Elijah explained how he differentiates in his classroom. Maria gave example of differentiation in her classroom and that data is occurring and groupings based on data. Raj mentions Nathaniel and that his geometry skills are exceptional. Raj mentions curriculum compacting like Horace Mann and Nest do because they do well. Sonita discusses about curriculum compacting and that our students need more and that we have to start with the basics foundation and assess students for their interest. Bill mentions the idea of grouping students in reading and we should do so comprehensively. Raj mentions to be strategic with data team to look at. School Wide Enrichment is what we want but is a challenge speaking logistically and want to look at school wide enrichment in reading. Raj mentions that senior teachers who don't need the PD's can move to other PD's that are more advanced. Change PD as necessary and review data. Raj says goals need to be rewritten. Raj mentions curriculum goals that he had at his school. Right now they seem actionable items that are not going to move the goal.

Monica asked Laura about the special education meeting and Bill says the questions is How do we educate the community to the referral process, how do we help each other and tap into resources? Bill says that it's not an easy process that happens overnight. LaShawna mentions that RTI is tiered and it depends on the needs of the students. Bill says that we have formed a team to look at data and referral process which is the SIT Team and most have been behavioral. Monica mentions that G&T students can cover a



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disability up because they're so smart. Raj mentions that you have to look at antecedent.

Bill talks about the referral system where we collect data at UD because most forms are reported there. Bill says we use SWISS for referral and summary, LaShawna mentions that OORS does the same. LaShawna says to reflect that in the CEP to give a clearer picture. Raj notices that the goals are not data driven or the PD Calendar. PD Calendar has to be revised and peer visitation needs to be throughout the year to become long term instead of one time. Sonita mentions that the PD Calendar does meet the differentiation needs, Maria mentions that PD Calendar was made by teachers for the teachers. LaShawna mentions that PD's like Promethean can be completed during another day instead of the mandated PD's for per session.

Bill asks that we meet as a team to discuss the CEP goals.

Monica mentions SEL workshops and asks if the school has funding for it. Bill says there is no funding. Julissa says that Margarita will reach out to someone she knows. Monica says that if we can't hire the speaker, can Christine speak. Bill says we reached out to LIC for use of their auditorium. Dates? Jenny was involved with Effie to reach out for dates. Next thing is we need dates. Movie Angst.

Diversity Initiative:

LaShawna wants us to think about the problems and come up with solutions. Bill asks if we want Elijah and Sonita to have mock conversations.

Round 1

What do you think of when you hear about school diversity and integration? How do you find diversity?

Round 2

How would you describe your ideal school environment? What do you love about your school? How important was diversity for you when deciding where to go to school?

Round 3

How do you recommend DOE moves forward?

LaShawna - what does it look like and what prevents us from getting there? Bill says what are the options for us which will look different from PS 17 and the school across the street. What is the barrier that Q300 has to being more diverse? Raj says we want to



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create an inclusive culture where kids can talk about race and diversity. If you can get the kids and adults to give input then you have a win-win.

Elijah says that the purpose of this conversation is to gather notes and information to send to the DOE and for voices to be heard. Bill asks if there is something strongly we want to include in tomorrow's conversations. Raj says that 4 questions are a lot. Sonita mentions that we're asking one and the others are if people need prompting to keep the conversation going. Monica asks about the decision making. Sonita says there will be no decision making. We have community agreements, every school is doing something similar in their buildings about diversity. Decision would come from us with assistance to make it happen. Monica says that a lot of people may not be around. One tool to use could be a survey, open ended. That's something we may want to provide for the community. Bill says it should come from the school.

Raj asks about social worker. Monica asked if we want to continue the diversity conversation and Bill agrees. Sonita mentions we need to hear everyone's voice for the first time. Things will change. Bill says that any facilitator guide-the goal is to lead to a more organic conversation. Bill asks to share concerns. Bill brings up a parent's concerns that diversity should include students with disabilities. The fact that Q300 is a co-located school on the top floors of its host schools impedes access to students student with mobility issues. LaShawna raises similar concerns over lack of bussing from all neighborhoods in Queens. This issue may impact a student's decision to attend our school because it is too difficult to get to. Julissa mentions her concern and so does Laura in regards to the conversations on the schools' google group regarding the possible changes to the specialized high schools test. Laura discusses how the middle school families are very focused on getting into special high schools. Although, this may change when students from the lower division start filling seats in the upper division. The conversation pivots towards students with special needs. Monica asks about the seats open for students with IEPs for next years sixth grade class. Laura mentions that it's a percentage of 60%-40%. Bill says we can't accept new kids for 7th grade unless you're coming from out of state or a private school. Next year we will have a third 6th grade class, we will have to have them at the capacity. The IEP students being accepted is out of Bill's control. Bill says that matching process are outside of the schools control. Certain numbers are reserved for students with IEP's.



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Bill says that if we have a 3rd section next year, he is confident that we will have one be ICT because of the matching process. He is confident in saying that.

Julissa asks how the sibling priority impacts that? LaShawna says she unsubscribed from the Google Group because it was too much. LaShawna mentions that sometimes there is racist tones that surface. Raj mentions we don't have control of parents outside. Only have control of our team and our environment. Nurture social justice. Julissa mentions that very little was done for Black History Month. Julissa says to incorporate that into the curriculum.

CEP Goals:

Raj mentions that TAG has themes that is embedded in math, science, ela, ss, etc. We have to create a really dynamic team that we don't have turnover, rethink curriculum and instruction and let the people come to you. They will gravitate to you. Raj encourages us to think long term. Raj says to get rid of TC curriculum and think about curriculum.

Raj mentions next steps:

- reframe the goals, more student centered, more detailed as to what we're going to do
- look at item analysis and see what the trends are to push the students from a 3 to a 4.

LawShawna mentions if staff has been trained in UBD or backwards planning. Sonita says last year but many of the staff members have left.

UFT Report :

Ali discusses a Thanksgiving clothing drive for the winter. Families and staff can donate a brand new item for those in need. (coats, scarves, hats, etc.) UFT will distribute them to public school students who live in temporary housing. Donations can be brought to both campuses. Deadline is anytime before November 17. Julissa mentions a drive they're doing as well.



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Remuneration Logs:

Monica asks for cards for remuneration log. Bill will track them down and bring them. Last year Liz brought them.

Raj asks for next meetings agenda and goals. Want to talk about curriculum. Elijah mentions that PD Calendar was made by the teachers and the differentiation is happening with teachers during common planning time. Sonita confirms that the same is happening in LD. Make CEP to be transparent and visible to everyone.

Restorative Training is ongoing and staff turn key. During PD Days you can have more than one PD on the same time.

Committees to help with CEP goals.

Monday & Tuesday times where people can select where to go for PD's.

Monica mentions that there should be one universal communication platform.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm.