



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

March 18, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:55 pm

Members Present

Monica Mohan

Bill Biniaris

Ali Lisberger

Elijah Cho

Raj Jalall

Sonita Ramkishun

Maria Panagiotakis

Paula Marsi

Members Not Present

Laura Marks

LaShawnna Harris

Review and Approval of Minutes from 2/25/19

Motioned to approve- Monica

Second- Paula

All in favor to pass approval of minutes

Principal's Report

- High school results are going out tonight. A large number of our kids got double offers and accepted into their top three choices. The results look pretty good!
- We've had a bunch of activities going on and there's been a lot of cross pollination going on at both buildings:
 - The 7th graders came to the LD and read their spanish books to 4th grade students.
 - Elijah and Maria are coordinating a possible LD to UD debate visit
 - Laura and Jean are going to a Shakespeare expo



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- Annual Park Day on May 17th
- Corey has a students going to Albany for GOB (a geography spelling bee). He placed in the top 100!
- Chess went to Saratoga Springs
- OORS Reports- All level 1, 2, 3, and 4 level infractions have declined.
- A discussion ensued about certain classes consisting of problem behaviors and why that happened. Moving forward, specifically for 5th and 6th grade the classes will be disbursed in three classes instead of two which will help. We've created flex schedules, hired TA's and been proactive in helping these students.
- There will be a talent show at the UD on June 17th. At the LD the date is TBD however the approach will be a bit different this year because last year was a very long day. We may need to split it up by grades. We ask that parents please respect the deadlines as last year there were a bunch of last minute additions to the show which made the time too long.

PTA Report

- March Madness Fundraiser
- We've been pushing the school surveys on our website so hopefully we'll get those numbers up.
- There will be a bake sale at UD conferences.
- Overall, parents see improvement in the school from last year but still feel as though we've taken three steps back, one step forward. Parents would like a full time AP in each building.

UFT Update

- Teachers are reporting frustrations with Art House Astoria. They have been very unreliable. They have canceled and/or no-showed repeatedly, sometimes without informing the school in advance.
 - Bill explained that the Enrichment committee had a meeting about this already. The second meeting will be a more comprehensive look at two organizations -- Art House Astoria and Arts Connection. Whoever can offer the best programming for our kids will get the offer.
 - Lincoln Center was suggested. While it is very expensive, it may be an option if it could be tiered.
 - Committee members agree that it would be beneficial to have the



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Enrichment Committee assist in vertically aligning the Arts curriculum. We could stagger the arts and have talent shows throughout the year. This could also allow for a small scale school wide enrichment model where 3rd and 4th grade students choose an elective to do and teachers would conduct them.

- Arts mandates are pretty tough in middle school. Bill feels as though we should work backwards to determine the K-8 vision. For next year, they'll have visual arts cycles.

Supportive Environment/School Culture Survey Questions

- The committee agreed that surveys would be sent out again this year. All questions will remain the same as last year with one exception. One question will be added to the teacher surveys which is as follows:
 - I feel as though parents come to me when there's an issue in my class or with their child.
- Ali will create the school culture surveys and administer at the LD. She will coordinate with the UD to have them done there as well.
- All surveys will be completed by the next SLT meeting.

Family – Community Ties

- The SLT discussed school communication and whether or not there is a way to have one mode of communication. Bill spoke about what's succeeding at the UD (e.g. google classroom which is a great tool to convey the work taking place in the classroom and Pupilpath which reports progress and assessment results). He explained that while he would love to get to a place where everyone uses google classroom and pupil path, teachers cannot be mandated to use certain tools. Ali confirmed that due to teachers' contracts, they cannot be mandated to use certain platforms.
- There was talk about how we could improve communication next year because currently it's a bit of a struggle for parents to deal with different mediums from each teacher. We would also like to come up with a consistent mode of communication for kids who aren't doing well. We could even have a template email that informs parents well in advance of student's lack of performance.

Diversity Initiatives



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- Bill spoke about reaching out to enrollment about our interest in the DOE's diversity initiatives. After considering sibling preference (which happens until 4th grade) we're looking at about 40 seats left in kindergarten but Bill will check to see if that's the case. Members discussed proposal parameters such as reserving seats for students in temporary housing and NYCHA students in our zone and questioned whether or not we have the supports in place to take on this challenge. A counterargument was made that this is not necessarily the case that students coming from temporary housing or NYCHA will need support. Members were somewhat conflicted about what percentage of students we should take on due to our own school issues that we're still working out but in the end members agreed that we should reserve about 35% of seats (which would amount to 13-14 students) for diversity efforts.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30