



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

March 6, 2017

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Members Present

Bill Biniaris

Ali Lisberger

Olena Kebalo

Jason Booher

Pooja O'Hanlon

Alex Lunz

Mara Cusker Gonzalez

Elizabeth Yarmy

Kristina Jelinek (guest)

Jill Kaufman

Minnie Zen

Members Not Present

Maria Hantzopoulos (PTA Co-Chair)

Kalliopi Hatziathanasiou

Review and Approval of Minutes from 2/6/17

Motion to approve- Alex

Second- Elizabeth

All in favor to pass approval of minutes

Principal's Report

Bill discussed the finding that there were higher than normal levels of lead in some of the water supply at both campuses. The water supply of the affected spots had been



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turned off until further notice and the school was waiting for more information from the DOE. As a Principal, Bill was directed to distribute a letter sharing the lead testing results with parents which the school had done via student communication folders.

In staffing related updates, starting Monday March 13th, Jessica Gonzalez will start as the new third grade teacher for class 301. Middle school teacher Kathleen had been placed on bedrest, forcing her to go into an early maternity leave. Administration was looking for a replacement.

Using the Reso-A funding that was allocated from last year, classrooms will receive a promethean board (an interactive whiteboard) including the teacher workroom. There will be an installation manager that will visit the schools to determine where to place the boards and next steps. The school was also getting a laptop cart consisting of 15 laptops and additional funds towards professional development for teachers. Middle school math students would be receiving TI-84 graphing calculators.

Elementary School Parent teacher conferences were scheduled for Thursday March 9th and Middle School were scheduled for the following week. Third grade parents would get more one on one time with teacher Erica along with some flexible scheduling due to the third grade staffing transition.

State testing is coming up. The ELA test will be on March 28-30. The math test will be on May 2-4. Almost all third grade students have signed up for the test related after school program led by team of four Q300 teachers. Students will understand the format of the test, the writing rubric, and study exemplar pieces. Alex added that during the first few days, students will focus on the short answer part of the test. The following three sessions will focus on the long answer part of the test. Bill added that teachers were excited to offer other after-school programs for students after the test related focus had passed. For example, Alex had proposed to teach a creative writing class, Ali was interested in leading a video production class, etc. The schedule is still being created. More information to follow and shared with parents as soon as possible.

Testing and auditions for High Schools Admissions had been completed. The exact results will be shared this week. From early information it seemed like about 70% of our eighth grade students have been offered a seat as a NYC specialized high school.



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NY Chess Kids led a chess tournament at the PS17 campus on March 4th. The report was that the tournament went really well, students were excited and enthusiastic. Bill hopes host more of these at Q300 in the future.

The updated version of the NYC DOE's Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Student Guidelines were shared with SLT members for review. Bill mentioned that it is the policy of the NYC DOE to maintain a safe and supportive school environment for all students the guidelines were a part of this policy. SLT members then discussed if the school needed to make any bathroom related accommodations or whether there will be any further conversation regarding these guidelines with staff. Bill mentioned that one of Q300's value was inclusion, to create a safe space for all students. Therefore, any issues will be addressed on a case by case basis. Jill mentioned that related to these guidelines situations had come up where the school could for example, explore eliminating certain practices that might exclude students, such as gender-based line formation, and attire (caps and gowns). Staff and administration will look into this.

PTA/Parent Report

Pooja provided a PTA updates on behalf of Maria. Reso A 2017-2018 funds for school upgrades had been recently submitted for next year's cycle through the Borough and Council Member's Offices as well as State Assemblyperson Aravella Simotas's Office. Over \$3,000,000 in upgrades had been requested focusing on technology and capital improvements at both campuses. In addition for District 22 participatory budgeting process two joint projects between Q300 and PS17 have been selected for the ballot including a research library and central air for the cafeteria. Voting takes place the week of March 25 - April 2, anyone who lives in the District 22 can vote on these.

Some parents were also working with Bill on a joint library project between Q300 and PS 17. Bill mentioned that the library is being envisioned as a multi-use space including a smart table and quiet, comfortable spaces for kids to do independent work.

There were several upcoming PTA events such as joint movie night with PS 17 on March 3rd, Annual Zumbathon with PS 17 on March 24th, the big fundraising event, party and auction, Stepping into Summer on May 7th as well as UNO Doughrasiers were the PTA receives 20% of the sales and a partnership with the New York International Children's



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Film Festival where the PTA receives \$3 of each ticket sold . Teachers and staff were welcome to join. Q300 was also coordinating a cookbook, with sales later in the spring. Recipes for the cookbook may still be submitted. PTA was also in the middle of its “March Madness” Direct Appeal Campaign followed by a pizza party celebration at the March 31st meeting So far in the school year the family participation rate was 43%, the goal was to get to 100%.

CEP Goals 2017-2018

SLT members broke out into small groups to define goals for the 2017-2018 CEP.

The Effective School Leadership group continued its focus on implementing professional learning communities and distributing professional leadership roles.

The Strong Family Community Ties group continued to focus on making new families and existing feel welcome and informed using various tools including the website. Bill mentioned that he was committed to revamping the website and will have more information about that soon.

The Rigorous Instruction group created a SMART goal providing grade level teachers with one hour of common planning time built into the school day. The group would like to add a contingency plan to allow this common planning time to happen regardless of absences and schedule changes.

Remuneration Logs were updated.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 pm