



The 30th Avenue School (Q300)

Elementary Campus

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Vasilios Biniaris, Principal

School Leadership Team Meeting

Elementary School Campus

May 1, 2017

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

Members Present

Bill Biniaris

Maria Hantzopoulos

Kristina Jelinek (guest)

Jill Kaufman

Olena Kebalo

Alex Lunz

Pooja O'Hanlon

Elizabeth Yarmy

Members Not Present

Jason Booher

Ali Lisberger

Mara Cusker Gonzalez

Minnie Zen

Kalliope Hatziathanassiou

Present for Space Planning Presentation

Chris Mangiero (presenter)
Carol Varikos (Q300 parent)
Lynn Kennedy (Q300 parent)
Marlon Aranda (Q300 parent)

Space Planning Presentation

The first order of business was presentation by Chris Mangiero the Director of Space Planning for the NYCDOE in Queens. His office has worked with Matt Willard since Q300's inception and is now continuing that work with Principal Biniaris to work out space allocation at the two campuses. He joined the SLT meeting to share the space plan for upcoming school year and answer any questions from the SLT members and Q300 parents.

Bill asked Chris to share with the SLT the space plan for Q300 and any changes in the upcoming school year. Chris explained that every co-located school goes through an A-190 process (Chancellor's regulations for significant changes in school utilization) and that the Educational Impact Statement (EIS) is the DOE's understanding of how a school is going to grow. When Pre-K was added to PS17, it was a new addition to the EIS and it changed how the building was going to be utilized. At Q300's inception, the plan was to have K to 4th grade on the 4th floor and eventually 2 cluster rooms and 1 half room on the 3rd floor in the PS 17 campus. While Kindergarten to 4th grade will still be at the PS 17 campus, Q300 will now be only allocated 1 cluster room and 1 half room on the 3rd floor. This change is in part because of the Chancellor and Mayor's Pre-K initiative and the increase in Pre-K seats at PS 17.

Maria asked clarification of "public assembly" spaces. Chris explained that these are rooms that can hold over 75 people and are shared spaces. For example, the gymnasium, library, auditorium, cafeteria are considered "public assembly" spaces. Chris mentioned that the library at PS17 is used as an office and resource space, but Maria clarified that we do not have access to the library, so it is not a shared space. Maria also asked how PS17's growth will affect Q300 from a space perspective. Chris explained that PS17 has balanced its "section count" (how many teachers they have for each grade) and that being a zone school, its growth would fluctuate with the community's needs but he did not foresee any issues in the upcoming school year. He also explained that 70% of Queens school buildings are overcrowded and used the overcrowded PS78 as an example. Currently, PS17 was not considered overcrowded.

Maria mentioned the difficulties faced by Q300's administration to manage two split-site (co-located schools). Chris said that his team will keep an eye out for D30 schools and will relook at the plan, if need be. Right now his office was committed to making an investment in cleaning and fixing up any new rooms being allocated to Q300 at both campuses.

Pooja asked if Q300 could be housed in one building in the near future. Chris explained that new space capacity is determined by the SCA (School Construction Authority). Queens neighborhoods are changing rapidly: waterfront properties are growing by 300%. However, it is more likely that new schools will get new buildings, rather than existing schools.

Chris also mentioned a new DOE initiative of installing an air conditioner in every classroom. He suggested that if someone had concerns about EIS revisions, they could bring it up to the superintendent so that it can be properly addressed by the space planning team.

Kristina asked about ADA accessibility since both campuses are not ADA accessible. Chris explained that ADA was first drafted in 1992. Any building built before 1992 is not required to follow the prescribed guidelines. Currently, it would take a huge monetary investment to make a school building fully ADA compliant. Certain elementary schools and schools in districts of need are prioritized. District 30 is not on the high needs list for accessibility. Unfortunately, if a child with mobility issues got into the Q300 G&T program, the suggestion would be to look into another G&T school/program that was ADA accessible.

Chris then shared/reiterated new space allocation plans for Q300 next year. The MS (at IS126) will be getting two rooms on the 5th floor and ES (at PS17) will be getting one full room and one half room on the 3rd floor. He elaborated that room 507 in the MS will be getting new electricity and other refurbishments. The hallways will be painted and more cafeteria tables will be added. The art room on 5th floor (512) that is currently used by IS 126 is in need of serious repairs. Once repaired, it will be used as an art room for Q300 in 2018. An obsolete dark room on 4th floor of IS126 will be gutted and will be converted into an art room by January 2018 for IS126. There is also a new capital plan for new science rooms. Room 501 will be repaired for science use.

Bill asked about itemizing a cost for the auditorium using the Resolution A fund. Chris said that an estimate will be done, but that Reso A projects usually take a while to be completed. He shared that a lot of contractors are being used for Pre-K projects so there are less people available to complete capital projects quickly.

Other questions by parents:

Carol Varikos asked how many split site co-locations there are in the city. Chris explained that there are between 50 and 100.

Marlon Aranda followed up to inquire if they have the same difficulties we do, as our schools are a 15 minute walk away from each other. Chris mentioned that some schools

are split over 3 or 4 different school buildings. Some schools are a 20 minute drive or can even be housed in a different district. He explained that the former administration's new schools initiative led to the closure of some schools and reducing the footprint of others. Because of the redistribution of space, some schools were placed into two buildings. Unfortunately, NYS doesn't yet have a system for providing additional resources for split-sited schools (such as those that could go toward hiring of APs). School budgets are based on state regulations focused on number of students and special education students. There is no system to give tax levied dollars to a split-site school. He referred us to a Co-Location Handbook on Campus Governance that can speak more to this. To close his conversation: Chris reiterated that space is being added to Q300 and no space is being taken away.

Review and Approval of Minutes from April 3, 2017

Motion to approve- Maria

Second-Elizabeth

All in favor to pass approval of minutes

Principal's Report

Bill announced that the Parent Engagement Meeting schedules have been shared and that Dora had shared and sent out an RSVP list. He shared copies of the different teacher-led sessions that will be available at both campuses.

PTA/Parent Report

Maria announced that the "Stepping into Summer" auction was on the upcoming Sunday (May 7). She thanked all teachers that offered prizes for the auction. There will be a 2.5 week online auction following the event and encouraged everyone to share it with family and friends. On Friday, May 5, there will be a Teacher Appreciation breakfast at both campuses and other "surprises." PTA elections will be held at the end of May. Two new SLT will be elected as Pooja and Minnie's current two-year terms are over. They are up for reelection should they wish to.

The PTA helped with the ES open house on April 20th and will help with the upcoming MS open house. An ES parent recently organized an arts fundraiser and auction. The Q300 cookbook is in print and will come out soon. The enrichment committee has been researching and is meeting with Bill on Friday to discuss their findings regarding programs for the upcoming school year. Potential applicants to the school will find out if they got a place at Q300 in the first week of June and the Welcome Breakfast is scheduled to be on June 10th. Bill proposed a change to the field day that physical education teacher ToniAnne was working on. Based on past parent reports that it was difficult for young children to walk to the park for field day last year, Bill suggested that we move field day to June 9th as it is the last available day for school busses. Bill asks people to let him know if there are any

conflicts with that date. Scott's fitness elective (MS) might volunteer to help out with ES field day. Kristina added that the MS 6th and 7th grade field day is on June 20th at Rainey Park. 8th grade will have their field day on June 22nd, also at Rainey Park.

CEP goals

The SLT will use the time during the last SLT meeting on June 5, 2017 to review a draft of the CEP for school year 2017-2018. The final version of the CEP is signed in the fall. The group broke out into smaller teams to work on finalizing goals and action plans.

Strong Family and Community Ties

Goals:

All new parents get a welcoming email from Q300 administration and PTA/parent each, and one invitation to a PTA event such as the June welcome breakfast.

Update the school website to be a multi-pronged information tool housing at least school mission, curriculum by grade, school calendar, school-wide initiatives and SLT minutes by June 2018.

Supportive Environment

Goal:

100% of teachers will participate in the appropriate professional development (Responsive Classrooms for ES or Sanford Harmony for MS) focusing on school culture and climate by June 2018 with 50% of new teachers having participated in this professional development (for example, the 3-day Responsive Classroom Training) by December 2017.

Collaborative Teaching and Rigorous Instruction Group

(Rigorous Instruction Group's definite goal to be determined by June 2018)

Goals:

100% of teachers will receive, at minimum, one hour of scheduled collaboration time with co-teachers and grade level partners to create rigorous instruction.

The school will work with teachers to implement a paid curricular planning retreat over the summer to discuss curriculum, school schedule and support structures (i.e. responsive classroom, advisory, community leaders). This will ensure their alignment to support rigorous instruction.

Effective School Leadership

Goal(s):

By June 2018, at least 75% of teachers will take on leadership roles to facilitate at least one cycle of PL, curriculum development, or school event that drive student achievement across the school, grades and departments.

Or

By June 2018, we will have increased the number of teacher led professional learning communities revolving around best practices in gifted and talented education

Remuneration Logs

Group reminder

Next Meeting Date: June 5, 2017 at the ES Final Meeting of the year.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.