



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
Special Meeting
June 19, 2017
Minutes**

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

Members Present:

Vasilios Biniaris, Principal

Kristina Jelinek (guest)

Alex Lunz, Teacher

Maria Hantzopoulos, PTA Co President

Pooja O'Hanlon, Parent

Elizabeth Yarmy, Parent

Mara Cusker Gonzalez, Parent

Jason Booher, Parent

Minnie Zen, Parent

In addition, five non-member parents attended as observers.

The focus of this special meeting was to discuss the budget plan for the upcoming year and its alignment with CEP goals.

This meeting was held as part of our directive as an SLT under our regulations and by-laws. In both the draft of the CEP for the coming year and in the current year's CEP, there are numerous goals and activities focused on the social-emotional learning (SEL) needs of our children. The current year's CEP also repeatedly references our social worker as a key personnel on whom the school relies to implement and oversee those activities.

The SLT is working with Bill to creatively think through ways to support students and equip teachers with resources to meet these SEL needs.



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In particular, we discussed the existence of a budget deficit for the upcoming year based on Bill's projected and desired staffing plan and one potential impact -- exceeding the Social Worker position. We calculated budget projections based on enrollment for the next three years to consider all possibilities and how we could meet the full needs of both campuses over time. We discussed options for retaining the Social Worker position by reducing the number of new hires in the Middle School by one teacher, trying to either find a generalist to fill two desired teacher positions or hold off on an art hire until the following year. For instance, we had questions about why the Middle School needed 15 teachers, plus 2 ICT teachers, and 1 guidance counselor for approximately 187 kids, whereas the Elementary campus would have 12 teachers and no social worker/guidance for approximately 287 kids. We agreed that the Middle School needed to be stabilized but raised questions about the pace of the hires at the expense of key personnel in the elementary school campus. If the reduction of one new hire in the Middle School was not possible, we discussed the PTA funding the gap in the budget (pending membership approval).

The parents who attended as observers (1 new MS parent, 2 new ES parents, and 2 ES parents that have been in the school since year one) all expressed vociferously strong support for the plan of finding a solution to maintain a social worker, though one of the new ES parents expressed that not everyone may be on the same page.

It was clearly reiterated at the meeting that parents want to support Bill's vision for the school and that parents are hopeful that we can find a solution that does not polarize the community, but rather leaves us intact and stronger than ever.