



The 30th Avenue School (Q300)
Elementary Campus
28-37 29th Street, 4th Floor, Astoria, NY 11102
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www.Q300.org
Vasilios Biniaris, Principal

School Leadership Team Meeting
November 26, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Members Present

Bill Biniaris
Ali Lisberger
Elijah Cho
Monica Mohan
Paula Marsi
Raj Jalall
Sonita Ramkishun
Laura Marks
Kasia Jankonski (observer)
Li Wong (observer)
Bai Hanying (observer)

Members Not Present

LaShawna Harris
Maria Panagiotakis

Review and Approval of Minutes from 10/22/18

Motioned to approve with amendments - Laura
Second- Paula
All in favor to pass approval of minutes

Discussion of SLT Membership

1. Members reviewed the Bylaws. SLT must have equal members Administration and Parent Representatives. Paula is SLT member, Julissa is not a member. Kasia



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is a new member but acting as an observer today. Staff members may serve more than one term if there is no one available to take upon the role.

PTA Report

1. Budget- Updated payment schedule for TAs. Executive board vote on 11/27. There is a PTA Membership vote on 11/29. The PTA will determine the open supplies budget and decide what they will be spending the supplies/PD money on.
2. Upcoming Events-
 - a. There's a Hackathon at the UD on 12/4/18. Volunteers are needed.
 - b. Movie night is on 12/7/18.
 - c. Winterfest is on 1/25/19 pending room availability for gym, auditorium, and cafeteria.
 - d. The PTA is currently planning for the auction in May.
3. Active Fundraisers- The PTA is halfway to their budget goals. If you go to Bonjour Crepes and mention Q300, a portion of your bill will be donated to Q300. If you order tickets through Fandango Instant Family, the school gets a discount. You can place orders through Shutterfly or Tiny Prints and 13% of your purchase will be donated to the school.
4. Other Committee Activities- The Library Committee is having a Book Drive. Books will be leveled by volunteers. OPT Bus Advocacy is working on bus timing. The timing listed on the OPT Website is incorrect. The committee will review bus stops for efficiency and follow up on GPS Pilot.
5. School Pictures- There are concerns that the parent body wasn't notified regarding class pictures and students not having to wear uniforms. A general discussion on when to consult schools ensued. It was suggested that when something affects the entire community, perhaps we should bring the issue to the SLT beforehand to discuss.



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Principal's Report

1. Field Trips- There's a lot going on in terms of getting out the building and using the city as a classroom. Recent field trips have included Brookfield Place, Stony Brook University, and Queens County Farm among others.
2. TAs- There's been a discrepancy in the cost of TAs so we've been dealing with this. We kept all of the TAs at their current pay rates. We met with the TAs and they suggested that they get an hour lunch instead of a half hour (unpaid).
3. Social Worker- We made a formal offer and she accepted. There will be a meeting with her, Christine and parent representatives on this upcoming Friday. The goal of the meeting is to go through some of the unique requirements of our school (community helpers, restorative circles, etc) Her tentative start date is Jan. 2, 2019.
4. School Aide- We currently have 2 school aides -- one at each site. Kimberly has been in our building regularly. The goal was to bring her on full time but due to current staffing needs we cannot bring her on board full time. Parent volunteers may be able to help but there are DOE restrictions about children being alone with non DOE adults.
5. Ways We've Addressed CEP Goals- We've begun intervisitations. More than 70% of staff have had four day Responsive Classroom training. Edwin recently went to a restorative circle training and will be turn-keying the information. All observations have focused on the use of positive language. We've reinstated the community helpers program. Our professional learning plan was produced by teachers. We've included collaborative planning time. Tuesday time for teachers is being used strategically. Teachers get feedback emails that don't go toward formal observations. I've had monthly coffee with Bill meetings. We've hosted parent workshops -- Understanding the IEP referral process which was open to all district 30 parents and a workshop on ENL.



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Discussion of New Business

1. SLT members talked about the challenges of having two buildings. We are awaiting a letter of support from the Queensboro President's office. There's an army of people working on getting a new location for our school. Lynn has been setting up meetings with local electives. We're going to have a follow up meeting regarding a new building. All parts of Queens are being mentioned -- we're not limited to district 30. We should have someone visit here so the SLT can be in the loop of our options. It was agreed that a One School Committee representative should be invited to the next SLT meeting to provide an update.
2. Community Concerns over Class Sizes- Bill will explore waitlists as a way to recruit students in 7th and 8th grade. Schools that do that may have a different admission process. Our next step is to follow up with other citywide schools and Bill will reach out to enrollment to get more information. Looking forward to next year, it looks like we should have 3 sections for 6th grade and then bringing that down to two 7th grade classes the following year. The goal is not to have classes capped out like they are this year.
3. Bill showed a powerpoint about a Basic School Budget demonstrating some of the challenges we face and explaining why class sizes are so large this year. There was a discussion about how we can customize and differentiate our classrooms for our students. It's agreed that students need to be challenged. The question is how can we develop a more customized curriculum?

Review and Refine CEP Goals

1. Based on the last meeting, Bill asked Ali, Elijah, Kasia and Maria to meet and edit the CEP goals. Elijah spoke about how they've been changed and explained that SLT staff members looked at the items skills analysis to determine needs, updated the needs assessment in the CEP and refined some goals. Raj suggested we look at the needs assessment by grade and sub groups such as special ed and



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ENL and challenged staff to bring data in January to show impact and think about how we can move our 3's to 4's.

Creation of Agenda for the Next Meeting

1. One School Committee gets an invite to next meeting
2. Finding data to make goals more specific
3. Find out what we can do for waitlists
4. Discussion around online behavior - better restrictions at UD but also preparing them for the real world. Perhaps we set up a parent workshop about this

Remuneration Logs

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40