

Q300

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K-8 Citywide Gifted and Talented School

Principal, I.A. | Sonita Ramkishun
Assistant Principal | Anna Milonakis

School Leadership Team Meeting (Virtual Platform: Google Meet)

June 22, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Sonita Ramkishun (IA Principal), LaShawonna Harris, *Chair* (Parent), Lynn Kennedy (PTA Co-President), Ali Lisberger (UFT), Chidi Amasiani (Teacher), Maria Panagiotakis (Teacher), Kiera Sullivan (Teacher), Sara Clough (Parent), Laura Marks (Parent), Raj Jimenez-Jailall (Parent)

Observer: Anna Milonakis (Assistant Principal)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2020

Motion: *Ali* motioned to approve minutes from June 8th, 2020. Lynn seconded the motion.

III. Committee Reports

Principal Report

Registration

We have about 70 students offered and 60 students registered for the upcoming school year.

PTA Report

Budget

Budget surveys have been completed and just need to be reviewed.

Supply Lists

All supply lists have been sent out for all the grade bands for parents and the community to purchase through the PTA, if they choose to do so.

IV. New Business

Return to School 2020-2021

Sonita reported some ideas from the Chancellor regarding returning to school:

Blended Learning Environment: The chancellor and the governor make the final decision in terms of if we will be going back to school remote or not. The DOE conducted a citywide survey asking if attending school in-person 2 days a week per child was acceptable; due to Q300 space limitations, we are only able to have children in the building once a week.

If we were to go back to teaching in person, it would be a Blended Learning Model (half remote learning and half in class) with 50% capacity. This would affect not only children but our teacher-to-child ratio. This requirement will result in a mix of in-person and remote learning experiences. Students would be given a schedule of when they can come to school based on the social distancing guidelines. Sonita and Ali (UFT Representative) had walked around the building to assess classroom capacity based on enrollment. In order to limit potential coronavirus spread, children will not be moving from their assigned classrooms; the teachers will be rotating. There will be one teacher per room allowed at any time.

- Redesigning recess and lunch: The chancellor has not given us guidance as of yet.
- Teacher Assistants: Because teacher assistants are not mandated and would require having an additional body in the building, there is a strong possibility that we may not have teaching assistants next year.
- Teachers have determined that iPads were insufficient tools for learning and that laptops would be necessary. Every student will need a one-to-one device; the school was assessing whether it already has enough laptops available to be able to provide them to children who do not have them at home. From a survey conducted, the LD (Lower Division) has enough laptops for about 50% of the students. The UD (Upper Division) has enough laptops for 75% of its students. We will conduct new surveys in August/September and reach out to families to see if they have their own devices.
- All curriculum/workbooks/textbooks will be digitally accessible for all children in and outside of school.
- There will be no limit to who wants to remote learning at home all the time. They will be connected to a classroom and will be completing online
- Children who want to be home-schooled for the entire year can do so according to the regular standard: They will be discharged and we will hold their spot in for one year.

Scheduling

Students will be broken up into three groups: Group A, B & C. This means that students will be in the building once a week for core subjects. Therefore we will adapt a Flipped Classroom Learning Model where students will be able to engage in the content online and then when they return to class, they will have discussions, activities, investigations. The remainder of the week would be remote learning; one day will be set aside for small group work ; one day would be for assessments and enrichment. We currently have teachers on the ILT (Instructional Leadership Team) working on schedules. As soon as we are finished with that, it will be shared with everyone.

Master Teachers

In the LD, instead of having one teacher teach multiple subjects, we will have one teacher become familiar with content for one subject. This will give the children a diverse way of learning through different teachers and their mastered content area as well as, they will be able to differentiate for students who are struggling and or excelling. This will be similar to what we already have at the UD, now we will be bringing this idea to the LD.

Connectivity

Connectivity issues may occur where a student may not be able to connect at the same time the teacher is actually teaching. Four out of five times, the students are not available and these are issues that we ran into during remote learning. The teachers in our school are willing to work live if they have the resources. We can also have the teachers, if we have a space, to pre-record lessons and post it afterwards if they feel more comfortable that way. It is still being determined whether students working from home will be able to view live classes taking place in the school buildings.

Clarifying Questions

There was a question about whether there will be Individualized Learning Plans for all students who are working remotely to allow for differentiated learning. Schoolwork should not be based on how much a parent wants a child to be busy but on what that child needs based on their own learning needs and where they are in terms of their progression. Children should be able to have different entry points, not just be busy all day. We have to remember that we are not going to mimic what the actual school day were to look like vs. a child accelerating in their work and moving forward on other things. This is done on a child to child basis.

There was a question about whether there would be consistency amongst classes and grades and regular calibration. Sonita responded that teachers would be encouraged to go live; the ILT is working on it and will provide them with the resources.

Next Steps

Teachers are working on a schedule for students to be coming into the building one time a week: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays. Thursday's would be for small group instruction remotely and Fridays will be for enrichment and electives. Then we are looking at teachers schedules, trying to accommodate teachers lunch and preps. A committee would be great ideally to be started in late August to discuss remote learning and ask for parents to join in on discussions. There will be a survey sent out to families once there is more guidance from the chancellor to figure out what days and schedules work best for their children or if their child will be remote learning.

V. Old Business

Q300 Diversity Proposal

Results of Diversity Proposal Feedback Family Survey: There were 255 responses, where 43.9% strongly disagreed with the proposal and 11.4 % disagreed with the proposal. Ali shared some positive and negative comments from the community.

Ali noted that because of the survey's design, it appeared that there had been some "ballot stuffing" so the number of responses were unreliable.

[Diversity Proposal Draft](#)

SLT Responses to the Feedback Family Survey

All SLT members were in agreement with the proposal and are highly disturbed and upset by the comments from the community.

Laura read a letter that addressed concerns that had been brought up since the proposal had circulated. [Sonita circulated that letter to the school community on Tuesday, along with the full proposal.]

[Letter to Community](#)

Two motions were recommended. One was to submit the proposal as is. The other was to circulate a new survey to the school community. We discussed how to design the survey in order to preserve confidentiality but ensure that each parent could only vote once.

Motion: *Sonita* motioned to approve to move forward as is. No one seconded or approved this motion. SLT members would not move forward without additional considerations.

Motion: *Sonita* motioned to circulate a new survey that would elicit additional feedback from the community, consider these comments, then vote on the proposal with or without amendments, and submit the proposal by June 30th, 2020. Maria seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.

Feedback is due by the end of the day today, 6/25. The SLT will hold an emergency meeting on Friday, June 26 at 3:30 pm to discuss results of the 2nd survey. The proposal will be submitted on June 30.

[SLT Diversity Survey Comments](#)

VII: Next Steps

Next meeting will be on Friday, June 26th @ 3:30

Meeting adjourned at 5:08p.m.