

School Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 12, 2022
6:30PM-8:30PM

Members in Attendance:

- Sonita Ramkishun (Principal)
- Alejandra Roma (Teacher)
- Leanne Bolson (Teacher)
- Ali Lisberger (Teacher + UFT Rep)
- Laura Parris (Teacher)
- Yvette Choy (Parent + PTA President)
- Maria Hantzopoulos (Parent)
- Fiona Yung (Parent)
- Dragos Bozdog (Parent)
- Alisha Arthur (Parent)

1. Call to Order

The meeting opened at 6:34 pm for all on zoom.

2. Review and approval of last month's minutes**3. Review Expectation Guide**

- The expectation guide has been revised based on last week's notes
- Sonita suggested that once we review, it will be shared the following ways:
 - K-2: Teachers will review it with their students and have them acknowledge it in an age appropriate way
 - 3-8: Families will review and sign with their kids. Jenny Lando will assist in clarifying questions and supporting parents in this process.
- We reviewed the document as a group and added a few more suggestions (pagination, typos, clarity on UD bathroom policies, trips, physical education days etc..)
- Gama will be added next year after it is rolled out.
- Sonita said she would update info about UD lunch transitions, a link for suggested nut-free snacks, and link to DOE page for lockdown procedures

4. Book review: *Students at the Center* Chapter 1

- The group discussed the preface & Chapter 1, marking some of the lines/phrases that resonate with them as well as sharing the experiences they've had that allowed them to connect with the central idea of this text.
- A robust discussion ensued. Some highlights and concepts that resonated from the book were:
 - the potential of co-constructing knowledge, projects, and rubrics with students, and adding more student-led conversations and activities (fishbowls, project-based learning, etc...).
 - how personalized instruction was distinct from differentiation and individualization - because of the co-construction (teachers and students as co-pilots) and relation aspects of the concept
 - the possibility of guiding students to feel comfortable with making mistakes and taking risks, as it is integral to growth and learning; we discussed how this doesn't just relate to students, but teachers and community as a whole
 - the 16 Habits of mind and how to incorporate more broadly
 - The emphasis on collaboration and how be better community member
 - The potential for student agency and how they can contribute to their own learning (and inspire more learning)
 - The possibility of cross- and trans-disciplinary nature of the work
 - The consideration how measurement and assessment are impacted by these approaches
 - The potential for shifting thinking:
 - Is it happening in the classroom or is it not?
 - How can we shift and reflect on the process?
 - Overall, the excitement about combining all of the pieces together

5. Diversity Proposal

- We got into smaller groups and started editing and addressing questions from last year.
- Each group had a different section
- The goal is to eventually post the updated version on the google sites
- After meeting for 15 minutes, we decided we needed more time and we would do more work on this at the next meeting.

6. Reports

- See Appendix for Principal Report
- See Appendix for UFT Report
- PTA Report
 - First hybrid PTA meeting in D30 happened in September
 - Next PTA meeting: Oct 20 (elections at the meeting)

The 30th Avenue School (Q300)



Lower Division: 28-37 29th Street, Astoria 11102: 4th Floor
M: (718) 626-8502 F: (718) 626-8508

K-8 Citywide Gifted and Talented School

Upper Division: 31-51 21st Street, LIC 11106: 5th Floor
M: (718) 726-0501 F: (718) 726-0949

Principal | Sonita Ramkishun
Assistant Principal | Anna Milonakis

- Class Parents are being set up
- Costume Party is Oct 23. Tickets on Sale now! Teachers go free. [Costume Party Link](#)
- Pie Sales are happening. [Details here](#)
- Tea Collection Fundraising Sale Happening: [Tea Collection Sale](#)
- Hurricane relief efforts are happening. [Details here.](#)

7. Parking Lot

- Can we discuss the Diversity committee (in addition to the proposal)?
 - Sonita would like us to do this and talk about what we want and what is sustainable and moving forward (reframe its purpose away from recruitment to support)
- Should we revisit By-laws for the small amendment?
 - If we certainly have to go to hybrid meetings, we will do it then.
- We will discuss Chapter 2 at next meeting

8. Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 pm

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Appendix 1: Principal Report

Staff update

- I want to take this opportunity to wish Ms. Michelle all the best as she takes her leave and awaits her bundle of joy!
- I want to thank Ms. Alexandra for all her work with busing and her dedication to our q300 community. She will no longer be with us due to personal reasons. We will truly miss her. Our new busing coordinator is Ms. Venetia. She can be contacted at schoolbus@q300.org

Socialize with Sonita (virtual)

- I am looking forward to meeting you virtually to socialize and chat about Q300. I will send the zoom link out closer to the date. Please save these dates!
 - **October 26th at 9:00AM**
 - **November 23rd at 9:00AM**
 - **December 21st at 9:00AM**

High School Applications are Open

- This is to inform you that the high school application is now open in MySchools.
- All 8th grade families have received a personalized welcome letter that includes an overview of high school admissions, and how to use the DOE's online school directory and application system, [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov).
- **For families who have never used MySchools before**, your personalized welcome letter will help you set up your MySchools account and add your child using your unique account creation code.
- **For families who have already used MySchools in a previous year, you just need to log in.** You can re-set your MySchools password if needed. If you log into MySchools and don't see your child's name on the Dashboard page, that's okay--you just need your welcome letter and you should follow the instructions there.
- There will be informational sessions for families.
 - High school informational sessions will be on October 11, 13, and 18
 - Middle school informational sessions will be on October 27, 28, and Nov. 1

Community Conversation

- There may be a school wide meeting with Council Member Tiffany Caban at the end of October
- Stay tuned for updates

Appendix 2: UFT Report

- 1. Dial-a-Teacher is Back:** Homework help is available through the UFT's Dial-a-Teacher hotline. Students who need homework help can call or parents who need advice on how to help their child at home can speak to a teacher by calling 212.777.3380, Mondays through Thursdays, from 4 to 7pm. The staff speaks 10 languages: Armenian, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Tagalog.
- 2. UFT is Fighting for a Fair Contract:** Our members will be wearing blue every Thursday beginning on October 13 -- the day that contract negotiations begin. We've signed the fair contract pledge and are showing our power, solidarity and determination to reach a fair contract.
- 3. UFT Coat Drive:** If you're able to donate new winter coats, sweaters, scarves, mittens, gloves and hats, the UFT will donate them this November to students who live in temporary housing. Garments can range in size from toddler to adult. You can bring donations to our school until 11/18/22.
- 4. Participate in the CaringKind Alzheimer's Walk on 10/23:** Please join the UFT team walking on Sunday, Oct. 23 in the CaringKind Alzheimer's Walk to help fund Alzheimer's research and raise awareness about the disease. The walk will start at 10 a.m. in Central Park.
- 5. UFT's Anti-Bullying Conference for Middle School Students:** This year we signed up to bring up to 12 students to the UFT's anti-bullying conference, organized by the union's Middle School Division. This year, on Tuesday, Oct. 25, a terrific group of presenters will give information to students about how they can combat bullying in their schools and turn their communities into safer learning environments for everyone. Lunch, snacks and giveaways will be provided.