

School Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 16, 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)
- Luka Makino-Siller (student)

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. Book review: *Students at the Center* Chapter 2**

- The group discussed Chapter 2 of *Students at the Center*, Towards a Student Driven Practice, answering these questions:
 - What are your thoughts and opinions about the shifts suggested in this chapter?
 - What are some ways we can support staff to make these shifts in teaching and learning?
- Yvette wondered about how to do this in the younger grade as it seems might be easier for upper division students with all of the different attributes. They wondered 'how does this impact SEL (voice for introverted kids)?' Sonita added that the rapport between teachers and kids is happening, even for shy kids, and this is the foundation for this work.
- Ali felt that kids could assume their responsibility for the curriculum, to let them know what to do but then they can choose; liked the idea around evaluation and self-assessing. Created rubric together with third graders and today had conferences with students and they understood their grade.
- Leanne has been incorporating slowly and has accomplished more than she thought she could so soon. Map-mapping and rubric - accountability with the kids bc they came up with the criteria; also surveys on google forms to help inform practice; Parents can help staff by helping kids advocate for themselves;
- Maria shared that she really appreciated hearing how teachers and administration are supporting and doing this work. Main wonder from the reading 'How do we engage in authentic

personalized learning, goal-setting, and inquiry when there are state mandates, standards, and testing?’

- Laura discussed the process of co-creation in her classes, particularly creating quizzes together for reading and creating the standards for the rubric; It is working really well.
- Alisha wondered how the school administration will support the students and teachers to allow for students to be leaders (concerning the DOE and standards); ‘How are the teachers going to be supported in this transition with the DOE mandates?’ Sonita wants to create a “look for” template to bring concrete examples so they can learn from each other
- Dragos shared that a successful transition will transform both sides; there will more opportunities for students to participate effectively; teachers sort of assume a student role; it is a learning process for all; management of resources
- Alejandra finished a unit on book clubs. They have determined the theme by analyzing the problems they are facing (already inquiry based - more mindful that when I raise questions it is more to help then clarify their thinking - student led piece).
- Luka shared that this has been more interesting because the quiz has more depth to it and he was more engaged in the process.
- Sonita explained that this approach was part of a grant initiative from Dr. Compostom which gave PD to teachers (including on culturally relevant teaching). 8th grade, 5th grade, and K teachers are being trained, though all teachers in K-8 work in small groups related to the themes in the book. This year is about experimenting and reflecting with students.
- Fiona also wondered if teachers do classroom visits and had similar question around students creating goals when there are standards

4. CEP Progress Monitoring

- We worked in groups to review accuracy of goals on iPlan Portal. These were the groups.
 - Laura: Fiona, Yvette - Section 1, 2 and 4
 - Leanne: Maria H- section 5a and 5b
 - Alejandra: Dragos- section 5c
 - Ali: Alisha,Luka- section 7
- Each group reported back potential changes after they reviewed the CEP. Sonita made notes on these changes and we will revisit them in upcoming meetings.

5. Student SLT Report by Luka

- Student Council discussed having a Green Team in each classroom
- Culture Day is this Friday, November 18, 2022
- They are working on a plan for a UD dance

6. [School Survey:](#)

- The groups identified one glow and one area of Improvement (Focus on 2022)
- We did not have time to discuss and will next meeting (with action steps)

	Glow	Area of Improvement
Students: Laura: Fiona, Alisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cultural Awareness and Inclusive Classroom Instruction (91%) ● Student-Student Trust (91%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Emotional (60%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students feeling bored, stressed, and worried (the questions don't ask for time duration or frequency, though)
Teachers: Leanne: Maria H, Ali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outreach to families (100%) ● Teacher to teacher Trust (91%) ● Guidance (93%) ● Cultural awareness & inclusive classroom (92%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Effective school leadership (lowest percentage from teachers/staff) ● Academic Press (72%) Classroom behavior (76%)
Families: Alejandra: Dragos, Yvette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parent-Teacher Trust (94%) ● Outreach to Parents (93%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inclusive Leadership is rated lower than the average rating (88%) ● Parent Principal Trust is rated lower than the average rating (94%)

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

7. Reports

- See Appendix for Principal Report
- See Appendix for UFT Report
- See Appendix for PTA Report

7. SLT Signature page will be sent to everyone

8. Parking Lot

- CEP review
- Survey Review
- Chapter 3

9. Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 pm

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Appendix 1: Principal Report

Staffing Update

Teacher Kiera S. is no longer with our school.

Stephanie T. has begun her maternity leave. Long term sub Ms. Chrissy is teaching Math and Science

Esteban has begun his paternity leave. Long term sub Ms. Marwah is teaching Science and health to 6th and 7th grade students

SHSAT:

Tomorrow our school will be administering the SHSAT test to our 8th grade students who registered to take the test. Our teachers will be proctoring the test. We wish them the best of luck.

Arts Connection Showcase

Our school will be hosting its first arts connection showcase on December 9th at the lower division. Students will be showcasing their dance, art, and musical talents. More information will be shared soon.

Diversity Committee

Today we hosted our first committee meeting with the goal to bring more resources in to our school for our students to learn about different cultures and backgrounds and educate our students on diversity. I am looking forward to working with Khary to establish a team that helps bring equity of voice through books, presenters, and educational trips.

Math Team Afterschool is Back

Students who have qualified for the Math Team have joined this afterschool program to build on their mathematical skills and compete in competitions.

Spelling Bee

Today was our first school wide spelling bee. Thank you to Alejandra for coordinating this event.

Congratulations to our 5th grade student who won and will be going to the district level.

Appendix 2: UFT Report

- 1. Call 311 to Help Us Get Another Crossing Guard and School Safety Agent (SSA):** Each month schools hold safety committee meetings. At our October meeting we discussed the desire to obtain another crossing guard and SSA for our school. One way to make that happen is to flood 311 with calls suggesting it. Please spread the word and help us make this happen!
- 2. UFT Toy Drive:** The elementary schools division is having a toy drive for children newborn to 16 years of age. You may bring donations to Q300 and Ali will get it to the UFT office. Books, stuffed animals and clothing are unable to be donated.
- 3. Dial-A-Teacher Parent Workshops Available:** If you're interested in a PTA presentation we can set it up for our school. A list of workshops is attached.

Dial-A-Teacher Parent Workshops

PTA Presentation – Gives an overview of Dial-A-Teacher and the services we provide. Resources such as educational websites, expectations of the Common Core Standards and strategies are offered to improve student achievement. Dial-A-Teacher promotional materials are distributed.

Test Taking Tips – Focuses on ways to develop good study habits prior to taking any test. Parents are given an overview of the expectations and concepts including the State Assessment. Parents are offered suggestions of ways they can assist their children to be successful.

Pantry Math – Crafty interactive activities for parents and children to do together in the kitchen to learn elementary and middle school math. Parents are taught how to use items such as cereal, beans, cups, candy, spaghetti, and other items in the pantry so children can learn math skills/concepts through hands-on approach.

Homework It's A Family Affair – Focuses on how parents can support children to complete homework assignments and how Dial-A-Teacher can assist them in time of need.

Time Management – Concentrates on how parents can support their children to be organized and use time wisely after school to complete assignments. Parents are offered suggestions of schedules and contracts for children.

Reducing Summer Knowledge Loss – Explains why children have summer knowledge loss. Parents are offered fun free activities that they can do with their children during the summer to keep them academically engaged.

The World As Our Classroom – Throughout this workshop parents will understand how easy it is to use every day activities and living experiences as learning opportunities. These activities engage children in the learning process and motivate them to connect with real life and daily living of subjects taught in their classroom.

Parent Teachers Conference – Parents will be offered suggestions on how to discuss their children's progress with teachers during these conferences.

Mindfulness – This workshop will be interactive offering suggestions and strategies of how to engage your children in activities dealing with their emotions.

Appendix 3: PTA Report

- New and Full PTA Board with 19 amazing members. Parent/Guardians with 1-3 children across 8 different grades. Very exciting!
- 27 Class Parents across 18 Classes. So teachers, you have help!
- Volunteer Committees and Skills Teams have been formed. Thank you Amy Wong for all the database management and organization!

Fundraising

- Direct Appeal has launched and forms have been backpacked home. Thank you to David Wang & Sue Sekar for spearheading the Direct Appeal Committee forever. Also thank you to Jenny Lando for facilitating the distribution of the forms in school.
- Gift Card Fundraiser is going on until 11/18.
- Pie Sale has ended and Distribution is next week.

Membership

- Fall Costume Party on the last weekend of Oct was a big hit. Tickets sold out and we reached capacity for the first time in the event's history. Thank you to Asst. Principal Anna for supervising that day and to Erica, Amy, Maria, Jenny & Ellie for planning and organizing. Plus the nearly 70 parent/guardian volunteers that helped make it all happen. Takes a village!

Community Affairs

- Curbside Composting Workshop led by Rachana Shah, one of our parent leads on the Green Team.
- Community Conversation with Council Person Tiffany Cabán to discuss Participatory Budgeting, education & safety
 - a. It was a great collaboration between Q300 & PS17.
 - b. Thank you to Principal Sonita and Principal Heyward for supporting our communities to participate.
 - c. Thank you to Janet Perez-Garcia & Christine Serdjenian-Yearwood, our PTA Co-VPs of Community Affairs for working with the Council office to make it happen.
 - d. **CROSSING GUARDS were asked for at LD Bldg**
- D30 Trunk or Treat
 - e. Again Q300 & PS17 PTAs came together to collaborate with a table at the Inaugural D30 Trunk or Treat in Astoria Park. Thank you Janet Perez-Garcia again, for spearheading.
- Sock and Coat Drive are being organized. More details to come possibly tomorrow evening at...

Tomorrow evening, **PTA General Membership Meeting** at 6:30pm on Zoom! Parents/guardians/teachers - check your inbox for an email from Q300 PTA for a link to join.