

**School Leadership Team Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, December 14, 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 6:36 pm for all on zoom.

**2. Review and approval of last month's minutes and June 2022 minutes**

Motion to approve June and November minutes were made and seconded.

**3. Student SLT Report by Luka**

- **Student Council create a suggestion box**
  - Better school lunches at UD
    - Sonita said a lunch survey is going home
    - Sonita is hoping NYC public schools can incorporate what other districts are piloting in terms of new approaches
  - Vending machines in cafeteria
  - Cleaner bathrooms
- **School dance: February 10 (\$5 admission fee)**
  - Sonita confirmed 5th floor gym as location
  - Student Council is fundraising for it
  - Confirming staffing

## 4. Revisit School Survey

The group re-visited the school survey, the glows and grows, and came up with [action steps](#) to incorporate feedback.

	Glow	Area of Improvement	Action Steps
Students: Laura: Fiona, Alisha, Luka	Cultural Awareness and Inclusive Classroom Instruction (91%)  Student-Student Trust (91%)	Social Emotional (60%)  Students feeling bored, stressed, and worried (the questions don't ask for time duration or frequency, though)	Advisory catch-up days to support students in catching up on school work and deadlines  Teachers check in with each other about the amount of homework they're giving  More communication about how to get help from guidance counselor (Posters, Reintroductions from Khary)  Build into schedule time for students to check in with their different teachers and for teachers to work with different students  Sonita: Allow students to lead SEL conversations, team building activities, and presentations.  Incorporate student led activities  Continue with "wellness days before the break"
Teachers: Leanne: Maria H, Ali	Outreach to families (100%)  Teacher to teacher Trust (91%)  Guidance (93%)  Cultural awareness & inclusive classroom (92%)	Effective school leadership  Academic Press (72%)  Classroom behavior (76%)	<b><u>Effective School Leadership</u></b> ILT is setting up a presentation about school survey results  Survey teachers with questions that align to survey (a mid year check in rather than end of year)  Sonita: Continue with bi-weekly admin planning periods  Sonita: Continue to survey teachers on topics such as Professional Learning, What is working well, what needs improvement  Sonita: Continue to have an open door policy  <b><u>Academic Press</u></b> Implementing strategies and techniques from "Students at the Center" to increase Academic Press Instructional rounds/inter visitations to see various practices throughout the school

# The 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue School (Q300)



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K-8 Citywide Gifted and Talented School

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			<p><b><u>Classroom Behavior</u></b>                  Having teachers create classroom responsibilities</p> <p>Mindfulness/movement breaks to help increase active listening</p> <p>Revisit (with students) school wide expectation guide mid in the new year to hold students &amp; teachers accountable.</p> <p>Instructional rounds/inter visitations to see various practices throughout the school</p> <p>Consider peer to peer supports (ie. Morning meeting run by students, community helpers...)</p>
<p>Families: Alejandra : Dragos, Yvette</p>	<p>Parent-Teacher Trust (94%)</p> <p>Outreach to Parents (93%)</p>	<p>Inclusive Leadership is rated lower than the average rating (88%)</p> <p>Parent Principal Trust is rated lower than the average rating (91%)</p>	<p>Survey parent needs. Address the ways that parents feel a level of distrust amongst teachers or administration.</p> <p>Include more parent involvement in school-wide activities.</p> <p>Parent engagement is high. Address the reality that there are different types of parents with different levels of engagement. Parents who engage generally desire more info.</p> <p>There is an increase in parent-principal trust.</p> <p>More opportunities for parents to come in and see their child’s work showcased. More in person events.</p> <p>For teachers, in person activities can be daunting or intimidating. It might be helpful for teachers to have more informal in person events, like a Poetry Share/Reading Share.</p> <p>Have teachers participate in community events, like have a cohort for ex. SLT Teachers pick a movie for Movie Night. Or ELA Teachers pick one for Movie Night another month. Or a book club at a cozy space outside of school.</p> <p>Sonita: Continue with Socialize with Sonita once a month</p> <p>Continue with in person parent events</p> <p>Continue to be accessible through email and appointments via zoom</p>

## 5. G&T Kindergarten Admission Process 2022-2023

- Everything is integrated into the K application
- Open House on January 10, 2023

- Jenny Lando will host Tea with PC for prospective families on admissions process
- Diversity Committee is kicking off outreach (meeting today)
  - Flier being made
  - Outreach list made
  - Opportunity, Awareness and Access is the key thing
- Ranking the 12 schools - if a Gifted and Talented school is among them, that will trigger the nomination process
- Questions from parents can also be directed to [esenrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:esenrollment@schools.nyc.gov) for things that are unknown to school.

## 6. Diversity Proposal Parent Facing Document

The group reviewed the Parent Facing Diversity Proposal document (drafted from 2020 Proposal) and made suggestions. We will revisit by next meeting so that it can be integrated into the website.

## 7. Reports

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

## 8. Parking Lot

- Chapter 3 - We did not get to it this time but will discuss at the January meeting

## 9. Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 pm

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## **Message from First Deputy Chancellor**

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) are encouraging every student and staff member to mask up. They have issued a [universal indoor masking recommendation](#) for all indoor settings.

## **Health and Wellness**

### **Tips for Staying Healthy**

You can help us avoid the spread of illness at school. Here are a few simple actions you can take to keep your child and other students healthy.

### **Stay Home When Sick**

Rest can help you and your child get better sooner, and it helps prevent the spread of germs.

- Children with diarrhea should stay home until the diarrhea has stopped (stools are formed).
- Anyone with a fever should stay home until 24 hours after being fever free or until their doctor says it is okay to go back to school or daycare.
- Children with breathing problems should stay home until the cough is gone.
- If your child is having difficulty breathing, call your doctor right away,

### **Cover Your Cough**

Use a tissue to cover coughs and sneezes. If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve, not your hands. Teach your child to cover their coughs too!

### **Wash Hands Often**

Washing your hands with soap and water stops the spread of germs. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer

## **ArtsConnection Showcase**

On Friday, December 9th we hosted our Arts Connection Showcase. It was great to see our students in K-4th take the stage to showcase their products from their music and art classes.

## **Last day of the marking period:**

The last day of the marking period was December 9th. Parents will receive a paper copy of report cards on **December 21st** and they will be able to view their child's report card online using their NYCSA accounts.

## **Winter Break**

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There will be no school from December 24<sup>th</sup>-January 2<sup>nd</sup>. All students and staff are expected to return to school on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

## **Champs**

The programs have started at the UD (volleyball and basketball)

## **Basketball Team**

Tryouts are happening for the Basketball team in grades 3-5

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## **Appendix 2: UFT Report**

**The UFT Opposes Charter Schools in Neighboring Districts:** The UFT and the communities of D27, D28, and D29 are opposed to the newly proposed charter schools for these districts. We are asking for you to support this resolution in solidarity with D27, 28, and 29 to oppose charter schools being created and co-located in already existing schools. Resources from the Department of Education should be going to the students, families and schools that already exist. We are asking for the SLT to please sign your name on the blank line that you support this resolution. Thank you for supporting fellow Queens districts.

### **Resolution:**

WHEREAS, there is a proposed Re-Siting of Success Academy Charter School – Far Rockaway (84Q375) to building Q225 and Co-location with Waterside School for Leadership (27Q318) in District 27.

WHEREAS, the NYC Department of Education has notified the school communities of the Springfield Gardens Educational Campus in District 29 and Catherine and Count Basie Middle School 28Q072 in District 28 of the possibility of a Success Academy Charter school serving grades K-4 be co-located at their campus.

WHEREAS, Preparatory Academy for Writers, Excelsior Preparatory High School, Queens Preparatory Academy, and George Washington Carver High School are schools currently in existence at the Springfield Gardens Campus and Catherine and Count Basie Middle School 28Q072, Redwood Middle School 28Q332, and P993 D75 at the Catherine and Count Basie Campus.

WHEREAS, the SLT is designed to lead our schools so our students have better learning experiences.

WHEREAS, the SLTs of the aforementioned schools have passed resolutions opposing the move of the Success Academy Charter school to their campus.

WHEREAS, all schools at the Springfield Gardens Educational Campus, Catherine and Count Basie Campus and Waterside School for Leadership provide our community with educational choices for our children.

WHEREAS, despite the complexity of sharing space schools in Springfield Gardens Educational Campus and Catherine and Count Basie Campus Waterside School for Leadership have successfully achieved protocols that allow our students to maximize their educational experience.

WHEREAS, adding an additional school to each campus will undoubtedly lessen the overall experience of current students by taking space and limiting the programs that these schools may offer.

WHEREAS, the NYC DOE held a meeting for the SLTs of both campuses to hear comments from the community.

WHEREAS, there were over 400 community members in attendance at these meetings collectively and not one person spoke in favor of the proposal to move a charter school into this campus.

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WHEREAS, members of the community asked the DOE to rather than bring in a charter school and divert resources and space to them they should spend more resources to the existing District 27, 28, and 29 elementary, middle, and high school public schools.

WHEREAS, members of the community voiced concerns regarding the impact on equity and safety these multiple schools would have in their campus as well as limiting access to shared spaces within the campus buildings.

WHEREAS, members of the community stated that the DOE's assessment underestimates the actual building utilization of the existing schools at the campus and what future utilization will be due to the recently signed class size reduction law and expansion of campus programs

WHEREAS, speakers detailed how charter schools select students

WHEREAS, parents described how their special needs students were counseled out of the charter school they were attending.

Therefore be it resolved, that in solidarity with the SLTs of Waterside School for Leadership, Catherine and Count Basie Campus and Springfield Educational Gardens Campus, the SLT for \_\_\_\_\_ opposes the proposal to move a Success Charter schools into these campuses; and be it

Resolved, that the DOE should protect and further support ALL public schools in Queens by investing in them rather than diverting resources to charter schools; and be it further

Resolved, that our school community contact the elected officials of our community for assistance and support against the proposal to move a Success Charter school into Waterside School for Leadership (D27), Catherine and Count Basie Campus (D28) and the Springfield Gardens Educational Campus (D29).

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## **Appendix 3: PTA Report**

- PTA purchased 80 chromebooks for the school
- PTA funded TAs are in the LD division
- School based committees are in effect (Diversity, Green Team, Wellness)
- The PTA Direct Appeal campaign has launched
- The PTA Thanksgiving Pie Sale raised \$1200
- HS Workshop on “choosing a fit” organized by Christine K and Maria H happened for 8th parents. Alum parents gave advice on applying for current families
- Luncheon for Teachers and Staff provided by Rami Motiyr (K parent)
- PS 17/Q300 participated together in the Athens Square park Tree-lighting and Caroling
- The PTAs of PS17 and Q300 are doing a joint Sock and Coat Drive
- The PTA will host a Movie Night on January 6th at the Lower Division. Movie TBD
- The International Potluck and Winter Festival is on again! Date is February 3, 2023. Details coming soon.
- 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.