

PS/IS 187 School Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

March 21st, 2024 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

Parent Representatives

1. Joy Waitkus/Co Chair SLT – Elected Parent Rep
2. Jackie Cruz - PTO Co President
3. Emily Hardy - Elected Parent Rep
4. Kelly Ceynowa - Elected Parent Rep
5. Karima Khawja - Elected Parent Rep
6. Kiersten Hettler - Elected Parent Rep

Staff Representatives

1. Christopher Jennings/Co Chair SLT – UFT Chapter Leader
2. Emel Topbas-Mejia- Principal
3. Jessica Mitchell - 4th Grade General Education Teacher
4. Samantha Pastore – Health/PE Teacher IS
5. Amanda Burley - ENL Teacher
6. Marie Marricco - 5th Grade General Education Teacher

1. Welcome

2. Review and Approval of February 2024 Minutes

- a. Amandy Burley motioned to approve. Kelly Ceynowa seconded the motion. Unanimous approval by the remaining members.

3. Principal's Updates

a. Class Size Meeting -

i. Class size legislation was approved in Albany. The plan for expectations in class size reductions is: currently 40% of schools citywide are expected to be compliance. However, next year when 60% is expected to be compliant this will pose a challenge for everyone. The new expectations for class sizes are: K-3rd grade - maximum class size is 20 students, 4th-8th - maximum class size is 23 students, 9th-12th - maximum class size is 25 students.

ii. This is a great reduction from where we currently are. Citywide challenges are going to physical space and teachers. We currently have 33 full size classrooms and in order to meet reductions in September we would need 43 full size classrooms. This means we need at least 10 additional classroom teachers and cluster teachers to cover for specials. All of our physical spaces are being used in the building. The art room and the main office could be rerouted and turned into classrooms, however, that is only 2 full size spaces that are not dedicated classrooms. City unions (UFT & CSA) are working with DOE and providing feedback about how to implement these reductions. A possibility is moving away from funding per student and moving to funding for schools per classroom.

iii. The reality for our school is that even if we had the physical space, we don't have the additional funding to hire additional teachers unless there are shifts made with how schools are funded. School leaders aren't involved in the discussions around funding. There will be a Chancellors Town Hall on March 26th @ PS 8. This is an opportunity for parents to ask questions of city leaders. First and foremost funding is essential. We may have to revisit what enrollment looks like. As a school community we have many students residing outside of the school's zone. Parents can advocate to city council members and assembly members such as Manny De Los Santos who helped to push this legislation through in Albany. We can reach out to Senator Robert Jackson, Representative Adriano Espaillat & Council member Carmen de la Rosa.

iiii. The most important factor to implementing this new legislation is funding. The reality is that the building is over capacity and we have a large number of students that are outside of the zone (students that are currently in the school community will remain). However, moving forward we must ensure we have sufficient seats for zoned students. We can revisit our PreK program and reconsider only being K-8. This would allow us to utilize the full size classroom.

4. SLT Member Questions & Wonderings

a. Parent representatives wondered what suggestions came from the DOE. Principal Emel shared that the DOE has created a working group to come together to see how to implement legislation.

b. Is the suggested colocation option something that parents should be supporting? Can parents be given templated letters to send to government officials? This would allow families to support.

c. What is the conversation around the funding? Once we understand funding we should look at class sizes. Parents are being mobilized to support but parents don't know where to start.

d. Can the school share blind data for the last 3 years to analyze trends among zoned, unzoned & demographics for students?

e. In the current preliminary budget does the school have money allocated for an additional assistant principal for ES? Ms. Emel shared that with the number of students in the building regardless of grade band we need two assistant principals. The school will look at the budget to prioritize teachers and the remaining budget for second AP.

f. Richard Cardillo (Restorative Circles & Peer Mediation) is working with Mr. Mendez & Mr.

Doyle (older students grades 4-8). The training in Ramapo. He has shared positive feedback & next steps. He will be here for 7 more sessions to coach staff. The funding came from the Office of Youth & Safety Development . Can parents or members of school culture participate and become members of the Restorative Justice Action Team?

5. **Attendance** - 93% year to date (this is an increase from 1 % from last year) 2 % over the city records, 10 % are chronically absent (these students have 10 or more absences) 11% are at risk of being chronically absent.

6. **Mid Year Assessments** - Vocabulary has improved based on the iReady BOY to MOY diagnostics (a CEP goal- so we can determine if we met our goal or need to refine). There was a 4 point growth on Acadience from BOY to MOY diagnostics.

7. **Subcommittee Updates**

a. **School Culture** - Kelly Ceynowa provided feedback about her presentation during PTO - families were informed about impact of refusals on school

b. **Academic Sub-Committee** - Mitchell provided feedback about the testing workshop. In the event it is done again, there should be more advertising the event and location. The Academic Sub committee will meet to begin looking at data from MOY assessments to refine our CEP Goals.

5. **Planning for the next meeting**

- a. We will meet in person on 4/11 in room 101 from 7-8.
- b. Subcommittees will meet before 4/11

