

School Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 3-4:30 pm

Agenda + Minutes

Members	New Members/Non-Voting Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joanna Cohen, Principal• Davina Benaderet/Cynthia Thaler, PTA Co-Presidents• Laurie Tamis, Parent• Caitlin Gallagher, Parent• Jill Davitt, Parent• Tali Horowitz, Parent• Jennifer Tirado, Teacher• Marissa Bateman, Teacher• Tamara Chebar, Teacher• Peg Galella, UFT Rep/Teacher• Gary DiFranco, UFT Rep/Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jenny May-Reddy• Roman Burt

- Welcome (3-3:15 pm)
 - Share: what are you grateful for this week?
 - Secretary? Tali
 - Timekeeper? Laurie
- Looking at our CEP Goal for Literacy (3:15-3:40 pm)
 - *By June 2023, 55% of students in grades 1 and 2, who are identified as struggling to learn to read on beginning-of-year reading assessments, will be reading on grade level as a result of intensive phonics instruction.*
 - Last year: focused on one of the three goals, today will focus on Literacy Goal (goals in Math, Literacy and Supportive Environment (SEL/Whole Child) - this is required for all DOE schools
 - Goal: SMART - specific, measurable, actionable, realistic + timebound (see above goal outlined in italics) - need to **define** what it means to be struggling in reading in grades 1 and 2. Hope is phonics will help.
 - What we are doing:
 - Currently assessing students (to determine where students are right now)
 - Required to give screeners 3x/year to ALL students (school had some choice around screeners) - Literacy required to give Acadience in K-2, which is given 1:1
 - Still doing some K assessments - Kids have to identify letters, blend words, segment sounds
 - Need to read “nonsense” words (to check phonemic awareness)
 - For 3-5 give STAR assessment:
 - Can see a report instantly that gives a lot of info (teachers need to learn how to analyze, it’s a lot of data)
 - Test is branched/adaptive according to ability - Depending on how student answers, get different questions - so no two kids assessments are the same

- Last year gave Acadience in upper grades but was very time/cost expensive - so this year shifted to computer based (also have K-5 Math Star assessment - computer based)
 - Trying to get K - 2 kids to log themselves in and correctly take this multiple choice assessment
- Have Clever - SSO (single sign on) - kids have Clever badges so younger kids can just use their badges to log themselves in
- Once they have the data will identify kids most in need and will put in small groups
- 4th grade have Recipe for Reading - phonics 4 days/week to help reading and writing
 - HW: kids assigned a group of 10 words and then quizzed on these Red words
- 3rd grade - continuing on in K-2 phonics program (starting where 2nd grade left off) - 20 -30 min 4-5 days/week - learn Red words or word wall words (irregularly spelled common words, like "their")
 - Especially helpful for kids with reading gaps
- Every Spec Ed teachers trained in Orton Gilliangam and Recipe for Reading and are turnkeying to their grade level colleagues
 - Last year had lots of PDs on how to use Recipe for Reading led by school based staff
 - Upper grade teachers will be trained/supported by lower grade teachers
 - Get PD from STAR on how to assess the data (they get 3 PD sessions) - whoever can attend then turnkeys (eg: Ms Joanna and Ms Rinah attended first session)
- Creating small AIS groups in 2nd grade (and eventually 1st grade)
 - Led by Ms Gallela - Librarian and ESL teacher - starting with 2nd grade next year
- Requiring daily phonics block in K-2
 - Also do Recipe for Reading which is an intense phonics program - done throughout the week and has books that go along with it
 - 30 - 40 min/day
 - Recipe for Reading - is multi-sensory (different colors, tracing, have kinesthetic elements) - designed to help read/write words that don't follow the rules
- Looking ahead:
 - We are reviewing research on the Science of Reading in our Instructional Leadership Team (ILT)
 - Parallel team - Mr Gary, Ms Jenn and Ms Tamara on that team too
 - Lots of focus and new research on science of reading - how to effectively teach reading?
 - 40% learn how to read without much instruction; and 60% need instruction and 20% of that 60% are dyslexic

- Teachers College had been their reading program but recently lots of negative press and may not be research based
 - ILT reading about skills kids need to master to become competent readers and what in the curriculum supports that
 - “Simple view of reading: word recognition (Recipe for Reading) and language comprehension (TC - teachers college)
 - Mixing the different programs together
 - Teachers appreciate many aspects of TC - don’t want to throw out - but also want to have phonics instruction
 - 3rd grade goal - have a full page of writing in 10 - 15 min
 - Side note: Chancellor very focused on dyslexia
- CUPS - capitals, understanding, punctuation, spelling
 - Discussions around augmenting existing curriculum
- Next month:
 - Looking at our CEP goal for Math
 - Also discuss the Literacy assessments (or maybe meeting in Dec because may need more time to analyze the data)
- Family Engagement (3:40-4 pm)
 - Idea: Half+Half Classroom Gatherings (3 per year)
 - 1st period
 - 2 grades at a time
 - Half of the classroom outdoors at grade recess
 - Half of the classroom w/parents in the classroom doing an activity
 - When to switch groups?
 - Outstanding questions:
 - How much time?
 - Both indoor and outdoor activities happening on the same day?
 - No activity necessary - could be tied to culmination of unit - eg: kids sharing their writing
 - Could just invite half the families to attend one day, and then half the families another day - could only permit one adult possibly to come
 - Could do a sharing of work fully outside with full class
 - What about teachers using their Tuesday time to invite parents to come into their classrooms? Would need to coordinate with afterschool
 - Encourage teachers to provide sporadic parent visit opportunities - could just be a small group at a time
 - Start with upper grades and divide alphabetically and families just come in to see the classroom
 - Possible solution?

- Every classroom offers a few different parent/family visits throughout the year - can only sign up once and you get to see the classroom in action
 - Maybe offer “first friday” every month with limited # of attendees per class
 - Joanna + teachers to discuss and finalize plan
- Other School Updates (4-4:30 pm)
 - Augmenting Science instruction
 - Jenny May-Reddy and Joanna have been researching augmenting the science program and now it’s with parent STEM committee -looked at trout classroom coordinator
 - Looked at part time science teacher - but not feasible because year 1 takes a lot of training and having a new science teacher start next year would defeat the purpose
 - Raising the trout is a lot of work
 - Ideal timing is to sign up in spring or summer for the fall trainings
 - Did find possible alternatives - Billion Oyster Project.org - not as curriculum or maintenance heavy (may be easier to keep oysters alive) - STEM committee considering this now - and could be parent led (exists at Harbor School on Governors Island who could help)
 - Looking at lots of field trips too - Clearwater - cool boat trip where kids talk about water conservation and testing (was a trip in the past) - Joanna seeing if all 4th and 5th graders can do it. It’s pretty expensive, so would be subsidized by PTA (<https://www.clearwater.org/>) - could do two sails for savings on the boat and buses
 - Tideline Program - go to the shoreline of the Hudson, near Beacon and Red Hook - and look at water quality, eco system - another possible trip - a lot less expensive. Do virtual field trips too - but ideal is in person
 - Sunset Spark - based in Sunset Park - Joanna worked with them quite a bit before. Do Robotics residency program for grades 3-5 - do thematic robots that kids build (eg: bugs)
 - Also have Nature Tech Classes - would take kids to Prospect Park for mini-field trip and look for patterns in nature and computational thinking in nature - build a robot underwater and go back and retrieve it a few days later and see what’s living under the water - interesting look at what lives in the water in NYC....
 - Would also require PTA subsidies
 - Laurie shared link: <https://kokonyc.org/> that Joanna will check out
 - K&1 will do Tiny Scientist instead of artists residence
 - PTA does provide \$4K for science fieldtrips
 - Budget
 - Stable

- When additional funding comes through post mid-year adjustment, could be used in many different ways, eg: math support, science, etc - will determine once funding set
 - Funding two additional paraprofessionals
 - Sometimes paraprofessionals paid for by central DOE (health paras, bilingual paras (currently none at PS 107),
 - Most are behavior support paras and first year must be funded out of the school's budget (maybe to disincentivize schools from recommending too often)
 - Sometimes kids have a para while they are getting an IEP
 - Right now school is paying for two paras for kids without IEPs who are in process of being evaluated
- Student Clubs:
 - School Newspaper - being run by Joanna
 - Came up organically
 - Launch of the Rainbow Club - for kids who identify as LGBTQ+ or are allies - Mr, DiFranco will be heading that club
 - Open to kids in grades 3-5 with parent permission
 - Will meet last period on Fridays (not super academic time)
 - Created because of perceived need (exists in many MS and HS)
 - Youth Equity Team - run by Shannon Brown (3rd grade teacher) - was trained in this last year
 - 2 reps from each 4th and 5th grade class
 - Teachers introduce idea to them and then students express interest
 - Meeting Mondays first period
 - Goal: to build a more inclusive environment at PS 107 - could be related to race, culture, ability, any way kids might see themselves as different/unique
 - District has youth equity congress that every school has to send 2 students too - 2 students of our Youth Equity Team will go to this
 - Green Team
 - Mr. Ed running this (existed before pandemic) - focusing on recycling now, but will have other projects
- Upcoming Meetings
 - November 16, 2022
 - December 21, 2022
 - January 18, 2023
 - February 15, 2023
 - March 15, 2023
 - April 19, 2023
 - May 17, 2023
 - June 21, 2023