

School Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jenny May-Reddy, PSACC

- Welcome (3-3:15 pm)
 - Virtual Scavenger Hunt
- Traffic Safety (3:15-3:40 pm)
 - Concern about pedestrian safety around the school
 - Last week a dad was hurt going to school
 - Concerns have been raised: increased traffic safety, going to and leaving school
 - PTA has sent out a message encouraging parents to contact assembly and council members. AM Carroll will be at the meeting tomorrow.
 - What questions/asks do we have for AM Carroll?
 - Does the SLT want to send a group letter to local politicians?
 - Jill is mentioning an NYPD Street Safety meeting on 3/25 at 12 PM, at the local library. Contacting representatives has not been productive so far. In favor of more concrete plans.
 - Cynthia has mentioned DOT tickets as another possible course of action.
 - Joanna says there is a lack of enforcement re: reckless driving. People obscure their license plates to avoid tolls or tickets.
 - Mayor is asking every precinct to have weekly meetings with principals on Zoom. Ours was yesterday and the commanding officer was not responsive.
 - Safety meeting last week: Rinah's recommendations were sent out in Konstella.
 - No money for crossing guards and no overtime available. They are directed to guard the crossing with the most people in it at any time.
 - Could we look into the possibility of adding Leading Pedestrian Intervals? Or at the very least, a feasibility study?
 - Speed bumps, bollards are other ideas.
 - Laurie thinks the Brooklyn DOT Commissioner should come and do a walk-through with Joanna.
 - Cynthia: multiple leverage points that we can use and raise tomorrow with AM Carroll. Maybe he can provide information at the PTA meeting, i.e. how is our voice best used

- Side note, Jill has safety concerns about the bike lane at Prospect Park. She thinks there should be a stop interval for bikers so pedestrians can cross comfortably
- Landmark Schools Update (3:40-4 pm)
 - [Press conference](#) last week
 - Being billed by DOE as help for kids with dyslexia
 - Our work moving forward
 - Partnership with [AIM Institute](#)
 - Word recognition and language comprehension
 - Instead of Orton Gillingham
 - Pathway to Proficient Reading course for interested teachers/"early adopters"
 - Work with [Teaching Matters](#) in K/1
 - Small group phonics instruction
 - Looking at data from Acadience
 - 12 week session
 - Go slow to go fast (implementation science)
 - Decoding Readers recently purchased with AM Carroll's funding, \$35K for all sets. We bought one set and will see how it goes.
 - Morning Reading Academy will begin in March. Hopefully for all six grades. 2 mornings per week, 7:45-8:15, focus on phonics, vocabulary building, for struggling readers.
- Budget wishlist for 2023-24 school year
 - Projections are much more accurate this year, especially after mid-year adjustment for kids with IEP's.
 - Budget modification deadline is 3/3.
 - Full time Science teacher
 - Full time intervention (AIS) teacher - reading. Peg is currently working in this position. Depending on how much \$ we get from AM Carroll.
 - Laurie has a question about class size next year. First grade won't have classes with more than 25. Post pandemic: K-1 have 90 kids each; 2-5 have 70 kids each. Second grade classes have 26 each right now. Also dependent on state legislation re: class size. Class size changes will take many years to implement practically.
 - Tamara agrees that class size cap at 25 is best.
 - School aides are coming first thing in the morning and staying through lunch with kindergarteners.
 - Jill suggests using space at the Y if 107 needs more space.
 - Another idea is to build out rooms on the 4th floor.
- Other School Updates
 - Science
 - Hudson Clearwater Sloop trips booked - 4th/5th grades
 - Science/history lessons on board. One class per day, \$1500/per class. After PTA funding it will come out to \$30 per kid.
 - Intention to hire full-time Science teacher next year
 - Other programs with Hudson River such as in-school workshops which are reasonably priced
 - Playground

- Recess coaches – Surrounding schools have recess coaches from organizations such as Asphalt Green we aren't moving forward. Providing structure to recess, designating areas, etc. **Discussion to continue next month**
- Resurfacing schedule “expedited”. Estimate start of summer 2024, working in summer so as not to impact access to yard. Astro turf is the recommended surface. However Laurie points out that it has been recently found to be harmful and mentions studies so we will look into all of the options.
- Vaccine mandate
 - No longer in place as of 2/10
- Rescheduling March 15th meeting for March 22
- Tali is doing a lunchtime workshop on healthy digital habits on Friday, March 24th at 12:30 pm

- Upcoming Meetings
 - **March 22, 2023 - note date change**
 - April 19, 2023,
 - May 17, 2023
 - June 21, 2023