

# School Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 3-5:15 pm

*Agenda + Minutes*

## Members:

- Joanna Cohen, Principal
- Jennifer Jerutis/Davina Benaderet, PTA Co-Presidents
- Sarah Ladner Gomez, Parent
- Biba Milioto, Parent
- Laurie Tamis, Parent
- Caitlin Gallagher, Parent
- Jennifer Tirado, Teacher
- Ed Schulz, Teacher
- Peg Galella, Teacher
- Gary DiFranco, Teacher

## Non-Voting Members:

- Jenny May-Reddy

## Not in Attendance:

- Welcome! (3-3:20 pm)
  - Notetaker - Sarah Ladner Gomez
  - Timekeeper - Ed Schulz
- The events in Uvalde, Texas (3:20-3:50)
  - Time to process
  - PS 107 safety protocols - Safety meeting happened directly before SLT meeting.
    - A town hall is planned for the whole community.
    - External Disturbance on Monday, 5/23 + police response
      - There are sometimes visitors from the community. There is a strong relationship with the director of the shelter. The Director responds quickly to identify if the visitor is a resident of the shelter.
      - School Aides are very fast to identify and respond to disturbances. Officer Sharon contacts her supervisor and Ms Joanna contacts the Community Safety Officer. The situation is assessed and responded to quickly.
      - If the situation is felt to be dangerous a "Shelter In" is enacted. This happened with the subway situation. "Shelter in" means everyone stays in the building and the day continues as normal
    - Danger Within the Building
      - If the danger is within the building a Lock Down is enacted.
      - "Hard Lock Down" Everyone locks into the room where they are.
        - Door is locked and closed, the visual panel is covered. The children are quiet and still.
        - Keys for all stairs are being found and secured

- Prior to Covid children were grouped in the most sheltered area of the classroom
  - Now children stay at their desk to maintain social distance.
  - Because this is done as a drill and in a calm way the children are not panicked when these happen
  - “Soft Lock Down” The School Safety Team sweeps the building for anything or anyone out of place. The school safety team will have keys to all classrooms and stairs because the classroom teachers are not supposed to open the classroom door during a lock down.
  - Drills are going to be scheduled for times that already have student movement so that the classes can get used to what happens if a lock down or a shelter in happens when they are moving from outside or between classes.
- What action can we take as a school?
  - A student has asked to have a protest. Having a children-focused protest may send a message. There is a thought to have a multi-school weekend protest in the park. Can we march to Senator Schumer’s residence?
  - June 3rd-5th is National Gun Violence Awareness - Wearing orange to denote that they want to be safe from gun violence. A “wear orange” initiative would be an opt-in activity but this could be a very tough ask for the teachers as there may be kids who ask why people are wearing orange.
  - There is already a march planned on Sat June 4th over the Brooklyn Bridge.
  - Can we do a letter or card writing campaign to lawmakers? - there is concern that doing a letter writing campaign at school would be difficult for some families. There was a suggestion to do a letter writing campaign at home with a collection at drop off.
  - It was asked if the protests that were in 2018 could be followed as precedent.
  - Class and kid led agendas are seen as more powerful. Jen and Ed are both willing to organize on their grades. Jenny is available to help with Community Outreach supported communication to the community.
- Literacy Instruction (4:00-4:30 pm)
  - [This article](#), which appeared on the front page of Sunday’s *New York Times*, is about PS 107’s reading and writing curriculum.
    - This article is about Lucy Calkins at Columbia University, She is the creator of “Units of Study” which is the curriculum used at PS107.
    - This encourages a love of reading by letting children pick books that are of interest to them instead of having teachers picking books for children to read. There is a push for comprehension but a lack in phonics instruction.
    - The writing curriculum is missing instruction on sentence structure and parts of speech.
    - There is a false dichotomy between Phonics and Comprehension. The teachers need to blend both areas of explicit instruction.

- Teachers College focuses on different types of reading and promoting a love of reading. From teacher's experience, allowing children to pick their books does foster a love of reading.
    - [DOE mandates for 2022-23 re: phonics instruction](#)
      - There is a mandate for next year that each school will have to have a phonics program.
      - Recipe for Reading (the lower grade curriculum at PS 107 - written by a dyslexia specialist) is not on the list of approved phonics instruction. Ms Joanna has appealed to be allowed to continue with Recipe for Reading" as the allowable phonics curriculum.
      - 5th Grade word study is covered in one period each week. "Reading Recipe" is the upper grades curriculum. Spelling screening was used to divide students into three groups to focus on spelling development.
      - All Professional Development (PD) has been focused on phonics instruction training. All Special Ed teachers took a 30 hour course on Orton-Gillingham (OG) phonics instruction.
      - There will be PD support next year but that is still under discussion.
      - 7 teachers are OG certified and are "in-house support".
    - PS 107's perspective on the "reading wars"
- CEP Planning (4:30-5 pm)
  - Literacy: By June 2023, 90% of PS 107's most struggling readers, students receiving 1s and 2s, will improve by one performance level in reading as measured by a running record assessment.
    - Action Steps: intensive phonics-based work in small groups, modification of TC units that focus on word-solving strategies to match Recipe for Reading strategies
  - Math: By June 2023, 80% of PS 107 students will be on or above grade-level, as measured by a standards-based assessment of priority math concepts.
    - Action Steps: fluency work (math facts), Tier 1 teaching, pacing calendar alignment
  - Supportive Environment: By June 2023, 90% of PS 107's 1st grade students who are struggling with self-management skills will improve one level, as measured by the DESSA SEL screening.
    - Action Steps: Kimochis pilot in 1st grade; Wellness classes in 1st grade; small group support; parent workshops
    - For the overall school there will be further discussion for a SEL curriculum for consistency across grades and classrooms.
- Other School Updates (5-5:15 pm)
  - [Parent Coordinator position](#) - There are a few applications and there has been interest in being on the hiring committee.
  - Register, budget - the projections are very low. This school year started at 470 and has increased to 492. But the DOE projection is 50 children less than Ms Joanna's projection. Next year's K class will be 100, but other grades are projected to be lower. School aids have been able to come in from the beginning of the day due to increased pandemic funds, which has been a great help in the school, but the funds for this may not be available next year.
- Next Meeting, June 15th, 3 pm-5:15 pm

- Introducing new SLT members
- Reviewing CEP draft goals
- Reviewing the PS 107 Homework Policy
  - [Current Policy](#)