

School Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, 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 ● Polina Burt ● Brenda Flockhart-Shanks ● Nadine Goellner

- Welcome (3-3:30 pm)
 - Getting to Know the SLT!
 - Ask your breakout room partner:
 - Tell me about yourself
 - Why did you join SLT?
 - Introduce your partner to the larger team
- The purpose of the SLT (3:30-3:35 pm)
 - Develop and monitor progress for the Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP)
 - Align school budget with the CEP
 - Discuss and set policy on major school issues
- [SLT Bylaws](#) (please review prior to the meeting)
- SLT Roles (3:35-3:45 pm)
 - Chairperson
 - Secretary
 - Timekeeper
- Budget Updates, *Joanna* (3:45-4 pm)
 - Student count was 447 vs 490. DOE sent out lower numbers than expected. 8/9/22, Joanna got a call saying PS 107 would have to let go of at least 2 staff members. 32 kids receiving special education were listed when in reality the number is 69. Rinah worked with DOE to get the correct numbers. After this, the DOE allowed for an additional 135K to be added back. In the meantime, two teachers decided to leave – pre-k and 4th grade. Joanna was able to hire two replacement teachers. We received an additional 100K to put toward per diem (substitutes) and supplies. 1st grade was considered as a possibility for losing one classroom. That would have meant 32 students per class. Rinah said DOE initially proposed 3 first grade classrooms with 32 students each. DOE is looking at numbers only. Mr. Tomsik also left at the end of the previous school year. This led to the question of a science teacher. 3-5 grade had science twice per week and 2nd grade had science once per week. Teachers are entitled to five prep periods per week. PE is state-mandated at twice per week. Music, art, and science or library is once per week. Because we are in a deficit, the DOE will not

allow the principal to create a vacancy and hire someone. Joanna checked with some long-term subs to see if they'd be interested in the position and didn't get much positive response. No benefits for subs. Also posted with the hope of finding a brand new teacher or someone on childcare leave. Abby Roberts was brought to Joanna's attention by Sandy Philips. She has been hired to teach science three days per week as a part-time sub. Joanna says the DOE still owes the school more money due to increased enrollment. This won't happen until February. Currently there are roughly 490 students enrolled. Pre-K isn't counted.

- Q+A
- Science Updates, *Joanna* (4-4:15 pm)
 - One option is to bring Abby on five days per week. Another is to ask classroom teachers to enhance their curriculum with extra science lessons. PTA was able to fund a teacher and preserve existing staff. Rinah is discussing ways to enhance 4th grade curriculum, i.e. hydroponic farming. Laurie wants to know what the kids who are getting one less day of science per week (fourth and fifth grade) are losing. Jill wants to know how much money would be needed to cover Abby's additional two days per week. Laurie would like to mention that fifth grade especially has lost a lot of science instruction due to Covid. Last year they did not go on any field trips and Laurie is concerned that all of the students won't be exposed to a full science curriculum. Jen Tirado suggests a trip on the Clearwater sloop in the Hudson. Marissa says that she teaches science in first grade so that it's incorporated into the kids' studies. Tamara says that the third grade teachers are discussing how to use field trips to boost the science schoolwork. Botanical garden, zoo, etc. are ideas. Jenny Reddy might have a connection with a person working at the DEP's trout program. Tali asked about the possibility of having guest speakers (parents) come and talk to students. Laurie is asking about using residencies to focus on STEM. Joanna says it's being discussed for K-1.
 - Q+A
- Family Engagement (4:15-4:30 pm)
 - How can we bring families into classrooms in a way that is inclusive and feels safe?
 - Family Fridays – how does everyone feel? DOE policy is that all visitors have to show proof of one dose of COVID vaccine. Tali suggests that the class breaks into smaller groups for teachers' comfort. Jen, Tamara and Marissa say that they'd be fine but aren't sure that all teachers would agree. Is it ultimately beneficial to be able to visit once a month? For higher grades this may not be as important. Gary says that he doesn't think a large group of parents should be allowed in without a specific goal in mind. Brenda (visiting parent) agrees that First Friday was chaotic but found it special when her children showed her around their classroom. She said that outdoor events were more difficult for her, she couldn't hear, was cold, etc. Conferences are all virtual this year. Gary mentions that this will help parents who are working to be able to see the teacher/classroom. Joanna asks if teachers would be amenable to having smaller groups come in, ie last names A-E. Laurie suggests that outdoor events take place soon, before the weather changes.
- [Our CEP Goals, in plain language](#)
- NOTE: meetings might be in person...will know more Friday
- Save the Date(s): All meetings are on Wednesdays from 3 to 4:30 pm

- October 19, 2022
- November 16, 2022
- December 21, 2022
- January 18, 2023
- February 15, 2023
- March 15, 2023
- April 19, 2023
- May 17, 2023
- June 21, 2023