

PS 107 SLT Meeting, March 22, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Eve Litwack, Pascale Pradel, Rita Palajac, Sarah Hunt, Sheri Silverstein, Margaret Galella, Leigh Smith, Hyon Su Kwon, Nancy Dodd, Stephen Kitts, Marci Aronovitz, Julie Rosenberg

Date for next April meeting 4/19 is the day we get back from Spring Break. Eve suggested changing the date of the meeting to 4/26.

Amended SLT Bylaws to include information on new open meetings policy.

Final CEP Goal: Effective School Leadership:

- Build leadership within staff by sharing practices with each other.
- Kids need to see that teachers are learning too.
- Create environment of excitement about being at 107.
- Eve will finalize the language.

Principal Performance Observation (PPO) was conducted.

- This was an unplanned visit.
- Principal Leadership Facilitator (PLF), a deputy superintendent, Donalda Chumney accompanied Eve on a school walk through and a team meeting.
- Looked at student work and focused on 2nd grade poetry writing.
- Will get an assessment later in the year with areas for further focus.

DOE Gender Inclusiveness Workshop for Teachers on 3/13 summary.

- LGBTQ DOE Community Liaison, Jared Fox came to speak to the staff about how to work with gender nonconforming kids and how best to talk to all kids about this topic.
- Staff responded well to the Liaison's talk. They found him to be engaging and full of concrete tips on how to talk to their kids.
- Noted that The Ackerman Institute advises the Liaison.
- SLT recognizes that the issue will come up again and again.
- A letter was sent out to parents in one of the grades about a gender nonconforming student in that grade. On the same day the kids were spoken to as well. Teachers in other grades also spoke with their kids.
- Eve talked to colleagues at other schools in the district to discuss how they have dealt with issue. Advised to always talk to the family involved on how they want to handle the situation. What works for one child / family might not work for another.

An email from the parents on the SLT went out to all parents last week asking for questions and concerns. Have received 8 responses so far.

- Concern: Adult / Student ratio.
 - Difficult to get assistant / student teachers because of lack qualified candidates looking for that kind of work and school budget concerns.
 - PS 29 and PS321 receive money from the PTA to hire assistant teachers for Kindergarten.

- It has been difficult to get student teachers. We used to work with Brooklyn College, but they are no longer sending us student teachers. Eve has reached out to St. John's University residency internship program. She has talked to four St. John's student teachers who may be interested in coming to our school. TBD.
- There will be a para professional next year in one of the Kindergarten classes.
- Concern: Lack of field trips for Kindergarten
 - Kindergarten takes more trips in the Spring term after teachers get to know their students better.
 - If the concern is also related to getting more physical activity the kids get, parents can be made aware that in Kindergarten kids are supposed to have some activity and movement every 45 minutes indoors and outdoors.
- Concern: Social conflicts / teaching kids friendship skills
 - Conflicts happen mostly during lunch and recess and carries over into the classroom.
 - Discussion of what conflict resolution lessons have already been included in the curriculum. For example:
 - Some of the classes in Kindergarten and 5th Grade have "huddles" three times a week giving kids a chance to express feelings/concerns and respond.
 - 2nd Grade has read-a-loud books on social conflicts with activities and discussion.
 - 3rd Grade also has conflict resolution lessons.
 - Eve informed SLT of Mayor de Blasio's Thrive NYC Mental Health initiative in partnership with the DOH and DOE, which will provide all schools with a Mental Health Liaison. Eve will be in touch with the Liaison to coordinate a school visit.
 - There is a Principals meeting coming up that Eve will attend. She believes this topic will come up for further discussion and will have more information for us.
 - Other suggestions for improving social awareness and conflict resolution:
 - Organize an anxiety, stress, and depression workshop for families. Ms. Alice and Eve will work on this together.
 - Institute morning meeting / huddles at least once a week in every class in every grade.
- Concern: Loss of formal math homework in the lower grades.
 - The new homework policy was implemented, because the majority of parents wanted less homework.
 - If any parents have concerns that they don't know what math their kids are learning, then they should talk to their teachers.
 - For additional math work, kids can attend Math Superstars.
- Next year, SLT might ask parents to send in their questions and concerns about specific topics and issues once a month.

School Surveys are due on 3/31. Only 35% of parents have completed their surveys.

3rd Grade Parent Outreach at the next PTA Meeting:

- Topics will be about Middle School and 4th Grade Curriculum Preview.
- Parent Night will be held on June 7. Encourage parents to visit classrooms of the upcoming grade.

Ordered all technology for the next school year:

- 50 – 60 new Chromebooks were purchased – half with the legislative grant and half with PTA money.
- Every 5th Grader will have own Chromebook. This will also free up more existing laptops for the lower grades.
- New tables have been ordered for the 5th Grade.

Eve requested SLT non-payment letters from anyone who wants to donate their fee to the school.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 26 at 2:50pm.