

Booker T. Washington Middle School 54

103 West 107th Street
New York, NY 10025
Phone: 212.678.2861

SLT Minutes

October 16, 2020
7:30 AM

SLT Members

Core SLT Positions	Teacher Representatives	Parent Representatives
Elana Elster, Principal	Elizabeth McNulty (co-chair)	Andy Weinstein
Jose Beauvais, UFT rep	Rachel Weisz	Alexis Freeman
Laura Adams, PTA Co-Pres	Kirby Mason (co-secretary)	Brad Roberts
Peter Armstrong, DC37 rep	Erica Williams	Hudson Roditi*
	Sara Lichtman	Karen Saltser
		George Schneiderman
		Jacqueline Shannon

*Late

**Absent

Observers: Anne Pejovich, Nildania Perez, Ann Kristen Lapidos, Deirdre McEvoy, Randee Johnson, Marni Aarlev, Alison Gardy, Joshua Kane, Larry Lee

Minutes

September minutes were approved and will be sent to the PTA Corresponding Secretary for posting.

Agenda

- **Welcome new parent members: Alexis Freeman and Karen Saltser**
- **Election of Parent Co-chair and Co-Secretary**
 - Andy Weinstein elected Parent Co-Chair
 - Hudson Roditi elected Parent Co-Secretary
- **Discussion of CEP goals for the 2020-21 school year**
 - The school currently has 842 students registered; over 100 left over the summer, predominantly from the sixth grade
 - There are 89 sections of students
 - 26% of students are fully remote
 - Standardized tests are expected to happen this school year (Spring 2021)

- Due to the pandemic's impact on attendance and grading last year, we don't have sufficient data to determine whether or not MS54 achieved last year's goals
- **Elementary/Middle School Math & ELA Goals**
 - MS54 Performance Data:
 - ELA: (2018-2019) 90% proficiency (score 3+)
 - Math: (2018-2019) 86% proficiency (score 3+)
 - The decision was to adopt the 2019-20 goal of 90% proficiency in ELA & Math for 2020-21.
- **Quality Individualized Education Program Goal**
 - 137 students have IEPs across a broad range of challenges, with 65 students in self-contained classes, and the remainder in ICT classes
 - The group discussed setting a goal tied to attendance/engagement instead of test performance
 - One teacher reported that, in her self-contained class, approximately 75% of students regularly attend class, 20% have spotty attendance and 5% are chronic no-shows.
 - Overall engagement in the school is closer to 90%
 - The reverse is true for PE, where students in self-contained classes are more likely to attend than students with IEP's in ICT classes
 - Another teacher reported that there are attendance challenges even among students without IEPs
 - The school's technology manager offered to check to ensure IEP students have the technology they need
 - The decision was made to select a goal based on report card grades (which factor in attendance)
 - The average GPA from 3rd marking period last year was 80
 - The goal will be for all IEP students to maintain an 80 GPA across the core academic subjects
- **Goal Related to Last Year's Survey Results**
 - The decision was made to address the question that received the lowest score from last year's school survey: only 77% of students felt that their teachers supported them when they were upset
 - The group discussed focusing on a wellness + social/emotional goal and ensuring that students identified as "at-risk" through the recent wellness survey receive the counseling/support they need
 - The group discussed how students' social-emotional needs can be addressed remotely, including:
 - Having students meet in a group to discuss things collectively
 - Facilitating connections among remote students to ensure they feel supported/connected
 - The group discussed how to quantify the goal through the number of programs offered and/or participation through Zoom reports
 - The group agreed on the following goal: 90% of students to participate in at least 2 wellness-related programs throughout the year
- **Principal's Update**
 - Dr. Elster raised the topic of opening in-person classes to remote students via Zoom. She noted that, in some in-person cohorts, there are only 3 students in school with 5 remote.

While over the summer teachers had expressed concern about “streaming” live in-person instruction, teachers indicated that the small cohort numbers made it more feasible. One teacher noted that remote students might prefer to hear the teacher deliver a lesson instead of relying on self-instruction. Dr. Elster said she would discuss the issue further with the staff and that teachers would have the option whether or not to simulcast their in-person instruction.

- **Wellness Update**

- Next meeting is October 30

- **Equity Update**

- There was discussion around how to get reading materials at home
- One question that came up is whether requiring kids to remain on camera at home is a form of community policing

- **New Business**

- SLT meetings will begin at 7:20am going forward to accommodate the in-person bell schedule.