

Booker T. Washington Middle School 54

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New York, NY 10025
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SLT Minutes

April 9, 2021
7:20 AM

SLT Members

Core SLT Positions	Teacher Representatives	Parent Representatives
Elana Elster, Principal	Elizabeth McNulty (co-chair)	Andy Weinstein (co-chair)
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 (co-secretary)
	Sara Lichtman	Karen Saltser
		George Schneiderman
		Jacqueline Shannon

*Late

**Absent

Observers: Marni Aarlev, Kyle Clayton, Anne McIntosh Pejovich, Allison Gardy, Nildania Perez, Danielle Zipkin, Lawrence Lee, Allison Gardy, Randee Johnson

Minutes

- Approval of March minutes - Approved
- Principals' Report
 - DOE asking parents to opt-in to State Tests
 - Idea: Diagnostic test for the remainder of the school as the state exams are being administered.
 - Effort will be made to avoid disrupting in-person school time.
- State Tests and Regents
 - Still waiting to find out about the waiver from the state. Regents credit based on passing class not exam.
 - Each student either takes Regents (or get credit) or take state tests, but not both
- Schedule changes for current school year
 - 3ft distance announcement coming soon. Scheduling goal is to combine the 2 cohorts of

- students to align the students with their same teachers.
 - End of year, a lot of pressure to bring kids back in person to support transition to next school year.
 - Summer school being referred to as “summer rising” not summer school, kids not being pooled district wide but grouped at their school (partner DYCD)
- Middle School Admissions update
 - Preliminary data for admissions received.
 - Kids from all different schools. The schools we normally get kids from is still where the majority of students are from.
 - Specialized HS offers coming before the end of April, other schools before the end of May.
 - Will BookerT be a screened school going forward?
 - No concrete information yet. It seems MS54 will be alone in continuing that push for screening. There will be a meeting between superintendent and district principals regarding screens.
 - The Chancellor has requested an interview to learn the views of MS54/Dr. Elster. Invitation to BookerT community to let Dr Elster know if they want to participate.
- Graduation
 - Parents expressed a desire for an in-person component for graduation, if possible
 - Application submitted to the Parks Department for an outdoor grad event, but it may be very complicated. Will need to be off campus, in a park. Columbia U. may also be a venue to explore.
 - Virtual graduation or in-person graduation?
- P/T conferences for next year?
 - Teachers in favor of continuing Zoom-based conferences for at least one of the 2 sessions; discussion of combination of remote and in-person, with in-person in evenings(?). Discussion of first PT conference of the year being in-person, equity issues of connectivity.
 - An SBO for the school to vote on how they are administered.
- Equity update
 - Equity team members present.
 - Upcoming mtg 4/21
 - Working in collaboration with PTA, particularly about the AAPI community.
- Wellness update
 - Wellness Day was held throughout the virtual and in-person classrooms March 16th.
 - 23 speakers held workshops.
 - Speakers were current parents and parents of alumni.
 - A survey was used to gain feedback regarding the event. Positive feedback was the overwhelming response.
 - For future events, the wellness committee would like more input from the school community.
 - DOE is organizing a forum to discuss social/emotional issues, with an eye to the fall. Dr Elster will share the information with the Booker T community.
 - Thurgood Marshall lower school is doing interesting work with meditation.
 - Next transition (3 ft in coming weeks) makes our intervention urgent
 - Next Wellness mtg 4/23 at 7:30am.
- New business
 - 54 for 54 challenge
 - Executive board and SLT elections upcoming
 - Next SLT mtg 5/14 at 7:20am