

**Booker T. Washington Middle School 54**

103 West 107<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10025  
Phone: 212.678.2861

**SLT Minutes**

May 14, 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, Ann Kristin, Frederic Langlois,

**Minutes**

- Approval of April Minutes: Approved
- Principal’s Update:
  - State tests completed: Math and ELA
  - Hard press for kids who have NX (“failing”) grades to be resolved before the end of the school year
    - Kids who do not get an NX change will attend summer school
  - Students who have applied to specialized high schools have received their results
    - 219 students took the exam
      - Because the SHSAT was held at Booker T, there was a good amount of kids who took it who otherwise wouldn’t have
        - Scored approximately 100-200 pts below the other students
      - New students (6th graders) who are coming to MS54 are set for intake
- High School Admissions Update

- Student Acceptances:
  - 20 Brooklyn Tech
  - 8 Math Science and Engineering
  - 18 Lehman
  - 18 Stuyvesant
  - 33 Bronx Science
  - 9 Brooklyn Latin
- Current Year
- 3 ft. vs. 6 ft.
- Graduation:
  - Group of parents exploring sites from Bronx to Brooklyn, but there are obstacles at every turn. Possibly closing 107th street and having everyone together would be important if obstacles are not lifted at other locations.
  - Bronx Zoo cost is \$10K
- Feedback from Small Group Meetings with Parents
  - Parents want the Booker T they know: Rigor, languages, executive functioning skills
  - Concern for kids not being where they would have been normally, not usual level of rigor, making friends (bring back “buddies”, community service)
  - Language/music rotations
  - Orientations for all grades, soften the jolt of returning in fall
  - Too much screen time: can homework be offline?
- Planning for Next Year
  - Orientation
    - Will be a must for all kids, but how it will look is undecided
    - Over several days
    - How to use a planner
    - Tour of the building for all grades
    - Student and Parent focused
  - Assessments for Incoming 6th Graders
    - Principal: Goal is to bring in and assess the students on June clerical day. Or end of summer before classes. Combine assessment with social opportunity?
    - Written communication with incoming families, and new family orientation
  - Space/crowding concerns – class size, hallways
    - Even if we are allowed to go to 3ft social distance we can get 25 kids per classroom. This would make for smaller size classes.
    - Narrow hallways: this is the tricky part to making class changes happen.
      - Social interaction is still needed by the kids.
    - Will kids be required to wear masks indoors? Will kids be vaccinated by the start of the school year?
- Middle School Admissions
  - Schools where kids are coming from are on par with what we’ve seen in the past.
- Cheating
  - As a way to remind students incorporate training on what is permissible and what crosses the line.
  - Concept of plagiarism/cheating is less clear than it used to be. Less issue of morals, more issue of misunderstanding how to use resources.
  - Include a program as part of orientation so all students have same experience.
- Regents Exams:

- Children/Families will decide to take the exam or not as they choose.
- CEP Goals - Subcommittee
  - Let Andy know if you are interested in joining subcommittee to work on CEP goals
- SLT Elections in June
  - Parents graduating out will open up 3 new spots.
- Wellness Update
  - Acknowledge how hard the entire school has worked to keep things moving and working.
  - Hesitance on the students' part to sign up for One School Lunch.
  - How do we engage middle schoolers to socialize? How do we influence middle schoolers to socialize?
  - Next meeting May 21st.
- Equity Update
  - Consider adding equity and wellness reps to the SLT as specific member roles?
- New Business