

SLT Members:

Core SLT Positions	Teacher Representatives	Parent Representatives
Elana Elster, Principal	Richard Cappadona	Barbara Denham
Jose Beauvais, UFT rep	Briana DeSantis (co-chairperson)	*Alison Gardy
Chris Giordano, PTA Co-Pres	Randee Johnson	Stefanie Goldblatt (co-chairperson)
Jerome Kramer, PTA Co-Pres	Sara Lichtman (co-secretary)	Jeanne Goffi-Fynn
	Elizabeth McNulty	Hudson Roditi
*Peter Armstrong, DC37 rep		Patricia Saydah (co-secretary)
		Andy Weinstein

*Absent

Observers: Deirdre McEvoy (Teacher), Elisabeth Cohen (Teacher), Jen Misthal (Teacher), Maggie Weinreb (Teacher), Deb Cardona (Teacher), Anne Pejovich (Parent Coordinator)

Meeting convened at 7:25am at Booker T. Washington

Minutes:

May 10, 2019 SLT Minutes were approved. The SLT secretaries send the final version to Joanne to be posted.

Discussions around Agenda:

CEP Goals from 2018-2019

GOAL 1. RIGOROUS INSTRUCTION

By June 2019, students in 12:1:1 classes will improve their reading skills as evident by an overall 2% increase on the New York State ELA exam.

Progress: This goal will be assessed in August when the scores are released.

GOAL 2. SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

By June 2019, a school created survey will show that 65% of the students surveyed said that the buddy program supported them in their transition to middle school.

Progress: Current verbal feedback from the students includes the following:

- Most students felt they got to know their buddies
- The students liked the regular meet ups
- It seemed split between the number of students who liked an activity to do with the buddy and those who just liked talking to their buddy about school.
- The students were upset when their buddy did not show up and they were put with another group.
- The students liked the presents or tokens some buddies gave.

Students will complete a survey reflecting on the buddy experience next week to quantitatively assess the goal and to inform that planning process for next year.

GOAL 3. COLLABORATIVE TEACHERS

By June 2019, every teacher team will prepare one common assessment each quarter as documented through the team's Google documents resulting in a 5% increase on the collaborative teacher section of the School Quality Survey.

Progress: Every teacher team prepared at least two common assessments. Some teacher teams did complete four. When the School Quality Survey results are released, we will be able to evaluate if there was a 5% increase on the collaborative teacher section.

GOAL 4. EFFECTIVE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

By June 2019, administrative and teacher leaders will collaborate to develop techniques for differentiating instruction and assignments to ensure that ICT students' needs are met as measured by a .15 increase in Danielson Component 1e.

Progress: There was planning time for all but one ICT team during the school day. There were multiple professional learning sessions on teaching ICT classes. Common planning provided teachers with multiple opportunities to develop techniques for differentiation. This goal will be quantifiably assessed when final Advance data becomes available.

GOAL 5. STRONG FAMILY COMMUNITY TIES

By June 2019, 30% of 6th graders performing below grade level (per report card) will participate in the after-school academic support program in order to help them improve their skills and complete their work.

Progress: Approximately 33 students enrolled in Afternoon Academy, thus more than the 30% target. Of the students enrolled, only three are failing classes

Statement of Educational Philosophy

"At Booker T. Washington Middle School, academic excellence is the foundation of our school culture. We are committed to providing rigorous academic opportunities to every student. We believe that both acceleration and remediation are vital to nurturing the potential of each student. We provide diverse opportunities to address the academic needs of our students, including a curriculum offering different levels of coursework."

The above statement was presented as the "Mission Statement" but will be renamed the "Statement of Educational Philosophy." The SLT discussed finding a synonym for the word, "remediation," as it may have negative connotations. However, the final decision was to keep the word, "remediation," because of the clear, explicit nature. The statement of educational philosophy was presented at the New Parent Breakfast on June 7th and was well received.

Cell Phone Policy for 2019-2020

Dr. Elster presented the case for a new cell phone policy in 2019-2020. Whereas the administration used to be able to say “you may have your phone, as long as it does not come out during the school day and we do not see it,” it has come to the point where many students are unable to ignore their cell phones. Cell phones have become a huge distraction for the students with ripple effects. Dr. Elster proposed that in 2019-2020, the school collects the cell phones at the beginning of every school day and returns them at the end of the day, so students can have them for traveling to and from school, but are not distracted by them during the day. This policy is already in place at Fashion Institute and the MLK campus, but phones are stored in different ways and different costs. The different processes for collecting cell phones:

- Fashion Institute – Upon entering the building, students leave their ID at the security desk and are given a Yonder pouch in which to lock their phone. They keep their phone on their person all day, but it remains in the locked pouch. At the end of the day, as the student prepares to exit the building, the pouch is unlocked and the student ID is returned. This method is more costly, given the high tech locking system, but the phone never leaves the student’s person.
- MLK Campus – Students are given bubble wrap with which to wrap their phone and then place in a pencil case. This is a less expensive, “low tech” method.
- Other methods: Cell phones are collected in homeroom and stored in a bin, a “shoe bag,” or a box with slots that locks.

Concerns expressed by teachers included: liability; what will the procedure be if a student arrives late; and what will the procedure be if a student leaves early.

A parent committee will form to write a technology and cell phone philosophy to express that the collecting of the cell phones is not punitive, but rather part of the academic philosophy. Booker T still intends to use technology, but the cell phones are being collected to allow students to be fully present. The PTA also stands by to provide financial support, but would prefer a low tech, less expensive method be tried before a high tech, more expensive method be implemented.

Dr. Elster will seek further advice from the SLT over the Summer and make a final decision regarding the method of collection. She will write the policy once the method of collection has been chosen. This policy will also include what the consequence will be if a student submit his/her cell phone and is then caught with it.

Equity Committee Report

The Equity Committee collected names at the New Parent Breakfast of parents who are interested in joining the Equity Committee in 2019-2020. Equity Steering Committee Members (Ranee Johnson, Naomi Tsai, and Judith Scott-Clayton), PTA Co-Presidents (Chris Giordano and Jerome Kramer), an Equity Committee Member (George Schneiderman) attended a District 3 Equity Summit at which they learned the 2019-2020 CEP must contain an Equity Goal.

Afternoon Academy

In Alison Gardy’s absence, Elisabeth Cohen, the teacher coordinator, presented the update on Afternoon Academy. She emphasized achieving the goal of students learning how to organize and do homework on their own is a process. The Afternoon Academy has attempted to build a

culture in which the mentors/tutors help students determine how time is used and has encouraged mentors/tutors to ask students, “how can you use your time here?”

Preparation/Goals for 2019-2020 Afternoon Academy include:

- Afternoon Academy will initially open to sixth graders, and then open to seventh graders, if space is available. The organizers intend to lead more strongly with the purpose from the onset.
- To reach students, Afternoon Academy will be mentioned at the Bridge Program over the Summer.
- To recruit volunteers: Alison Gardy has done a huge push to acquire volunteers for 2019-2020
- To Run the Program: The ideal is 2 teachers running the program with 2 teachers per classroom, per day.

Field Trips

As the Urban Advantage Program Director at the AMNH, Hudson Roditi presented a case for more experiential education achieved through trips to cultural institutions throughout NYC to be planned for 2019-2020. He cited the NGSS and the new NYS Science Standards establish the need for students to have more opportunities to explain authentic phenomena. He suggested that cultural institutions can offer phenomena for students to study and provide different points of entry for different learners. In his experience, taking the whole grade detracts from the opportunity for students to dive as deep into the subject matter as they would in a small group. He proposed that the faculty align the curriculum and cultural institutions to determine where new field trips can be introduced and suggested that teachers take their classes on field trips earlier in the year.

The goal of experiential education will be addressed with the teachers at the start of 2019-2020. Teachers present at the SLT meeting expressed concern about what to do with the students left behind when only a small group is taken on a field trip. In an effort to address this concern, Dr. Elster plans to have teachers who frequently go on field trips to address the faculty.

School Lunch

It was estimated that 75% of the student body eats some portion of school lunch. It was proposed that Booker T switch from the Regular/Standard school lunch menu to the Alternative school lunch menu. The Alternative menu has less beef. In addition, schools with the cooking done on site report better food. This would require additional training, but will improve the quality of the food. Finally, it was proposed that to assist with this transition, the head chef attend the Wellness Committee Meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 am.

Meeting minutes submitted by SLT co-secretaries Sara Lichtman (teacher) and Patricia Saydah (parent).