

Booker T. Washington Middle School 54
103 West 107th Street
New York, NY 10025
Phone: 212.678.2861

SLT Minutes

February 14, 2020

7:20 AM

SLT Members

| Core SLT Positions | Teacher Representatives | Parent Representatives |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Elana Elster, Principal | Randee Johnson | Stefanie Goldblatt |
| Jose Beauvais, UFT rep | Elizabeth McNulty (co-chairperson) | Andy Weinstein (co-chairperson) |
| Laura Adams, PTA Co-Pres | Sara Lichtman | Brad Roberts |
| *Peter Armstrong, DC37 rep | Richard Cappadona | Jeanne Goffi-Fynn |
| | *Rachel Weisz (co-secretary) | Jacqueline Shannon |
| | | Laura Adams (co-secretary) |
| | | Hudson Roditi |
| | | George Schneiderman |

*Absent

**Late

Observers: Chris Giordano, Jerome Kramer, Anne Pejovich

Calendar of Dates

- March 20, 2020
- April 3, 2020
- May 8, 2020
- June 12, 2020

Minutes

January SLT Minutes were approved. The SLT Secretaries will send the final version to Joanne Giordano to be posted.

Agenda Discussions

- Review of CEP Goals

- While there's no academic data from the state tests yet (they don't happen until later), G6 kids seem to be having a difficult transition to middle school, not so much academically but behaviorally
- G6 Homework academy is a big help - The kids who are attending are performing notably better than their peers; recently rotated out kids who were not coming regularly and rotated in kids who need help; there are lots of high school kids - including some MS 54 alum - who the G6 kids really gravitate toward
- In spite of challenges, the number of Promotion in Doubt letters this year will be similar to previous years
- Admissions/Testing Update
 - Admission info went in last week - over 800 kids were tested; the test is not a G5 test - it throws things at them that they may not have seen
 - Last year we didn't reach the 25% goal - not child/family wants a rigorous school; kids say they want a school that doesn't have homework, etc,
 - Admissions should be out by April break
- Equity: Admissions and Hiring Goals and Practices
 - Looking at the school's overall Equity goal for the CEP - 20% of kids participate in an extracurricular activity - to evaluate whether it is adequately representative
 - The school didn't meet its Equity hiring goal last year in spite of principal's best efforts
 - Every school is seeking more diverse teachers and there is not a large pool
- Potential Impact of City Budget Cuts
 - The principal said that there are budgets are cut every year, and nothing specific has been shared
- Digital Homework Assignments/Reducing Paper
 - Some teachers use Google Docs, but there's an assumption of access to going digital
 - However, there is an opportunity to reduce paper usage, and the need to print at school is can be very disruptive - so there are opportunities for teachers to have some projects turned in digitally
- Lockdown Drills
 - UFT and All Towns for Gun Safety have come out with guidelines for lockdown drills, suggesting that kids should not be included and/or told that it's a drill
 - Principal reports that the school doesn't tell students that lockdown drills are practice drills, but kids assume that they are not real and don't take it seriously
- Wellness Update
 - No one sits alone this week at lunch
 - Wellness table at resource fair this week
 - Wellness day is March 13 - need 4 more presenters
 - Purchased huge hand sanitizers for every classroom
- New Business
 - There will be two student representatives starting next year per new regulation

Coffee Rotation

- March 20, 2020: Jacqueline Shannon
- April 3, 2020: Hudson Roditi
- May 8, 2020: no volunteer yet
- June 12, 2020: no volunteer yet