

Booker T. Washington Middle School 54

103 West 107th Street

New York, NY 10025

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SLT Minutes

June 12, 2020

8:00 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

*Late

**Absent - Maternity Leave

Observers: Chris Giordano, Jerome Kramer, Erica Williams, Marni Aarlev, Stacy Cousino, Larry Lee, Kyle Clayton, Joanne Giordano, Amy Berg, Deborah Cardona, Alison Merkel, Anne Pejovich, Gabi Pasiak

Minutes

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

Agenda Discussions

- **Adoption of Revised By-Laws**

The bylaw revisions that were proposed on May 8 to update language and set aside one open SLT seat for the fall election were unanimously approved.

- **Reimbursement Process**

SLT Members must complete the remuneration form, including any hours spent on SLT work outside of in-school meetings (training, sub-committee meetings, etc).

- **CEP/Budget**

The deadline for CEP goals was pushed to July because the budget will not be out for a "couple

of weeks” according to the Chancellor. Schools were told to plan on a three percent cut across the board. With a budget of \$5.4 MM that could equate to 2.5-4 positions lost for Booker T since the bulk of the budget is for personnel.

- **Plan for a Blended Model Next Year**

The Chancellor advised schools to plan on a blended model. DOE evaluated the footprint of each school to determine how many students could safely be accommodated in the building and found that the maximum students allowed would be 49% of enrollment. For Booker T. that translates to somewhere between 380 and 420 students (out of 850) with total capacity including teachers, staff, etc. of no more than 440. However, with only full-size classrooms to be used and no more than 9 students and one adult in a room at a time, the maximum number of students would be far less. DOE has provided little further guidance on this. A blended learning sub-committee was formed to support the development of a plan over the summer and included: Dr. Elster, Andy Weinstein, Laura Adams, Hudson Roditi, George Schniederman, Jacqueline Shannon, Brad Roberts, Elizabeth McNulty, Sara Lichtman, Peter Armstrong, Joe Beauvais, Deanne Orcher, Erica Williams, and Anne Pejovich.

- **Lessons Learned from Remote Learning**

- Teacher survey results -
 - Overall the large classes were difficult to manage - would have preferred more “live” teaching with smaller groups.
 - More consistency was needed across the board with assignments in Google Classroom to make it easier for kids to manage/juggle.
 - Early Academy and other small group engagement was felt to be most effective
 - All G8 regents classes completed the full year’s curriculum
 - One teacher commented that, while there was a large cohort of motivated, organized students who stayed on top of things, remote learning aggravated difficulties for some students, who got lost and needed more attention.
- Family survey results -- Kyle Clayton joined the call to present and discuss the findings of the survey that was sent to students and parents.
 - Over 400 responses with 60/40 of respondents being students
 - Overall 3.5 out of 5 and many positive comments, but definitely “not the regular Booker T.”
 - Parents (3.9) perceived it more positively than students (3.2), with G8 rating it the lowest (2.7), and G7 the highest (4.2)
 - Lots of middle of the road feedback
 - Students, particularly in G8, felt that there was too much homework, with the perception that homework was being used to compensate for less teaching time
 - Families shared teacher’s concerns -- both academic and social -- regarding large class size
 - Discussion topics - opportunity for more emotional support, social connection, smaller classes
 - G7 families had the highest satisfaction - possibly b/c not in a transition year
 - Technology for the most part was delivered
 - Questions that weren’t included were “how much time are you as a parent putting into your child’s learning that you would not before” and “did you have to pay for anything that you would not have otherwise (wifi upgrade)”

- Demographic information was not included so the survey did not shed light on how Title 1/special needs families fared compared to the overall population
 - Parents and teachers agreed that given all the challenges, and particularly compared to other schools, Booker T. performed exceptionally well
 - A staff member proposed providing a standardized MS54 device for all students to simplify tech support (\$525 for a device that has keyboard and apps, or \$625 for one with cell service)
 - To date there has been minimal direction on how to open a school and no budget information other than that there will likely be significant cuts
 - Next year's planning will take into account what we've learned this year.
 - Orientation to train students on technology (e.g. Google classroom) and online organization
 - Cohorts of students/teachers who move together
- **Potential Changes in Admissions Policies**
 - School hasn't heard anything further
- **Equity Update**
 - In the process of getting headphones together for the students who need them
 - Equity team put together an exceptional resource guide for emotional support surrounding recent racial/social justice events
- **Wellness Update**
 - End of year update - making sure the teachers had any necessary supports/supplies, lots of overlap between equity and wellness needs
- **Teacher Elections:** Randee Johnson, Richard Cappadona, and Elizabeth McNulty have terms that end this year.
- Neither students nor teachers are able to return to the school building for anything that was left at the school.