

SLT Minutes October 15, 2016

Members in Attendance

	Teachers	Parents	Guests
Elana Elster, Principal	Dan Faagan	Corinne Bal	Anne Pejovich
Jerome Kramer, PTA	Elizabeth McNulty	Dahlia Doumar	
Katie Miller, PTA	Alison Merkel	Karen Saltser	
Deirdre McEvoy, UFT	Alexis Ritter	Tristram Yale	
		Stefanie Goldblatt	
		Bill Reinisch	

Approval of June and September Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the June and September meetings were unanimously adopted with minor revisions discussed.

Revision of CEP

In response to a request from the New York City Department of Education (the “DOE”), Dr. Elster presented proposed changes to the CEP. The major changes to the CEP were highlighted by Dr. Elster as follows: The third goal, which was originally too general, was revised. The new goal provides that by June 2017, every ICT teacher will participate jointly in at least two professional learning sessions. The fourth goal was revised taking into account feedback received last year from teachers regarding their desire to have a greater voice in certain decision-making. The revised goal states that by June 2017, at least one third of the faculty will serve on a decision- making committee. The revised fifth goal focuses on increasing parent involvement in the 12:1:1 classes where historically the level of parent involvement has been low, particularly in contrast to other classes. The revised goal provides that 60% of parents in 12:1:1 classes will participate in at least one school program such as a PTA event, Parent-Teacher Conferences, New Parent Orientation or Individual Planning Conference. In addition to these revisions, a suggestion was made that the Wellness Committee be added to the list school programs found in CEP goal five. Following a short discussion, the SLT came to consensus that the revised CEP should be submitted to the DOE. SLT members then thanked Dr. Elster and the SLT subcommittee for their hard work on the CEP revisions.

School Budget and Enrollment Update

There are currently 850 students registered rather than the 869 projected. In addition, there are only 31 students in a self-contained classroom rather than the 62 (two classes of 31) projected. Therefore, the school has a register shortfall. Dr. Elster reported that she anticipated the shortfall in the self-contained students and had already reserved money to return to the DOE to account for that shortfall. Discussion took place regarding the shortfall in general education students where it

was anticipated that there would be more students than currently are enrolled. On account of the anticipated numbers of students, a tenth sixth grade class was opened. Currently, each sixth grade classes only has 30/31 which is under what is permitted by law. Consideration was given to collapsing one of the sixth grade classes and adding those students to other classes, but given the disruption that such an action would cause, the administration concluded that the tenth class would remain this year. Next year, it is probable that the ten classes will be collapsed into nine, particularly given there is often some student attrition from year-to-year. Discussion then moved to projections for next year including whether re-zoning will impact enrollment and methods of communicating more effectively the need for parents whose children are placed at MS 54 to advise the school if their child will not be attending. Discussion concluded with Dr. Elster reporting that she has the money to return to the DOE, but the amount of the payment will make the budget tight for the remainder of the year.

Wellness Committee Update

The Committee held a number of meetings since the last SLT meeting. The SLT members were given an article on restorative practices as well as the IP address to find the article. There are many initiatives coming out of the committee that are in various stages of roll-out including the following:

- Sixth Grade Lunch Club - The sixth grade lunch club is running. There are three teachers whose rooms are open on scheduled lunch periods. One teacher reported that his room was open for a “music club” where any student who likes music can go during his open lunch period. Other teachers’ rooms are open on certain days for talking, games, coloring and other activities. Some teachers have already seen as many as 15 kids at these lunch clubs.
- Buddy System - The eighth grade buddies programs has also begun to operate. The plan is for the eighth graders to help younger students.
- Restorative Practices Used: Teachers are working on this aspect of wellness including mini-advisory, restorative circles and buddy conflict resolution.
- Partnership with Ryan Center – Plan is for the social worker to meeting with small students at lunch. This plan is going through necessary approval with the Ryan Center.
- Eighth Period – Currently, there is an eighth period once a week so that students can learn about the election. On this day, all other classes are shortened. The proposal is that this period could be continued and used for wellness activities. Discussion took place regarding uses for this eighth period including possibly talking about cheating and other relevant topics. A suggestion was made that if this period is added, whether it is weekly or monthly, that the day change so that the same teachers are not impacted each time. Further discussion needs to take place between the faculty regarding the viability and interest because teachers would need to volunteer to participate in order for the proposal to move forward.

Youtube

Youtube is used at times for educational content and there can be difficulty accessing it. This issue is being looked at and addressed.

There being no additional new business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Dahlia Doumar