

PS 452 SLT Meeting of November 17, 2016  
Minutes

**Present:** Charlotte Arboleda, Liz Campbell, AJ Cermak, Alexis Freeman, Jill Gabin, Laura Goldenberg, Margaret Ocampo, Nathan O'Reilly, Scott Parker, Beate Sissenich. **Guests:** Sarah Courtemanche, Eric Herman, David Kerievsky, Jennifer Kierans, Rachel Levy, Kate Taylor, Sarah Turchin.

**Call to order:** 4:05pm by Laura Goldenberg, chair.

**Approval of minutes:** The minutes of 10/13 were approved with no changes.

**Principal's Report:**

- Open School Week in progress. Administration is working on allowing for observation of real instruction.
- Five out of six coffees with the administration completed.
- Kindergarten Connect will be opening later November 30; it will have a footnote/asterisk concerning the rezoning.
- The fifth-grade trip to Frost Valley was successful; community-building activities continue.
- The budget deficit is down from \$90k to \$70k but has not been finalized. Students can enter during the school year via the waitlist or by moving into the zone. Per-pupil funding comes with individual weights that account for special needs. PS452 used to have 8-12 students with disability per year, now there are fewer, hence there is a drop in funding.
- Principal Parker shared the draft grading policy, which all schools are required to have.
- He also distributed copies of the School Quality Guide; PS452 is exceeding targets on all measures.

**PTA President's Report:**

- Liz Campbell reported that CEC3 President Joe Fiordaliso attended the Executive Board Meeting on 11/15, during which the board asked questions previously collected from parents concerning the rezoning and re-siting.
- She also reported that in the 11/18 Executive Board Meeting, the board would compile requests for the CEC in preparation for the 11/22 rezoning vote by the CEC3.
- Successful fundraising efforts just completed: Charleston Wrap, Halloween. Coming up: Picture Day 11/30.

**Teachers' Report:**

- Teachers used Election Day to study question formulation techniques as a means of having students be responsible for their own learning.
- Special Education teams are working on making IEPs better and enabling students to access the full curriculum.

- Professional Development: Teachers are working in Professional Learning Communities with self-assigned topics such as integrated curriculum planning, Reading Rescue. PLCs are four-week cycles within PROSE during which teachers engage in 320 minutes of professional learning. The approach gives faculty choice and flexibility and includes a knowledge-sharing requirement. PS452 is currently in its second cycle.
- The Comprehensive Education Plan is currently under review at the DOE; evaluators seem to look for goals that move the school forward rather than documenting what is already working well.

#### **Sub-Committee Reports:**

- Community Building: AJ Cermak reported that the first event of the year on 11/16 was a great success and attracted ca. 150 people, with excellent volunteer contributions and visible impact in social interactions in the schoolyard the next day. The next event is already being planned.
- Foreign Language: Laura Goldenberg reported that the committee now has five members in addition to herself; the group is researching curriculum and hiring resources and best practices, and will share the information with the SLT on an ongoing basis. .
- STEM: Beate Sissenich reported that science teachers continue to express a need for support services, but that there is currently no budget for a teaching assistant who could help with experiment prep/cleanup and inventory. Principal Parker noted that science teacher Sarah Anthony can use some of her PLC time for STEM and that she has been working with some fifth-graders during lunch/recess to set up instruction materials. Asst. Principal Javidi and Principal Parker are both attending DOE training on math and science instruction; Ms. Arboleda is doing a training for math intervention. With the space and materials issues somewhat addressed, the committee will now turn its focus to curriculum and professional development options.

#### **Emails to the SLT Account:**

- AJ Cermak summarized the four emails received by the SLT account since the last SLT meeting.

#### **SLT FAQ Page:**

- AJ Cermak informed the SLT that minutes from 2010 to 2015 are now available on the page, as is a month-by-month list of issues and big decisions. Principal Parker suggested that the page should still have an FAQ section in addition to the elements described by Ms. Cermak.

#### **District 3 Discussion**

- Sarah Turchin from the DOE joined the meeting at 5:05 pm and explained the timeline concerning rezoning and re-siting decisions by the CEC3 and PEP, respectively. After the CEC3 vote on the rezoning proposal on 11/22, the DOE will post its re-siting proposal around 11/30, i.e. at least 45 days before the PEP votes on 1/18/17. There will be a Joint Public Hearing on the proposal where members of the public can make 2-minute

statements. The DOE will not provide responses at that hearing, but instead will share its analysis of public comments with the PEP prior to the vote. There will be an additional community touchpoint on the proposal with PS452 in early to mid-December.

- Parent members of the SLT asked whether the PEP approval of re-siting was a foregone conclusion and whether community input could make any difference. They noted the risk to PS452, given that the rezoning proposal does not contain a contingency for the case that the PEP does not approve the re-siting of PS452, and recommended that the matter of a contingency clause should be raised by the Executive Board in its list of questions for the CEC.
- Sarah Turchin described the logistics of the move, which will involve 3 schools. During the last week of school in June 2017, classrooms will be packed up for the move. Prior to the handover of each school, mechanics of the entire facility will be checked, the scope of necessary work determined, and upgrades estimated as needed. There are restructuring funds from multiple sources; however, funds for capital improvements might not be available before the start of the school year 2017-18.
- There was discussion about anticipated churn of PS452 students, given that current families will be weighing their alternative options. Principal Parker noted that in case of a re-siting, PS452 expects to build up its class sizes from pre-K and kindergarten and does not anticipate a massive influx into higher grades. Parent members of the SLT requested that the DOE produce an impact analysis for PS452 similar to what it had delivered for PS87 to show how many kids could be joining in each grade following the re-zoning. For 2017, the plan is to have four kindergarten sections plus pre-K, but no new sections for older grades unless there is an unexpected influx, in which case section limits of 32 students would be applied.
- Sarah Turchin left at 6pm.
- The SLT will form a transition committee under the lead of Nathan O'Reilly and Jill Gabin. The committee will set the terms of its work before inviting more parent input.

**Lead Testing:**

- No new developments since the last discussion of this issue. The SLT will need someone to take on William Zangwill's role in this regard.

**Adjournment:** 6:15pm.