

# SLT Meeting 3/16/2017

## Minutes

### **In attendance:**

Charlotte Arboleda  
Liz Campbell  
AJ Cermak  
Alexis Freeman  
Jill Gabin  
Laura Goldenberg  
Margaret Ocampo  
Scott Parker  
Beate Sissenich

**Guest:** Adam Javidi

**Call to Order:** Laura Goldenberg called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of 2/16 were approved with two corrections:

- Cut “will be inherited rather than developed by PS452 teachers.”
- Replace “Principal Parker has met will meet with the PS276 principal to learn about their Spanish-language instruction.”

### **PTA President’s Report:**

- Annual auction is approaching on 3/25.
- Laura Goldenberg and Liz Campbell submitted a preliminary request to the Executive Board for \$500 for SLT budget (discretionary funds, such as Survey Monkey cost for the Transition Committee).
- Executive Board meeting was rescheduled to 3/21 due to the snow day on Tuesday, 3/14.
- PTA nominations take place in April and election takes place in May.

### **Principal’s Report**

- Sarah Anthony (Grade 5) and Scott Parker have been participating in a Professional Learning Community in STEM this year.
- Teachers are undergoing their spring cycle of professional development:
  - with Teachers College Reading and Writing Project staff developers, which began this week with a focus on improving small group teaching.
  - with G+R Inclusive for special education professional development on strengthening unit planning to adapt and maximize curricular unit planning in

the common core for students with special needs, looking at the station teaching model.

- Hosting PS290 for an exchange of teaching insights.
- Social-emotional learning: RULER training for teachers (Social emotional learning)
- Admissions: 128 offer letters sent out to K today; all siblings got in, 4/7 deadline to preregister, 100 K spots. Pre-K: 54 spots; 10-20 siblings.
- Middle school admission letters expected before April break.
- School leadership: Scott Parker had 2<sup>nd</sup> observation by superintendent; effective or highly effective. Mr. Parker has been selected to work with the superintendent and her team at the district level on learner-centered approaches.
- Staffing: Preference sheet, contractually mandated, has been sent out by school leaders to teachers on what grade they would like to teach; no teacher has indicated that s/he would not return to PS452 in the fall. Ms Wu will be coming back in September, while other teachers will be on family leave.
- Principal Parker is convening a hiring committee to fill 1-2 K vacancies. The committee currently consists of Ms. Arboleda, Ms. Kessler, Mr. Javidi, and Ms. Littles.
- Family ties: Grade-level coffees in the spring; surveys sent out; parent-teacher conferences took place last week; currently planning May conference on specific teaching topics.
- Re-site: notices went out to families
- Tours of the new site at 61<sup>st</sup> St. tentatively scheduled for 4/1 morning, 4/5 evening, still finalizing.
- Transportation: waiting for more updates from DOE/Office of Pupil Transport.
- CEC3 wants to set up transition meeting with SLT, DOE reps, PTA, on space planning; purpose unclear, as PS452 already shared its priorities. This may just be standard follow-up to the questions submitted last fall. Mr. Parker is aligning with Jill Gabin and Nate O'Reilly to send a list of issues and questions to CEC.

### Teachers' Report

- Ms. Arboleda checked in with teachers on CEP goal 5A. Not all teachers had participated in the earlier survey so there were some missing data. The goal states that by 5/2017, 80 % of teachers are required to have created differentiated materials; now 16/19 classroom teachers have created such materials, so the team is ahead of schedule. No work on 5B supportive environment; 84% of teachers had completed a strong-families event.

### Sub-Committee Reports:

- **Community Building:** AJ Cermak reported that Lauren Monchik and Nate O'Reilly (as Green Team) came up with idea to do bird walk as community building event, which will complete the CEP goal of 3 events. 4/1, 9-11am, Central Park, more info forthcoming.

- **Foreign Language:** Laura Goldenberg is working on presentation on the rationale for foreign language learning. She has met w PS9 on its exposure program. Overall the committee is getting closer to making a recommendation.
- **STEM:** Next week, the STEM will be meeting on 3/21 to discuss models of science education and technology use in classroom.
- **Transition:** Communications sub-committee shared a draft proposal on how to talk to kids; SLT members were asked to share comments and suggestions. Alumni subcommittee: perhaps come up with an idea for something for 5<sup>th</sup> grade families to donate to incoming K class, this is under discussion. Transportation: submitted list of questions; hoping for answers before transfer process happens.

### Old Business

- **Email account:** An inquiry came in asking whether a specialty teacher could be hired for technology instruction.
- **Cluster position funding:**
  - There was discussion about what the required procedure for decisions on cluster decisions is. Mr. Parker explained that such decisions could be made by the principal unilaterally, but the precedent at PS452 has been to consult the SLT on previous cluster hires in arts and music.
  - By way of background, Mr. Parker explained that administrators need to give each teacher one prep period a day and a duty-free lunch; from this requirement, administrators calculate how many coverages are needed. Cluster teachers are supposed to teach 20 periods and have 5 administrative periods. Additionally, IEP meetings are mandated 1x/yr. PS452 is at a point now where 3 cluster teachers will not cover 17 teachers' preps, IEP meetings, and other periods that need coverage. But the gap is not quite large enough to justify a full-time position, so a cluster hire could be part-time.
  - Most likely there will be 4 cluster teachers for the next 3 years at PS452, but there are different ways of meeting curricular requirements. For instance, arts and music could be combined in one position, freeing up a cluster position. Physical education is mandated and requires a full-time teacher.
  - One consideration for specialist teachers is that all instruction needs to be integrated in the classroom/across the curriculum. For instance, two periods with a science cluster teacher per week would be inadequate for meeting the science standards. By the same token, the library and media center could be staffed by a classroom teacher; it does not require a library-media specialist. A library-media specialist is required to offer 5 periods of open access to the media center.
  - The SLT discussed the relative priority of cluster teachers for Spanish language instruction, for arts and music instruction, and of a specialist to support the existing media center and future library. Mr. Parker pointed out that foreign-language instruction does not require a specialist teacher at the elementary-school level, given that bilingual education is not currently under consideration. Several teachers and administrators emphasized their support for continued arts

and music education, while one parent questioned the utility of music instruction compared to other priorities. The consensus in the SLT was that a library-media specialist would be important for maximizing the benefits of the library and media center.

- Coding instruction: The STEM committee will consider this question at its next meeting, but several SLT members questioned the need for and benefits of coding instruction at the elementary school level. However, there are opportunities for extracurricular instruction, e.g. Google CS First, which offers a free coding club, Google-supported. This can be leveraged in the new space and is geared toward older kids (grades 4 and 5).
- **Safety:** There was an open safety meeting, at which Mr. Parker gave a report similar to his SLT report. Once the weather warms, there will be two more evacuation drills and one more lockdown. The SLT discussed whether a PS452 staff member should visit the safety team at PS191; Mr. Parker agreed to put any interested staff member in contact with the principal of PS191 to discuss such a consultation.

**Adjournment:** 6:00 pm.