

SLT Meeting 2/15/2018

Minutes

Present:

Charlotte Arboleda
Cara Biggane
AJ Cermak
Sarah Courtemanche
Karen Dahl
Jill Gabin
David Kerievsky
Scott Parker
Beate Sissenich

Absent:

Nate O'Reilly

Call to order (Gabin): 4:03pm

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

PTA Report (Courtemanche):

Ms. Courtemanche reported on recent PTA activities, including the PTA meeting on 1/30. She also reported that the PTA crafted Valentine's notes for all teachers and tied these into a fundraising activity.

Principal's Report (Parker):

- **Rigorous instruction:** The school is conducting professional development with Emily Smith, Social Studies consultant from Teachers' College, working with grades 3-5, working with the Passport to Social Studies curriculum. A particular focus is on learning how to take different perspectives, e.g. when studying the colonial period in 4th grade (European, African, Native American) and using Black History month to think about perspective in a historical context. Other related activities include a visit to the African Burial Ground in Lower Manhattan; a visit by the New York Historical Society to PS452; and a case study by third graders on Egypt, using the library for research to facilitate writing books on the subject. Fifth graders are studying Western expansion, analyzing paintings that promoted expansion and looking at Schoolhouse Rock to understand writers' perspectives.
- The staff spent an extra day with Jessica from G&R Inclusive Group, a consulting agency; earlier in the year the focus was on transitional issues.

- Ross Greene workshop at PS9: Several teachers attended for PS452 and will report to the rest of the team through a lunch-and-learn activity.
- **Supportive Environment:** The week of Feb 12 was Respect for All Week; classroom conversations focused on how to be an “upstander” rather than bystander. Principal Parker described how he created a teachable moment when he overheard kids using discriminatory language in a third-grade classroom, sharing his personal experiences to emphasize that everyone has a right to feel safe. He illustrated his message by referencing the RULER Mood Meter, integrating multiple curricular tools by doing so.
- **Effective school leadership:** Ms Cermak received an award for exemplary service from NYC DOE’s Manhattan Field Support Office and attended a luncheon hosted by Chancellor Fariña. Mr Javidi wrote the Principal’s Letter for February and will present on the RULER curriculum at the next PTA meeting. Mindfulness Room is now open—see the blue handout with a letter from the PS452 Mindfulness Committee to the SLT and an invitation to SLT members to participate in a guided yoga and meditation session on 3/22.

Comprehensive Educational Plan Progress Monitoring Mid-Year (Gabin):

Ms. Gabin observed that the assessment criteria are simply yes/no and do not offer much room for quantitative differentiation.

- **5A--Rigorous instruction:** Teacher training sessions: 2/5 sessions completed, all teachers reached through grade-level teams. (Goal: 3/5 sessions)
- **5B: Supportive Environment:** 1st reference period: Sept to Nov. 15; 2nd reference period: Nov 16 to January. The drop from 55 disciplinary incidents in the first period to 30 incidents during the second period represents a 45% decrease $((55-30)/55=.45)$, fulfilling the goal of a 10% drop.
- **5C: Collaborative Teachers:** 6 out of 7 teachers (85%) responded positively to a survey about having increased time to reflect about their planning and create new ideas. All special education teachers and all service providers received the survey; all special education teachers and one service provider responded.
- **5D: Effective School Leadership:** 3.22 score out of 4 (4=highly effective) on Danielson 1e scale, averaged across all teachers. Rated in 4 domains, 8 components. The February goal of 2.91 has therefore been exceeded.
- **5E: Strong Family and Community Ties:** Community Basketball Initiative for parents, kids can watch. The CEP states no clear Feb goal, but by June, we need to have reached 50% of the community through some community event.

Sub-Committee Updates:

- **Community Building:** Concerning a potential **speaker series on diversity**, Ms. Courtemanche reported that parent Sharmilee Ramudit has been doing the heavy lifting of identifying potential resources and speakers. One speaker, Prof. Chris Emdin, charges a fee that is outside of what the PTA can afford to spend on a single evening. Ms. Ramudit proposed following the [DOE’s 4-pronged approach](#). Several organizations are under discussion as resources for diversity education for teachers and families: Raising a

Race-Conscious Child (used by MSC), Border Crossers, and The Human Root. The Executive Board wants to do a coffee talk or lunch-and-learn, i.e. a small event for ca. 15-20 families and staff. One question to resolve is whether the diversity conversation should focus on one dimension (race/ethnicity) or multiple lines of diversity (e.g. by including sexual orientation). **Mindfulness:** Multiple mindfulness activities are planned as part of community building. The mindfulness work should be Integrated in future CEP goals. **Variety show:** The sub-committee is still considering dates and putting out call for parents to contribute talent.

- **STEM:** David Kerievsky reported that Principal Parker had made some revisions to the equipment requests for the Reso A grant and PS452 is now waiting for a sign-off document from the DOE office in charge of procurement.

Old Business (Gabin):

- **Email (Cermak):** no emails were received at the SLT account except Mr. O'Reilly's mental health survey of teachers.
- **Safety (Parker):** An open session of the Safety Committee was held on 2/14, the same day as the Parkland school massacre. The Chancellor sent a letter to families on 2/15; Parker wrote a paragraph on lock-down drills to families, also on 2/15. Two lockdown drills have now been conducted in the current school year. Each drill improves practices and refines steps to be taken. On the question of visitor compliance with safety procedures when entering the building, Principal Parker observed that Officer Diaz has a different approach from the officers at the 77th St. location and is very effective; it helps that only one school occupies the building, so it is easier for Officer Diaz to know people.
- **Resource needs:** Mr. Parker will follow up with consultant Tara Covais on sessions for special education teachers and others who need it. The SLT decided not to pursue the idea of hiring a recess coach.

Adjournment: 5:06pm.