

# SLT Meeting 2/16/2017

## Minutes

### **In attendance:**

Liz Campbell  
Alexis Freeman  
Jill Gabin  
Laura Goldenberg  
Margaret Ocampo  
Nate O'Reilly  
Scott Parker  
Beate Sissenich

Guest: Melissa Birnbaum

**Call to order:** Laura Goldenberg called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of 1/12 were approved with one correction:

- P. 3, Planning for the Transition to the New School Site: Nate O'Reilly, not Jill Gabin, reported on community meeting in December.

### **Principal's Report:**

- Teachers conducted a session to share individual learning communities' insight on 2/14.
- Metamorphosis session—teaching and learning communities on multiplication and algebra approaches—at PS 84, working with other district 3 principals.
- Principal Parker finished his professional development cycle on science leadership, ordered books and will give them to Ms. Anthony and Ms. Ocampo. Materials by National Science Teachers Association are broken out into discrete steps that can be leveraged for professional learning cycles at PS452.
- Mr. Javidi has finished his professional development cycle as well. Ms Arboleda will update us on that at the next SLT session.
- State testing is coming up; Mr. Javidi is hosting a meeting for upper grades on 3/9. ELA test will be held at end of March, Math at beginning of May, Science on June 4. Some in-class test prep has begun for ELA. For 4<sup>th</sup> grade, the school is offering an extended test prep cycle after school, i.e. 3 sessions ELA and 3 sessions math.
- Family engagement sessions: 2/16 morning sessions for 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- Early March: one-on-one parent-teacher conferences.
- May: topics meetings for parent engagement

- **Admissions: Kindergarten:** Over 600 applicants, PS 452 will make 128 offers for ultimately 100 spots for 4 classes. 20-odd offers are to PS87 alternates, about 100 are in-zone and siblings of current students. Some people in-zone who did not get in have ranked something else higher. About 100 applicants from new zone.
- **Pre-K applications in progress:** 54 seats, over 161 applicants and still going up, 18 kids per pre-K class. Assignment of seats is not by lottery, nor by diversity, but apparently by residential proximity (as per chancellor's recent remarks).
- The pre-K curriculum is standardized and offers several basic tracks that provide the same curriculum but some variation. PS452 teachers do not have to develop curriculum.

### **Teachers' Report/Mid-Year Review of the Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP):**

- Teachers report is now going to be built off the CEP and to serve the purpose of a mid-year review of progress.
- Teachers are thinking about revising items 5a and 5b in the CEP. Revisions will require an assignment of clearly defined roles.
- Ms. Ocampo reported on the assessment of progress. At the January UFT meeting, the teachers administered a progress survey. Survey results: 13 out of 19 classroom teachers responded to the survey. **Goal 5A** (rigorous instruction, differentiated learning materials at 3 levels): All 13 respondents reported being on track, i.e. 68% on track. We will need supplemental data on frequency per week of materials at 3 levels of learning. **Goal 5B** (supportive environment: student-friendly rubrics): 63%, i.e. 12/19 on track. **Goal 5C** (collaborative teachers: professional development and peer sharing): Will need to gather data from teacher logs and shared documents in the school drive as an indicator of peer learning and professional development. **Goal 5D** (effective school leadership: professional development and instructional support): professional development goals have been met; teacher ratings goals have been met. **Goal 5E** (strong family and community ties: enrichment activities): All grades have hosted at least 1 event for families that is free and informational. Attendance numbers will be obtained from Ms. Lustig. With two school-wide events, PS452 has already gone beyond the goal.
- Next steps: between now and May, need two more surveys to update goals
- Principal Parker noted that the existing CEP was deemed by DOE as not ambitious enough. For instance, we may need to start engaging teachers earlier, need to determine SLT-related opportunities.

### **Sub-Committee Reports**

- a. **Community Building:** Nate O'Reilly reported that the 2/15 Gold Rush event was a great success: Fifth-graders built games based on their social studies insights. It was a great way to bring kids of different ages together and give kids ownership over the event. 100+ people in attendance.
- b. **Foreign language:** Laura Goldenberg reported that the committee is looking into scheduling options when PS 452 is a bigger school with 24 sections and developing 4 different scenarios that will be discussed at a later point. Principal Parker will meet with

the PS276 principal to learn about their Spanish-language instruction. Hiring starts in April--need to come up with a scheduling scenario by then. Some schools have PTA fund the Spanish-language teacher—if we were to do that, we would need to ask for it in the PTA budget by April. Lots of info gathering is still taking place from multiple sources: CEC3, other schools, conferences, etc.

- c. **STEM:** Beate Sissenich reported on the 1/25 committee meeting, where a discussion took place on the role of science teaching across the curriculum, in a lab, and in the classroom. Likewise, the committee discussed advantages of cluster teaching vs. classroom teaching of science content. Principal Parker pointed out that 1-2 sessions of lab time are insufficient to meet the science mandate of 150 minutes /week of science instruction, which cannot be met by relying solely on a cluster teacher. Thus, the middle-school model won't work for elementary schools; instead, classroom teachers play a crucial role in providing science education. That said, departmentalization has worked well in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, so we may want to think about it for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Given that parents seem to have divergent impressions on whether science education is actually taking place, Principal Parker noted that there is a need for communication on what an integrated science teaching approach looks like.
- d. **Transition:** Jill Gabin reported that the transition committee met on 2/2 and 20+ people attended, including some teachers and some new faces. Sub-committees were launched for a list of issues: 1) outreach; 2) transportation; 3) grants (an application has been submitted to Gale Brewer's office for 150-200 Chrome books and other technology equipment; 4) alumni relations; 5) green space. The topic of safety found no takers. Next meeting to be held on 3/3 at 8:10. The SLT discussed whether there needs to be a communication strategy for kids or not, as it is likely that kids will hear about the move from peers. Kids should know that it is OK to discuss the topic; teachers should have talking points to address discussions from kids. The SLT agreed that there is no need for big presentation at this point, but also that it would not be appropriate to shut down kids' discussions of the move. Nate O'Reilly will reach out to Ms. Debucquoy to develop some communication guidance for teachers. Principal Parker had some updates on the move as well: Transportation will be by regular school bus with multiple stops rather than a shuttle from one location. A Department of Transportation representative was scheduled to meet with Scott about possible bike racks. Principal Parker also met with Manhattan libraries representative to discuss how planning and hiring for the school library would work. He submitted grant proposal for library; next grant application will be for a cafeteria upgrade. Wellness in the Schools will continue, Chef Annie likes the new space. Playground will have hop scotch, etc. Principal Parker suggested that it would be good to have a volunteer coordinator (parent plus staff) to help with all the work that will happen over the summer.

- At the Executive Meeting on 2/14, budget and actual expenditure were reviewed. The treasurers are building next year's budget from the ground up, which is different from previous years due to the move.
- Annual auction 3/25: Luau-themed.
- Looking to recruit for open positions on exec board, as well as SLT positions.
- CEC positions available, vote will be in April.
- CEC3 meeting last night on water—usually the issue is in the faucet rather than the water, which is easy to remedy. Unclear how determination is made that source is the faucet and not the pipes.
- CEC: Middle school discussions are starting up again, diversity as shared goal but strategy unclear.
- **Old business:**
  - No emails to the SLT account.
  - Another lockdown drill took place.
  - Water: faucet leading to kitchen steamer has been shut off, not used very often, faucet will be replaced. None of the cases in D3 are drinking fountains. Each building was examined on a different date, so we don't have news on MS191 yet.

**New business:**

- SLT discretionary budget for next year. Examples of expenses that the SLT incurred this year include SurveyMonkey survey, a foreign language teaching book, consulting services, could cover community building events as well. They were funded from PTA executive board funds. Proposed: \$500 for SLT Discretionary Funding; anything over \$100 would have to be approved by SLT.
- Cluster position funding: There are different options for requesting funds for a cluster position, e.g. library specialist, foreign language teacher, etc. Cost: ~\$65k. Think about reassigning some of the cluster teachers. If we were to have 4 clusters, what would they be? Does SLT support a request for funding?

**Adjournment:** 5:35pm.