

# SLT Meeting 3/22/2018

## Minutes

### **Present:**

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

**Guest:** Sharmilee Ramudit

**Absent:** Nate O'Reilly

**Call to order (Gabin):** 4:07pm.

**Approval of minutes:** The minutes were approved with one change: "All special education teachers and all service providers received the survey; all special education teachers and one service provider responded."

### **PTA President's Report (Courtemanche):**

- **Upcoming PTA elections:** Stacey Winter and Sarah Courtemanche will run for PTA co-presidents.
- **SLT parent positions:** 2 positions will open up for AY 2018-19/2019-20, specifically Jill Gabin's and Beate Sissenich's positions.
- **Auction** on 4/28—please attend!
- **PTA bylaws** will be approved at next meeting on Tue, 3/27.

### **Principal's Report (Parker):**

- Pre-K and K parents' meeting with Principal has been held; next up: grades 3-5 in preparation for the state tests.
- **NYC DOE school satisfaction survey** deadline has been extended. Ms. Arboleda suggested that better communication with staff might be needed about the importance of the survey, as official school ratings are derived from the survey results. Staff response as of today: 41%.
- **ELA test 4/11-12;** after-school test prep offered for fourth-graders to support middle school applications in fifth grade.

- **Parent engagement--May conference:** agenda setting at next SLT meeting. Should hold “sneak peek” for upcoming school year. Need to give feedback on what topics parents are interested in.
- **Kindergarten Admissions:** Letters for Kindergarten Connect have been sent out. Some in-zone families did not get admitted, but we don’t know why—most likely due to their priority settings. 113 kindergarteners have been admitted for 100 spots; some of these are overflow applicants from PS87.
- **Diversity Initiative:** D3 applicants on free/reduced-price lunch have priority in admissions after in-zone admissions.

#### **Comprehensive Educational Plan Progress Monitoring (Gabin):**

- **3/29 deadline for updates:** Edits have been submitted and need to be moved to the next stage in the review process.
- **5C--Collaborative Teachers:** Teachers are exploring the availability of resources for summer professional development.
- **Inclusion March on 3/14:** Teachers are discussing how to extend the activities that surrounded the March for Inclusion into other RULER activities by having grades host events for the whole school.

#### **Diversity and Inclusion Initiative—presentation by Sharmilee Ramudit (parent)**

- Ms. Ramudit attended a D15 event on middle school diversity initiative.
- She has been talking to the diversity committee of Manhattan School for Children, where the organization [Raising Race-Conscious Children](#) just completed a workshop. The purpose of these conversations with other schools is to learn about programming as well as support structures for diversity in education. Ms. Ramudit reported that she learned that it is really important to create a safe environment for families of color to share their experience. Families need to feel comfortable to raise issues freely. She gave the example of one parent who observed a dearth of authors of color in the school library. Clearly not everyone is comfortable raising race and racial justice as an issue with the school.
- Ms. Ramudit reported that another organization, [Border Crossers](#), has a year-long initiative that requires teasing out a vision for racial justice. Free if we apply and get accepted. Deadline: April 13. Requires a committee of 4-6 members, 3 of them teachers/staff/principal, 1 parent member. Application is not too cumbersome, but commitment to dedicate days to PD is significant. Existing PS452 efforts in diversity and inclusion: Principal Parker is attending a yearlong DOE workshop. We have a diversity clause in our admissions procedures to ensure representation of students on free or reduced-price lunch.
- Upon discussion, it emerged that the SLT consensus is that PS452 should address racial diversity, but the group felt that jumping into a yearlong commitment, including significant professional development time for educators, was premature. In the conversations that parents are having with a variety of content providers, it is important to separate out parent engagement (one-off event) and the engagement of the school’s

professionals with its resulting obligations that might compete with other commitments. Need to estimate one-off event and determine if in budget.

- Border Crossers also has a short, one-off program that is under consideration for a parent and/or teacher workshop, along with Raising Race-Conscious Children and the [Human Root](#). Sharmilee Ramudit, Allegra Parks, and SLT member Beate Sissenich are holding conference calls with each potential content provider to understand their approaches and make a recommendation to the SLT and/or PTA.

### Subcommittee Updates

- **Community Building (Cermak):** The committee is organizing mindfulness room activities for parents. May 2, 6:30-8pm talent show, parents are already volunteering.
- **STEM (Kerievsky):** No meeting held recently, equipment has been ordered; looking into server solution for monitor and software control by teacher of individual devices.

### Old Business:

- **Email account (Cermak):** No new emails except preparations for Sharmilee to attend as guest speaker.
- **Safety: (Parker)** Looking into a new food vendor and information on allergens. One more lock down drill needed, two more evacuation drills. Disciplinary incidents continue to decline, but disproportionately so in the classroom.
- **Follow-up with Tara Covais:** Focusing on exhausting DOE resources (Lauren DiCamillo can address both parents and teachers); Karen Dahl to let Tara Covais know.

### New Business:

- Jill Gabin gave a short report on a meeting organized by [Counseling in Schools](#) on 3/19 for the SLTs of PS452, PS191, PS199. Counseling in Schools received a grant from Council Member Helen Rosenthal to facilitate dialogue among the elementary schools in the southern part of D3 following the upheaval of the rezoning debate in the previous 2 school years. A brainstorming session identified resource inequality and race and diversity as principal concerns around which to organize joint activities among the schools. Counseling in Schools was to send out a written summary of the meeting. The principal of PS191 said that parents from her school worry about whether they are welcome in newly zoned schools. PS199 has 1 K admit from Amsterdam houses, PS452 has 4 admits for AY2018-19. If there is an activity that all families want, could use that as a way to collaborate. PS452 and 191 are doing one joint service event (fifth graders making sandwiches)
- **Middle school admissions proposal in D3:** Starting with AY 2018-19, middle school admissions will no longer reveal preference rankings to schools, a change that could decrease diversity. CEC3 is seeking to mitigate this impact by a proposed “floor” of 10-15% students who scored 1 or 2 on state tests. The SLT was in agreement that PS452 families need to learn more about the proposals; in addition to today’s newsletter, could also share printout in kidmail and make a PTA meeting announcement in order to

give families an opportunity to weigh in on the proposed changes. The new process will be announced on June 5.

**Agenda for April 19:**

- Teachers report replaces CEP progress measurement;
- Old business: update on diversity initiative; Counseling in the Schools;
- New business: lunch committee update; curriculum night; budget requests for AY2018-19

**Adjournment:** 5:40pm.