

SLT Meeting 5/17/2018 Minutes

Present:

Charlotte Arboleda
Cara Biggane
AJ Cermak
Sarah Courtemanche
David Kerievsky
Nate O'Reilly
Scott Parker
Beate Sissenich

Visitors:

Rachel Brody

Absent: Jill Gabin, Karen Dahl.

In the absence of Chair Jill Gabin, PTA President Sarah Courtemanche presided over the meeting.

Call to order: 4:04pm.

Approval of minutes of 4/26: The minutes were approved with one edit: Under "Principal's Report", p.2 "Smart Boards"—"Michelle" should be spelled with one l, i.e. "Michele".

PTA Report (Courtemanche):

- The **PTA election** meeting was held on May 15 with ca. 35 people in attendance. SLT parent representatives: Paola Atlason (parent of a pre-K and a K child) and Meredith Somsel (parent of a K child). Stacey Winter and Sarah Courtemanche were re-elected as co-presidents. Secretary: Heather Menkes. Treasurer(s): Dan Cohen & Caitlin Sullivan. Vice President(s) Communications: Monica Wyche & Stephanie German. Vice President(s) Fundraising: Millie Wang Koo & Maanavi Chendanda. Vice President Community Affairs: Sharmilee Ramudit.
- **Auction** update—exceeded \$200k goal (\$201,000)
- **Budget Meeting:** 5/10, 15 parent participants; approved a budget that will go before the Executive Board, then be presented to PTA in June.

Principal's CEP Report (Parker):

- **Math state tests** for grades 3-5 were completed in early May; still outstanding: science state test for grade 4.
- **Parent-teacher conferences on May 23:** Part 1: Q&A with families in classroom, gym, library, etc., presentation on RULER. Part 2: sneak peek to next grade.

- **Admissions:** Pre-K offers (54) went out last week—able to admit all zoned families and all sibling families. There will be three sections. The administration is continuing to manage enrollment for K--based on number of people who declined, 22 candidates who met diversity criteria were offered seats, 11 accepted. Current number of accepted offers is in the 90s, but G&T offers will go out later and will adjust these numbers.
- **Middle School policy changes in D3:** The final announcement will be made at a special middle school meeting sometime in June (not a regular CEC meeting); encourage families to attend hearings and share opinions. Principal Parker shared his opinion with the superintendent. Schools are rated by Economic Need Index, which is a composite of several metrics (students in temporary housing, students eligible for various kinds of public assistance, and students eligible for free lunch).
- **Middle school applications 2018:** 7 appeals have been submitted by PS452; next year this process will be done online.
- **Safety:** The last evacuation drill was held with simulation of extra challenges (e.g. fire blocking an exit). One more soft lockdown drill is coming up.
- **Hiring committee:** One offer has been made, demonstration lessons are in progress. Open positions: 1 early childhood position, 2 upper grade general education, 1 cluster teacher, one special education teacher.
- **Session times:** communicating with Ms. Arboleda/UTF, asking to keep current times. Approval will most likely occur after the next SLT meeting.
- **Question to parents on SLT:** Is 8-8:40am parent engagement time best? Or afternoon? Kerievsky and Sissenich said that mornings are preferable.

Teachers' CEP Report (Arboleda, Biggane):

- No new news from special education.
- Teachers were treated to an amazing teacher appreciation last week—snacks, massages, etc. It was an honor to be recognized at the auction during the paddle drive.
- RULER meeting last week: planning an assembly led by fifth graders in June, preparing for graduation as well as similar to inclusion march, two or three skits representing a meta moment, no longer than 15 min. Plans to be firmed up on Monday. Event to be announced in newsletter.
- PS452 has been accepted to RULER training at Yale in July; four participants (Parker, Javidi, Biggane, Littles) will be attending the two-day training.
- Nate O'Reilly's term on the SLT is expiring; Michele Kirschenbaum will take his seat.

Subcommittee Updates:

- **Community Building (Cermak):** Variety show had a great turnout and received great feedback from old and new families. Custodial staff did a great job with cleanup. Diversity and Inclusion: 5/17 exploratory conversation with facilitator Lori... from ...
- **STEM (Kerievsky):** Committee has been discussing how to utilize the media center as a maker space now that the library has its own space. Laptops have not arrived yet. A proposal for a school-specific server is in preparation, to be presented to the PTA for funding.

Budget Discussion (Parker):

- Average teacher salary increased to \$79,412, i.e. 1% increase. Admin salaries going up more (5-11%). No final budget figures available yet. Chalkbeat reported on some schools receiving more funding (Fair Student Funding), all of these are currently getting less than 90%; PS452 is above the floor.
- Rollover: \$174,216 payback to the city; unclear if PS452 will use this as set-aside or rollback. This is significantly less than it had been earlier in the year.
- Core curriculum purchased for next year—NYS tax levy source, more restrictions than Fair Student Funding.
- PT452 applied for a grant for PD, another for garden supplies (shed, tools, plants). Garden grant has to be spent by 6/30.

CEP Goal Setting:

DOE has not sent instructions/new template yet. Can divvy up the work. Feedback from D3 about alignment of SLT with CEP goals.

1. Rigorous instruction: Gabin
2. Supportive environment: Biggane
3. Collaborative teachers: Arboleda
4. Effective school leadership: Parker, Courtemanche
5. Strong family-community ties: Cermak, Dahl

SLT should advise principal, so please get up to speed on SMART goals and specific subject areas.

Old Business:

- SLT Email Account (Cermak): Rolled into new business. No other emails.
- Safety—already covered under Principal's Report

New Business:

- Email from Rachel Brody suggesting theater/arts enrichment building on successful music, arts, and dance program. Exploratory committee proposed.
- Discussion: NDI covers a lot of the mandates for K-4; third and fifth graders are engaged with Lincoln Center Film. Kids learn some story-telling, acting, script-writing, camera angles, but adults use cameras bc professional equipment. Question: during the school day or after? Does this fall under SLT authority? Is there enough time in the curriculum to accommodate theater education during the regular school day? NDI fulfills DOE mandates; would theater do the same?
- Principal Parker explained teaching requirements. There is a minimum amount of time required for arts (including music, visual, performing, e.g. dance/theater/film) plus physical education. The time required for dance/theater is less than the requirement for music and visual arts, hence no cluster teacher has been hired to focus on theater arts. Last year, a librarian was hired as a cluster teacher to maximize the opportunities related to the media center and library at the new building. The other cluster teachers

are one music teacher, one visual arts teacher, and one physical education teacher. Four cluster teachers are appropriate for a school of our size. Supplementing with per diem teachers for mandated coverage.

- Typically, schools hire outside organizations to provide some of this content, e.g. NDI. PS452 could expand content with pre-existing providers, e.g. have a conversation about expanding theater opportunities with NDI or explore more opportunities with Lincoln Center. We could also think about switching up dance with theater for different grades. From its inception, PS452 has chosen NDI as a content provider for its integrative, holistic approach to movement and the arts. If the school were to hire another cluster teacher, it would probably focus on physical education. Note that PS452 has achieved All-Star status bc of Mr. O'Reilly's efforts to enforce Move to Improve in classrooms.
- If theater were to be offered as an after-school opportunity, PS452 could ask Gregg Lauber to provide theater in Sports 'n Stuff.
- Mr. Parker spelled out some additional considerations: NDI already provides a theater/performing arts experience; the problem with theater is that it doesn't accommodate everyone, usually there is a star and a few supporting roles, for which need to be 'chosen'. By contrast, NDI includes everyone. Hence, it would be better to do theater as an after-school experience.
- Courtemanche: Can give feedback on their proposal to Ms. Brody and Ms. Stoytcheva, who who can then respond.
- Mr. Parker suggested that a useful service of the SLT would be to evaluate the arts programming offered by PS452 at regular intervals. The SLT could do the same for Salvadori as another external content provider.

Set Agenda for June Meeting

- Need plenty of time for CEP updates and budget discussion (items 7 and 8).
- Make reports quick.
- Wrap-up goals for 2017-18—assess if goals have been achieved.
- Set tentative dates for AY2018-19.

Adjournment: 5:14pm.