

PS 452 SLT Meeting of December 15, 2016, 4pm

Minutes

In attendance:

Charlotte Arboleda
Liz Campbell
AJ Cermak
Jill Gabin
Laura Goldenberg
Margaret Ocampo
Nate O'Reilly
Scott Parker
Beate Sissenich

Alexis Freeman listened in over the phone.

Call to order: The chair, Laura Goldenberg, called the SLT to order at 4:05pm.

Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes of Nov. 17 were approved without changes.
- However, the group noted that regarding lead safety, the SLT does not at present feel the need to pursue further testing at PS 452.

PTA President's Report:

- PTA will prepare cookie tins for building staff at PTA meeting Dec 20
- Winter carnival coming February 4
- Holiday party rescheduled to Jan 12
- Auction in full planning mode.

Principal's Report:

- In admission period; K and pre-K admissions now open. Planning for 4 K sections in 2017-18. Open house was held earlier this week.
- Instruction: working with PD staff on social studies (from Teachers' College); inclusive practices for all teachers (G & R Inclusive).
- School leadership: STEM-related PD for principal/assistant principal for science and math (DOE-sponsored).
- Family engagement meetings: all grade-specific coffees completed for fall. RULER session had one attendee.
- School Quality Snapshot 2015-16 distributed; was meant to be distributed at Nov.17 meeting.

Teachers' Report:

- Word study: K-2 using Foundations program with differentiation by teachers: e.g. K for teaching letter formation; consistent sequencing of teaching letters that doesn't align with alphabet. 1st grade: daily touch points; 2nd grade: differentiated use. Approach seems to work as measured in progress from K-2.
- Teachers College Reading and Writing: word study 3-5: Wordly Wise, academic vocabulary instruction at multiple levels, opportunity for differentiation; vocabulary taught in context; emphasizing precision in language use; grammar embedded in TC, but needs supplementing, conscious effort to teach conventions explicitly, some teachers have been trained in LLI (leveled literacy intervention) for decoding, spelling, and comprehension assistance.

Comprehensive Educational Plan Update:

- Progress monitoring by the DOE is due in February.
- Teacher reports to SLT should be aligned with CEP goals. In upcoming sessions, the SLT will use the CEP to set topics for teacher reports. Teacher reports (required part of SLT agenda) can be same as CEP update, to demonstrate that teaching activities are related to CEP.
- The DOE's PS452 website has the CEP for everyone's review.
(http://schools.nyc.gov/documents/oaosi/cep/2016-17/cep_M452.pdf)
- In future, SLT chair will report to PTA about progress on the CEP.

Committee Updates:

- **Community Building:** 12/15 meeting; save the date 2/15 6:30-7:30pm: indoor physical activity/games around the world; Nate working with fifth-graders to develop ideas for games; multiple stations/opportunities for activities. Will need volunteers.
- **Foreign Language Instruction:** A group of five is looking into curriculum, hiring, literature on language instruction. Committee members are speaking with somebody at Columbia U. Focus will be Spanish. Learned that foreign language instruction can be introduced at all grade levels; no need to start with K only.
- **STEM:** The committee will reconvene in Jan., shifting its focus from space and materials management to curriculum research. Question: What to do with all the curricular materials that come with FOSS kits? AJ Cermak has emphasized since last year not to order entire new kits each year, but only to replenish supplies. Principal Parker urged the committee to consult the DOE website for STEM standards and resources (<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/STEM/default.htm>). He also suggested that the committee consider a departmentalized structure for teaching STEM, i.e. having dedicated faculty specializing in science instruction; this might help us address both instructional needs and space/materials management without requiring teaching assistants. Sarah Anthony and AJ Cermak meet monthly about materials and space

management and have made considerable progress since the beginning of the school year.

- **Transition:** Full FAQs have been updated on website. Committee leaders Jill Gabin and Nate O'Reilly met with Principal Parker on 12/15. The committee's mission is to facilitate the move and help answer questions from families, i.e. it will focus on facilitating logistic and operational needs as well as improve communication related to the move. That means that public relations/persuasion will be out of scope for the committee. Per request from parents, the committee will field a survey to gauge families' intentions and concerns. Survey will be fielded after the 12/19 community meeting at PS452. The transition committee will visit the 61st St facility after the January 18 PEP vote on the move.

Old Business:

- Email account: Mostly emails about transition committee, forwarded to Nate O'Reilly and Jill Gabin; secondly, a large number of emails from PS 452 parents to DOE with SLT on copy stating that writers feel disenfranchised by the language in the appeal and support the move.
- SLT FAQ Page: Now fully live with questions and answers.

New Business:

- Open Meetings Laws: SLT meetings are public and open to the press. Meetings can be recorded. Details of the implementation can be regulated in the SLT bylaws. Public notice of SLT meeting time and place to be given 1 week prior; borough field support center has to give notice to the press. Minutes have to be made available within 2 weeks (as draft until approved) and posted in the office until approved. Exclusion of public is possible only for extraordinary issues such as safety plan through "executive session." Minutes for executive session would be a summary of final action/decision rather than full record of discussion.
- Teachers on the SLT would like the public record (as reported by some media) corrected about one of the impromptu SLT meetings: PS 452 teachers did NOT tell parents they couldn't attend the impromptu meeting.

Safety:

- Lockdown drill earlier this week (2nd of 4 total);
- need to complete 2 more evacuation drills.

Agenda setting:

- Everything same, except CEP update, which will be captured in individual reports.
- Eliminate agenda item on the SLT FAQ page.

Adjournment: 5:35pm.