



SLT
DECEMBER 17TH, 2015
4PM

Call to Order 4:09 pm

Attendance: Elissa Ruback, AJ Cermak, Becky Gartman, Margaret Ocampo, Laura Goldenberg, Charlotte Arboleda, Scott Parker, Elizabeth Campbell, Melissa Birnbaum

Guests in Attendance: Lori Collman and Keith Watson

Absent: William Zangwill

Reading and Approval of Minutes: add attendance, overflow is one word

PTA Report: Liz Campbell

Holiday party last night, pledge drive is current focus especially on raising the parent participation
Early January winter carnival and evening wine tasting are upcoming

Teachers Report:

Music - Keith Watson:

Focus is on skills across the grades.

Second grade chorus performance coming up in January, working on the idea of practice; How do we learn good practice habits? What does it mean to practice? Good practice targets the weak spots. Students think critically in small groups, work in duos and trios with a maestro to work on tempo, body and finger position, then make conscious musical decisions.

Warm-ups that focus the mind and body.

Blueprint for the Arts Standards Document, not common core but a broad set of standards such as sing in tune or play an instrument in a variety of styles.

Parent question: How do you interest kids in playing if they do not have an interest?

Answer: We introduce a variety of instruments in 4th grade, in order to choose in 5th grade. Motivation can be a challenge, this is just for the experience of playing music, building skills and habits for the future.

Do you track skills for individual children? Yes

Art - Lori Collman:

Kindergarten - basic stations, making choices

1st - line, positive and negative shapes

2nd - bridges

NEXT SLT MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 21ST @ 4:00PM



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3rd

4th

5th - watercolors

January - all students work on our traditional school wide self portraits

Stations thru the grades, sculpture is the most popular in all grades. Skills include: coils, balls, pinch pots, beginning of claymation.

3rd graders are now learning coiling and slab, pinching and adding on, sculpting superheroes that are doing positive things for the community, differentiated activity.

What materials are available? scissors, paints, crayons, materials, glue, etc

What trips do you plan on taking? NYC is such a rich art community, plans for a photographer who can come in and share the career of being a photographer. Trips must have a meaningful connection to the work in the classroom as well.

Question about the caves of Lascaux, how in depth will you go? Why did the people paint in the caves? Is there art history or background for the 5th graders?

Principal's Report: Scott Parker

Payroll and human resources are being done remotely, out of the building.

Cassandra Matthews will be back after the first of the year.

Teaching Assistants are all hired now - Ms. L is here for only 3 days, the other 3 are here for 5 days.

50 kids approx signed up for Gifted & Talented testing, Sharon in charge.

Middle School Apps are in:

25 chose MS 54, 15 chose Computer School, 7 chose West End Secondary School, 2 chose Mott Hall II, other choices had one student, no students went to Center School last year.

Chancellor pushing for: student led conferences in elementary school, foreign language, increased ICT training, 2nd grade summer school, expand role of assistant principals.

Community Building Committee:

OMG Stone Soup! Great event.

Next event - non-skilled sports event, February 10th, 6-7:30pm

Foreign Language Instruction Committee:

2 new members - work on delegating information gathering.

Fairfax County, Va has a lot of foreign language instruction. Reached out to them as well as PS 84 and PS 75, Alliance Francaise, Asia Society

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Different levels include: immersion, regular instruction, enrichment models, still exploring.
February proposal for SLT would be ideal timing for funding to implement next year.

Old Business:

Email Account Update - 5 emails, important one was parent requested to see minutes. Will check to see if minutes are current - *C. Arboleda checked and minutes are current*

SLT Issue FAQ Page - AJ and Meg are working on the FAQ page, Weebly has the coding and apps, design has been chosen for a free page, January the page should be up and running.

New Business:

4th grade parent concerned that the kids will not be prepared for middle school testing, currently not enough tests in class. This year 2 progress reports and 2 report cards.

Safety: general response protocol in place.

Set Agenda for January Meeting:

Discussion of coding in the classroom to be possibly added.

Adjournment at 5:30 pm

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