

SLT Members:

Core SLT Positions	Teacher Representatives	Parent Representatives
Elana Elster, Principal	Richard Cappadona	Barbara Denham
Jose Beauvais, UFT rep	Briana DeSantis (co-chairperson)	Alison Gardy
Chris Giordano, PTA Co-Pres	Randee Johnson	Stefanie Goldblatt (co-chairperson)
Jerome Kramer, PTA Co-Pres	Sara Lichtman (co-secretary)	Jeanne Goffi-Fynn
	Elizabeth McNulty	Hudson Roditi
*Peter Armstrong, DC37 rep		Patricia Saydah (co-secretary)
		Andy Weinstein

*Absent

Observers: Susan Trout (Teacher), Joshua Kane (6th grade parent), Joanne Giordano (7th grade parent)

Meeting convened at 7:25am at Booker T. Washington

Minutes:

April 12, 2019 SLT Minutes were approved with minor edits. The SLT secretaries will make the edits and send the final version to Joanne to be posted.

Discussions around Agenda:

CEP Goals

No Updates

Revised Statement of Educational Philosophy

The following statement of educational philosophy was approved to supplement the Booker T. Mission Statement:

“At Booker T. Washington Middle School, academic excellence is the foundation of our school culture. We are committed to providing rigorous academic opportunities to every student. We believe that both acceleration and remediation are vital to nurturing the potential of each student. We provide diverse opportunities to address the academic needs of our students, including a curriculum offering different levels of coursework.”

Planning for 2019-2020

Small groups of faculty members met on Monday, May 6th to plan for the Summer Orientation (renamed Summer Bridge Program) and on Wednesday, May 8th to discuss the logistics of implementing previously discussed changes for next year. Another possible name for the summer program is “Academic PreSeason.”

Updates from the Wednesday, May 8th Logistics Meeting:

Concerns re: Logistics:

- The faculty discussed the pros and cons of a 7-period vs an 8-period day
- The faculty discussed contractual issues that might arise out of reconfiguring the schedule.

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- There was a concern that if humanities was broken down into 7 periods of content and 3 periods of skill/enrichment that those 3 periods would not be taken seriously. There was a concern that there would be a lack of accountability for these 3 periods and it was unclear who would teach these 3 periods.

In order to do the most that we can with the funds that we have, the following solutions were proposed:

- *In lieu of 2 periods of foreign language and 1 period of technology select sixth grade students will be enrolled in a class that uses a research-based program to focus on skill development.*
- *2-3 teachers work a staggered schedule, such as 10 am - 4:20 pm day, so they can oversee the Afternoon Academy as their professional responsibility.*

Updates from the Monday, May 6th Summer Orientation (Summer Bridge Program):

- Summer Bridge Program will run Monday, July 29 – Thursday, August 1
- Summer Bridge Program will be open to students on an “invitation only” basis. Students identified as in need of support will be invited. (Primarily students 1s/2s on their 4th NY State ELA or Math Test). How this will be phrased is yet to be determined. It will be mentioned at the June 7th new parent breakfast, but specific invitations will not go out until the week of June 16th.
- The morning will focus on academic support, while the afternoons will be a time to work on Summer assignments with a tutor and end with a fun activity. In the morning, teachers will “pre-teach” the first quarter material (i.e. read some of the *The Outsiders* and work on the first math unit), so students will feel prepared. In the morning, teachers will also conduct assessments to determine needs for the Fall.
- The week will possibly culminate in a trip on Thursday.
- The week will be marketed as an “academic pre-season” and an opportunity to ramp up for the school year.
- Volunteers are being sought for the afternoon tutoring session.
 - This opportunity has been posted on the JCC Summer Tutor Program and will be promoted at the new parent breakfast on June 7th.
 - Considering extending the invitation to tutor to the rising 8th grade buddies.
- Another initiative discussed related to the Summer Bridge Program, proposed by the The Equity Team and not the faculty team, was a goal of creating a more welcoming environment at the New Parent Breakfast on June 7th. It was proposed that:
 - A parent buddy program be created.
 - A symbol be placed on parent’s nametags and then parents must talk to other parents with the same symbol, in order to encourage people to socialize outside their elementary school cohort.
 - A parent orientation be held for the parents of the students attending the Bridge Program.

Middle School Admissions

Score break down of the 2019-2020 admitted students (to be invited to the Summer Bridge Program):

- 30 Students with a 1 on their 2017-18 NYS ELA exam (26 with an IEP and 4 without an IEP)
- 30 Students with a 2 on their 2017-18 NYS ELA exam (10 with an IEP and 20 without an IEP)
- 24 out of the 60 students with a 1 or 2 are students enrolled in a 12:1:1 class and 7 out of the 60 students with a 1 or 2 are English language learners
- 37 Students with a 1 on their 2017-18 NYS Math exam (29 with an IEP and 8 without an IEP)
- 19 Students with a 2 on their 2017-18 NYS Math exam (5 with an IEP and 14 without an IEP)

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As for the appeals process, there are 0 general openings and 12 Special Education openings.

Other Planning for Next Year

Orientation for all students (as opposed to the Bridge Program, which is invite only) will occur the first and second days of school, Thursday, September 5 and Friday September 6. These days will be used for orientation, service projects, and community building. Will allow students to meet others outside of their homeroom.

The teachers submitted reflections on the 2018-2019 school year to be used for planning 2019-2020. The administration is seeking feedback from the parents, as well. Dr Elster asked the SLT to reflect on the past year and share suggestions.

Academic Dishonesty & Cell Phone Policy

The current cell phone policy states “Cell phones should be turned off before entering the school. They should be put away at the start of your day so they are neither seen nor heard. In the event that such devices are seen or heard, they will be confiscated.” (Booker T. Washington Middle School 54 Student Planner 2018-2019). There was concern expressed that there is inconsistent enforcement of the current cell phone policy. Furthermore, some teachers allow students to use cell phones as calculators or cameras. It was proposed that the policy be reexamined and consider if cell phones should be locked up in homeroom, daily. A cell phone sub-committee will explore if a model exists for efficient and secure system to collect, store, and return cell phones.

Concern was also expressed regarding academic dishonesty, in general, and as it relates to sending information via electronic devices. It seems that sharing of homework on group chats is seen as “no big deal” to the students. Do students understand the lines between helping with homework and cheating? Is there a way for students to anonymously report cheating? Anecdotes of copying on tests were shared. Currently, the consequences of copying are left up to individual teachers. Discussion about whether it should be elevated to the administrative level, and go on a student’s record.

Wellness Update

Chris read an email written by Alison, Wellness Committee Liason, who had to leave early.

When new parents are welcomed June 7th at the new parent breakfast, they should be informed of Wellness Day and the committee’s commitment to work on wellness initiatives throughout the year. Also inform them that that MS54 is “responsive to their children’s needs, and that we rely on parents to become volunteers so that we can better meet our children where they’re at and move them forward with self-awareness and self-management life skills to ensure healthy lives now and in the long run.”

6th Grade Academy (Afternoon Academy)

Chris read an email written by Alison, 6th Grade Academy Liason, who had to leave early.

- 6th Grade Academy is being renamed “Afternoon Academy” since the plan is to expand it to 7th grade next year.
- At the new parent breakfast, reach out to new parents to volunteer and/or to reach into their networks of family and friends who would want to volunteer for afternoon academy.
- Also, recruit volunteers for the afternoon sessions of the Summer Bridge Program.
- There has been a noticeable difference in the academic success of struggling students who participated in the Afternoon Academy vs. those who did not.

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The meeting adjourned at 8:40 am.

Meeting minutes submitted by SLT co-secretaries Sara Lichtman (teacher) and Patricia Saydah (parent).