

**SLT Members:**

<b>Core SLT Positions</b>	<b>Teacher Representatives</b>	<b>Parent Representatives</b>
Elana Elster, Principal	Richard Cappadona	Barbara Denham
Jose Beauvais, UFT rep	Briana DeSantis (co-chairperson)	Alison Gardy
Chris Giordanno, 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:** Anne Pejovich (Parent Coordinator)

*Meeting convened at 7:26am at Booker T. Washington*

**Minutes:**

November 9, 2018 SLT Minutes were approved. The SLT secretaries will send to Joanne to be posted.

**Discussions around Agenda:**

**CEP PROGRESS REPORT**

The 2018-19 CEP submitted Friday, October 19, 2018 was approved.

**GOAL 2. SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT**

*By June 2019, a school created survey will show that 65% of the students surveyed said that the buddy program supported them in their transition to middle school.*

**GOAL 2 Progress Report**

The buddy program is on track to meet the goal of one meeting each month. The next buddy activity is scheduled for Monday, December 17th

**PLANNING FOR CHANGES IN 2019-20**

In the 2018-19 school year, approximately 30 out of 300 6th grade students need extra support. They are struggling either academically or emotionally with the conventional process of schooling. Need to ensure students are emotionally stable in order to have strong learning environment. In the past, Booker T had a mental health clinic at school through St Luke’s (similar to Ryan Health Center for medical clinic). The SLT sought to answer, "*what structures do we need in place to support the incoming 2019-20 class?*"

The SLT discussed options for utilizing both internal and external support.

**Proposals for External Support:**

- Mental health support via a partnership with Columbia, Hunter, or other schools of social work
- DOE Mental Health Consultants

## MS54 – SLT MEETING MINUTES for December 14, 2018

- Training through ThriveNYC - to train teacher to deal with mental health crisis

Proposals for Internal Support/Structural Changes:

- Mentor/Buddy program (pairing of students with adult from Booker T staff)
- An additional school psychologist
- Another Dean
- Put more students into a “Skills Class” (replace language or music rotation period). Skills Class stays together for 3 years.
- School orientation during the Summer to prepare incoming students for what to expect

Should there be different curriculums for pooled classrooms? Although some students are struggling, do they still move forward faster/better with an accelerated curriculum than if they were given a more achievable curriculum? Is morale low if students know they are in a less accelerated class? Pros and cons to both sides of argument.

Need to make sure school resources are allocated to support both advanced and higher need students.

The SLT proposed establishing a committee to research options and develop a cohesive strategy. Solution may involve a combination of on-site resources and city-available resources.

### **HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE**

In District 3, because there are no screened schools which give priority to district students, schools like Booker T. have relied on Specialized HSs for strong academic options. Under the new Specialized HS admissions plan proposed by the Mayor, the number of students accepted from Booker T. would drop from 150 students to ONLY 20 students. There are not enough options for high performing District 3 students.

The Mayor’s plan would be implemented in stages. Phase 1 is an increase in the Discovery Program to 20% of seats. This does not require a legislative vote.

The PTA Exec Board is asking for the support of more Booker T. parents to assess what’s needed for District 3 accelerated students (eg identify strong high schools and recommend improvements in curriculum to support students). Create a list of high schools, what they are missing, and what it would take to make each one a more viable option. Gather information from 8th grade parents who have just completed the HS application process & toured schools. Consider resources at NYU Steinhardt – may have already compiled such a list. Reach out to Museum of Natural History – they are considering how a school’s Science Program impacts the school selection decision.

The SLT agreed that both the 2019-2020 Planning and High School Options were topics which required further conversation.

*The meeting adjourned at 8:40 am.*

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