

MS54 – SLT MEETING MINUTES for May 11, 2018

**SLT Members:**

| <b>Other SLT Positions</b> | <b>Teacher Representatives</b>     | <b>Parent Representatives</b>     |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Elana Elster, Principal    | Briana DeSantis                    | Barbara Denham                    |
| Deirdre McEvoy, UFT        | Dan Fagen                          | Alison Gardy                      |
| Jerome Kramer, PTA Co-Pres | Sara Lichtman (co-secretary)       | Stefanie Goldblatt                |
| Katie Miller, PTA Co-Pres  | Elizabeth McNulty (co-chairperson) | Karen Saltser                     |
|                            | Alexis Ritter                      | Patricia Saydah (co-secretary)    |
|                            |                                    | William Reinisch (co-chairperson) |
|                            |                                    | Liz Wedlan                        |

**Observers:** Anne Pejovich, Parent Coordinator

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

**Minutes:**

April 13, 2018 SLT Minutes were approved. The SLT secretaries will send to Joanne to be posted.

**Discussions around Agenda:**

2018-19 Planning / 2017-18 Initiatives Reflection:

2017-18 Initiatives Reflection:

- The Faculty met and reflected on the 2017-18 pooling of students
  - Math pooling has mixed reviews
    - The 6<sup>th</sup> grade math pool that was classified as “students far above grade level,” did function above grade level, but it did have kids who would have benefited from being in the “above and on grade level” pool. Classifying 6<sup>th</sup> graders is challenging, because they are only classified based on the State Test scores, and not teacher feedback.
    - The 7<sup>th</sup> grade math pool that was classified as “students far above grade level” did not function as such, and was similar in nature to the “above and on grade level class.”
  - Heterogeneous Grouping has improved the school culture. Students that had previously been identified as “academic” kept up in the “honors” classes. The heterogeneous grouping improved the tone of the school and the self-esteem of many of the students.

2018-19 Planning Discussion

- It was suggested that in 2018-19 Self-Contained Special Education students be pooled into mainstream elective classes to further integrate the school.
- Students – particularly those in Public Speaking, Film, Creative Writing, and Drama – have expressed an interest to change electives after one year. The feasibility of this will be researched.
- It was suggested that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade technology class gives students exposure to coding, instead of just keyboarding and word processing. An alternative proposal is to focus on coding in the seventh and eighth grade technology elective.
- Robotics (as an elective) was proposed, but (a) deemed too costly and (b) lacked staffing.

SLT Positions to be filled for 2018-19

- Dan Fagen, Elizabeth McNulty, and Alexis Ritter have completed their two-year terms. There will be three teacher vacancies. Elections to be held by the faculty.
- Stefanie Goldblatt, Karen Saltser, William Reinisch, and Liz Wedlan have completed their two-year terms. There will be four parent vacancies. Elections to be held by the PTA in June.

## MS54 – SLT MEETING MINUTES for May 11, 2018

### CEP Goals for 2018-2019

- Continue with current goals until the fall. Dr Elster will draft goals and the SLT will review/discuss in Sept.
- A proposal was made to add a civics goal. iCivics.org was mentioned as a program to consider for school. SLT was unsure if this goal would fall within any of the current objectives.
- There was also discussion of goal for differentiation in the classroom.

### Middle School Admissions Process

- The next meeting on the proposed changes to the Middle School admissions process will be on May 16, 2018 at 6:30 pm at P.S. 242, 134 WEST 122 STREET.

### Wellness Committee Update:

- Wellness Day, to be held following the meeting on Friday, May 11, was recognized as a tremendous effort put forth by the Wellness Committee, the parents, and the administration.

### New Business: Promoting a Growth Mindset

- A question was raised regarding how we move away from perfection and instead focus on persistence and problem solving.
  - Is this a parenting topic? A classroom topic? Or both?
  - Teachers do things such as focus on the process, provide Math “problems of the week” for which there is no one way to solve, and have students explain their Science Fair results.
  - Can we do more as a school?

### New Business: High School Admissions

- Concern was expressed that there are no high schools that give District 3 students priority, while there are four high schools that give District 2 students priority.
- It was discussed whether a cohort of students should consider attending a school like Frank McCourt together.

*The meeting adjourned at 8:37 am.*

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