

SLT Minutes January 13, 2017

Members in Attendance

	Teachers	Parents	Observers
Elana Elster Principal	Dan Fagen	Corinne Bal	Anne Pejovich
Jerome Kramer	Liz McNulty	Dahlia Doumar	
Katie Miller PTA	Alison Merkel	Karen Saltser	
Deirdre McEvoy UFT	Alexis Ritter	Tristram Yale	
	Erica Williams		
		Bill Reinisch	
		Tanya Khotin	

Minutes

~October and December minutes reviewed and approved with a few typos to be corrected.

CEP Status

~midyear review as well

~will be reviewed each SLT meeting, as required by the Superintendent

~CEP has been posted and approved, one last revision had been made the week before the January SLT meeting

Review of Goal 1

- Based on teacher observations
- Currently administration have completed 100
- Seeing new strategies, working toward seeing new strategies with every teacher
- Need to see an increase of 5% of teachers using new strategies

Review of Goal 2

- Lots of 7th grade students at the dance
- Dr. Elana Elster was confident the school was on track for meeting the goal

Review of Goal 3

- Teacher pairs have done PDs together, both outside and inside the school
- One teacher spoke about going to a professional learning series
- Teachers meet in small groups with their coteacher on some Wednesday PDs
- The school is working on getting more of the groups to attend PDs outside
- There are about 12 ICT teacher pairs

Review of Goal 4

- It was clarified that this goal relates to teacher department teams.
- This goal must be reviewed in midyear and in June
- A teacher spoke about her experience in her Wednesday PD teacher discussion group. She said that her group was looking in to how to get students more engaged in learning and the differences between a compliant student verse an engaged student. The group researched strategies on DOE websites. They modified the strategies for their students and classes. She reported that she found the discussion and researching very interesting and helpful. Her group was very productive. Teachers from all grades and subjects were represented.

Review of Goal 5

- A teacher spoke about teachers' participation in more leadership roles. She explained that more teachers are attending the Wellness Meetings. She stated that in other opportunities there is not as much teacher participation. Teachers are given the dates of meetings such as Professional Learning Committee, Consultation Committee, SLT Meetings as observers and the expectations but they do not attend.
- A parent asked why this was a goal of 93% participation. It was explained that the teachers rated the school low in opportunities to participate in decision making. It was recalled by a teacher that the year the school was rated low, was last academic year when the school had teacher curriculum "leaders" for

each department. Dr. Elana Elster clarified that the questions on the survey where teachers rated the school low, were related to hiring and the budget.

- The UFT Representative suggested we put the “budget” on the agenda for the Consultation Committee.
- Dr. Elster stated that most hiring happens during the summer when teachers are not around. She gave an example of another school where there is a hiring committee of teachers and the principal will not make a decision without the teachers input.
- A teacher suggested that most teachers want transparency in all areas.

Review of Goal 6

- There has been a great increase in parent participation by parents of disabilities. More attended parent/teacher conferences and the class breakfast in December.

Advisory

- A teacher shared her research of advisory in other schools. Overall, groups over 20 students were not successful. Some schools had groups with mixed grades, some followed a group throughout the years until graduation. Teachers did not volunteer; it was part of their teacher responsibility. There was not usually a curriculum but topics were given.
- A member suggested that there needs to be teacher buy in and student buy in.
- Parents/ teachers and administrators all agreed that groups needed to be small. With 63 teachers/administrators and 850 students, this would be possible.
- It was suggested that it would be more meaningful to have weekly meetings with the groups. This brought up the issues of how this could change the school day and structure. Would the school change to an 8-period day? Where would the extra period come from, less periods for art, gym, electives? Would we take it from homeroom, students would not have a homeroom? Could it happen during the students lunch when a teacher was not on their lunch?
- In terms of structure, it was suggested that the school start small, perhaps with a group in sixth grade that continues until 8th grade. Others mentioned having it as an elective choice. It was suggested that it could be tested out in homeroom once a week.
- A teacher mentioned that if it was mandatory for teachers, as a part of their teaching day, it would count as another preparation period. This could cause problems contractually.
- In terms of how advisory would be structure there were many ideas. Some suggested there be a topic each month and groups would have discussions. A teacher shared that it would be necessary for many teachers to have a curriculum. Some teachers might feel uncomfortable talking about some of the topics without a plan or professional development on the topics. A teacher did suggest that if advisory was part of the teaching responsibility, teachers would need to do the planning and preparation to be able to run the advisory on all topics. A parent suggested a professional development workshop session about advisory February 9. The PTA will fund a teacher to go. Teachers could also discuss “How to bring advisory to Booker T?” as one of the Wednesday PL small group PL topics.
- In terms of the goal of having advisory, parents stated that it would help build community. Others stated that there is not enough time in homeroom or seventh grade health to discuss citizenship, ethics and other health related issues. A teacher shared that this may not be a shared goal of all teachers and parents. A parent suggested that advisory would help build a closer relationship for students with a small group of students and one particular teacher. It could help to engage some children. Dr. Elster explained that as middle school teachers, most address this issues and are aware of them each day. Some members still did not seem clear on the objective of having advisory, or what it is addressing. It was agreed that the discussion and refining of the goals of advisory needs to be continued next SLT, February 10, 2017.
- The meeting adjourned before reaching the other agenda items: Committee Report (School Wellness Council), Update from the PTA Representative and New Business.
- The meeting adjourned at 840am.
- Respectfully submitted by Deirdre McEvoy