

SLT Minutes June 9, 2017

Members in Attendance

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

Minutes

May minutes were approved.

CEP Goals

The plans discussed are tentative and can be adjusted throughout the summer and in September.

Goal 1: Rigorous Instruction

A Civics component was added after observing the History Bee and noticing self selected students not knowing certain components related to government and geography. Students will take an assessment at the end of the year.

Goal 2: Supportive Environment

A peer buddy system will be implemented for incoming 6th graders.

Goal 3: Collaborative Teachers

Teachers will establish consistency among all subjects and teachers teaching the same ICT homeroom class. This idea was shared after ICT teachers attended a PD.

Goal 4: Effective School Leadership

There will be a focus on differentiation and the new grouping of the classes based on mixing of abilities in Humanities, Arts and Languages and meeting the needs of all students in Math.

Goal 5: Strong Family Community Ties

The school will be expanding its afterschool programs and offerings. This will be possible because the school is not continuing its relationship with the CBO currently using the building after 3pm. A parent asked about the funding this had provided our school. The principal responded that this funding went to the custodial staff for the additional building maintenance that was necessary. They also bought new air conditioners for the school and cafeteria tables since they used them so often. Afterschool Programs for Booker T MS54 students are organized by Dr. Elster, teachers and Anne Pejovich. Sometimes outside vendors are used.

A parent asked about adding a Wellness Component to Goal 2. Alison Gardy was speaking on behalf of the Wellness Council and stated that they are working on goals for the upcoming school year. These will be added in the summer or in September.

Booker T Day

This will be organized for Fall of 2017. There has been an email sent to parents for volunteering and offering various activities or opportunities for students. The PTA Presidents asked if Jupiter Grades could be used for such a call for help. It will also be announced at the New Parent Breakfast on June 19. It will be worked on over the summer.

Although Booker T Day did not happen this year, there was the 6th Grade Olympics, a 7th Grade bowling trip, various music trips and the 8th Grade trip.

Planning Next School Year

Dr. Elana Elster and Erica Williams explained that the faculty met on June 8, 2017 to discuss the incoming 6th grade and how to organize classes. It was decided that students will be grouped in mixed ability groups for various subjects depending on the grade. All students will be grouped to meet their needs for math, in all grades.

6th Grade: mixed homeroom groups for Humanities, Science and all arts, language leveled ability groups to meet needs of all students for math classes

7th Grade: mixed homeroom groups for Humanities, Science and all arts and language leveled ability groups to meet needs of all students for math classes

8th Grade: leveled ability groups to meet the needs of all students for math and science undecided how humanities will be grouped, based on scheduling

Parents in attendance had various questions and the student coordinator and principal responded:

How will incoming parents know if children are in honors or nonhonors? This will not be stated this year. On students' schedules they will see an "H" in the code for honors subjects.

Will the content of the curriculum change? The school's goal is to prepare all students for high school. All students will be able to succeed in a 9th grade math class. Some will be prepared to take Algebra regents. In all classes/ subjects, teachers will adjust their teaching to the students in front of them. Teachers will discuss their pacing and content at Back to School night, not before. They will work to pull students up and push students who need it. The curriculum will be deepened for those ready. Curriculum will be deepened with extensions and enrichments. The curriculum will keep all students motivated.

Students will be placed in an official homeroom that will have students of all abilities. All students will be in an honors class for at least one period a day. Students will be in a class other than their homeroom group for at least one period a day.

These changes address the need relating to the idea that students' abilities change over the three middle school years. Students will have the chance to be in mixed groups where they may help others. They will also have the chance to be in a class that moves at a pace that challenges them, mostly in math. Teachers and administrators will be able to reassess students' placements each year. The school will maintain that it is a screened admissions school with students that are individually programmed to meet their needs. The process is one that is being worked on and is in the beginning phase.

SLT members exits/ new members

Teachers exiting: Erica Williams and Alison Merkel

New Teachers: Brianna DeSantis, Sarah Lichtman and Alexis Ritter (reelected)

Parents Exiting: Dahlia Doumar, Tanya Khotin, Tristram Yale

New Parents: the election is in the process, there is a call for more nominations

High School Appeal process:

20 students were not matched or placed. All 20 now are placed. It was a long, difficult process. Placed in Eleanor Roosevelt, Manhattan Hunter, Millennium. None were placed at Beacon. All but 2 were happy with their placement.

Rising 8th grade parents are advised to list 6 high schools, do not need to list 12.

Situations for admissions vary from one student to the next.

The meeting dismissed at 835am.

Respectfully submitted by Deirdre McEvoy