

SLT Minutes November 4, 2016 FINAL

Members in Attendance

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

October minutes approved.

Revised CEP Goals Proposed for 2017

- Goal 3 was returned for revision with questions regarding how it is measured. Dr. Elster explained that the written goals meet a requirement and may not be a school goal so much. She explained that the goals will have to have something they are measure by.
- For Goal 4 it was decided we would change “participated” to “completed”
- Goal 1 was reworded to say that a quarter of a teacher’s observations would show an increase in Danielson component 3C, a component related to engagement.

School Quality Report

- At the time of the meeting this report was not yet public. There was an increase in student achievement for math and ELA from the previous school year.
- It was noted that students at a Level 1 at our school is 28% compared to the Comp Group which was 47%.
- It was noted that 82% of students feel the school provides useful information about the HS application process. Members were surprised this number was low. Teachers responded that they were surprised but that other schools might start the process earlier, for example in seventh grade.
- A parent needed clarification on why we were reviewing the Quality Report and it was clarified that this was one of the Goals of the SLT and the components of the Report relate to the CEP Goals.
- It was noted that 54% of students say that teachers notice when they are upset or having emotional difficulty. Working on increasing this is on the CEP goal.
- It was pointed out that only 56% of parents completed the survey.
- A parent pointed out the 71% for teachers saying that students build on each other’s ideas was low. Teachers responded that this is a skill students are developing in middle school and it is a challenging skill to develop.

8th Period for Health and Wellness

- The UFT Representative, Deirdre McEvoy, explained that a survey was given to the teachers asking if they would be interested in continuing with an 8-period day once a month using the 8th period for Social and Emotional Learning. Of the teachers who responded, half said yes and half said no. Therefore, it was decided to discuss it further and perhaps implement it next year.
- It was explained that teachers would like to know exactly what would be covered and if there would be a curriculum to follow. Deirdre explained that there was interest among teachers to create a committee that would plan each Social and Emotional Learning Period.
- It was also discussed that some teachers feel they incorporate Social and Emotional Learning in to their everyday lessons.
- The Team discussed many ideas and brainstormed how to incorporate Social and Emotional Learning in to the school day.
- Some teachers expressed that one period a month would not be enough. Perhaps a topic could be emphasized each week or month by all teachers in all subjects and grades.

- It was clarified that some teachers may have related this to only disruptive students but the purpose was really to address the whole child.
- Parents asked if teachers had a sense of what percent of social/ emotional learning happens at school versus at home? How does it affect student/ student and teacher/ student relationships? Teachers responded that we are always working to create and nurturing environment and exercising patience.
- A parent mentioned the emphasis on the whole child and teaching good citizenship and how students treat each other.
- Parents also wanted to know how teachers help with developing friendships. Were there other places to go besides the yard, as it is very overwhelming. Teachers explained that many teachers' rooms are open at lunch.
- The necessity and benefits of the 8th period was mentioned again and a teacher suggested that we also must consider "student buy-in" as a reality. Most likely classes would need to have 30 students in them. It would be hard to engage all students equally.
- A parent suggested having advisories. They mentioned that this happens at other middle schools in the city. It was agreed that we would look in to examples of successful advisory programs at other middle schools in the city with a comparable size.
- A parent summarized a few items being discussed: we would look in to advisories, we need to provide some forum for students, teachers need a curriculum rather than Professional Learning for Social and Emotional Learning, the Wellness committee is willing to help, teachers need guidance in how to accomplish this since they are willing
- A teacher mentioned that teachers need reminders that they might not see results from their nurturing, patience and modeling of good citizenship but that it will come later. Teachers need a reminder to be aware and convey understanding to students.
- Another teacher suggested that we be mindful that they are many different family values and teachers also have different ways of approaching these topics. It is not any easy solution, rather complicated to implement uniformly.
- A parent expressed that the school is high stress and teachers could be provided with tools to spot children who need more support.
- It was stated that our school community is proactive when issues occur and students' issues are heard when they come up. Our school does talk about the whole child. Teachers and administrators do care and make all efforts to be sensitive to the whole child.
- The discussion concluded with a teacher and parent volunteering to look further in to advisories at other schools.

Parent/ Teacher Conferences

- Thursday November 17.
- 10-12 appointments had been made at the time of the meeting for parents of students in self-contained classes.
- The online sign up would be the same as in past years.

The PTA president announced there would be a meeting Thursday November 10, 2016 at 8am in regards to the building project on 108th between Amsterdam and Columbus. This would be added to the December Agenda.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:30am.

Respectfully submitted by Deirdre McEvoy