

Booker T. Washington Middle School 54

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New York, NY 10025
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SLT Minutes

October 8, 2021
7:20 AM

SLT Members

Core SLT Positions	Teacher Representatives	Parent Representatives
Elana Elster, Principal	Elizabeth McNulty (co-chair)	Andy Weinstein (co-chair)
Jose Beauvais, UFT rep	Stefanie Cohen	Alexis Freeman
Lee Uehara, PTA Co-Pres	Kirby Mason (co-secretary)	Dimitra Koutsantoni
	Erica Williams	Erica Teasley Linnick
	Sara Lichtman	Karen Saltser
		Yael Swica

*Late
**Absent

Observers: Anne Pejovich, Ann Kristin Lapidos, Alison Gardy, Nildania Perez, Larry Lee, Marni Aarlev, Amy Berg, Teresita Navarro

Minutes from previous Month: minutes were approved and will be sent to the PTA Corresponding Secretary for posting.

Agenda:

- Introductions
- Elections of Co-Chairs/Co-Secretaries
 - Co-Chairs:
 - Staff: Nominated and Elected Elizabeth McNulty
 - Parent: Andy Weinstein
 - Co-Secretaries
 - Staff: Stefanie Cohen
 - Parent: Andy every other month.
 - Other Parent secretary needed
 - Discussion/Adoption of Proposed Schedule of Meetings
 - Alternate in-person with remote meetings
 - 2nd Friday of the month.

- Principal's Update
 - Staff Hiring- wasn't able to hire last year, 11 new staff members this year. Another person starting next week. Funded for a social worker through the recovery money-Nicole Miller
 - Budget - Put aside money for kids
 - COVID
 - Taking appropriate safety measures
 - Parent: Are protocols being able to be followed?
 - As best as we can.
 - Have we had any closures?
 - No
 - Parent: Do we want to be testing more?
 - Safety agents - 45% are vaccinated throughout the city
 - 500+ kids vaccinated
 - Kids have begun getting tested. It seems the same kids have been tested over weeks. Parents need to sign consent forms.
 - 10% of total population tested per week and that is based on those who have parental consent forms on file
 - Elster will look at the consent forms on file.
 - TO DO: Get each kid to bring a consent form home and signed by a parent.
 - Lunch procedure changed this week.
 - Kids eating outside, sitting by homeroom.
 - Kids are unmasked while eating and then go to the yard for recess.
 - Safety agents moved around due to lower vaccination numbers.
 - One safety agent on duty daily
 - Could parents volunteer to help out mornings?
 - Unsure, will look into this.
 - Student Experience/Transition
 - 788 students coming to school. Huge number of kids non- matriculated since acceptance, moving, etc.
 - Still holding students on the register until movement/leaving is verified.
 - NYC 100,000 unaccounted for students
 - Closed one 6th grade class (603)
 - Official register
 - Kids are still trying to hide. Last year it was cameras off, this year it's hoods tied tightly to hide their face.
 - Teacher: Glad to be back in person. Having to remind students of expectations and procedures. In many ways the 7th graders are 6th graders. More time spent on routines than in past years. There is progress happening, just slower than usual. Re-learning basic school skills.
 - Parent: Seeing the same thing at home. Homework is more of a struggle than even in normal times. Almost feel like my 5th grade nephew is ahead of my 7th grade daughter, because he was ready for the transition back. Getting them where they need to be is greatly appreciated.
 - Teacher: The stamina is not where it used to be. They are not used to a full day. It is loud in the classrooms with the windows open on top of the masks.

- Admin: Simplest level they haven't held pens/pencils in their hands for a few year(s). The problems are the same--regular conflicts, but with little thoughtfulness.
 - Teacher: NOT true regression, it's atrophy. The kids are not used to using the muscles. They are out of practice. Takes longer to do everything, and subsequently they do less.
 - Parent: My kid is nervous to come to Early Academy, do kids show up?
 - Yes, things are returning to normal there.
- High School Admissions
 - Giving test in December, but no other info.
- Middle School Admissions
 - No information yet
 - Parent: Do you think students have been sufficiently assessed based upon not knowing the kids we had coming into the school.
 - Admin: Almost everyone (majority) took an assessment.
 - Standardized testing preferred for students.
 - Most students 7 & 8 graders took the state test.
 - About 70% took the Booker T admissions test.
 - Classes added for students:
 - Reading Skills
 - Math Skills
 - Academic Recovery Money to be spent to support students who need remediation.
- New Business