

**Booker T. Washington Middle School 54**

103 West 107<sup>th</sup> Street  
 New York, NY 10025  
 Phone: 212.678.2861

**SLT Minutes**

December 10, 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	Erica Williams	Alexis Freeman
Lee Uehara, PTA Co-Pres	Kirby Mason	Erica Teasley Linnick
	Sara Lichtman	Karen Saltser
	Stefanie Cohen	Dimitra Koutsantoni
		Cat Travers
		Yael Swica

\*Late

\*\*Absent

**Observers:** Anne Pejovich, Marni Aarlev, Alison Gardy, Dafni Munoz, Teresita Navarro

**Minutes:** Minutes from the November meeting were approved, subject to correction of certain names, and will be sent to the PTA Corresponding Secretary for posting.

**Agenda:**

- **Update on School Safety**
  - Status of Safety agents: Dr. Elster reports: it's not looking like we're getting a new safety agent before April. New class of safety agents being trained. Reaching out to the DOE safety supervisor about doing training for the non-safety agents who are handling the door.
  - Our current agents are doing a great job and we're handling it and in a routine
- **Update on Student Behavior**
  - We have funding for additional support, but we have to fund them for the long haul, not just for this year
  - Dr. Elster reached out to the DOE to hire additional social workers just for this school year, working with HR to see if possible to hire consultants as a work around to

- provide extra support for the kids; counselors and social workers are completely booked
- Everyone is fully booked for months, even outside agencies who we normally refer students to
- Deanne Orcher (dean), Nicole Miller (social worker), and Dr. Elster are participating in a DOE social support group focusing on approaches to addressing student behavior.
- A small group of kids are taking up 90% of the staff's attention every day; majority of students in the classroom are on task and learning
- Initiatives to address issues include:
  - Justine Fonte is coming in once a month to do assemblies focused on interactions/relationships. Health assemblies once a month. Students taking health every week as well
  - Nicole Miller is going to be working with students after school as well
  - working with DOE HR to figure out how we can get someone in the school every day.
- Discussion regarding increasing student accountability and responsibility given propensity for working in groups as developed through remote learning and reminding students that they need to redevelop independent working skills.
- Discussion regarding reports of substance use such as caffeine and vaping.
- **Update on Use of Recovery Funds**
  - Starting next week teachers are starting the recovery targeted programming. Speech teacher and social worker are starting
  - We still have the ASAF evening homework help: 1:1 tutoring in the evenings to help with their homework
  - Except for grants, all money is use it or lose it
- **Update on DESSA**
  - DESSA does have a lot of suggestions for techniques that can be used in the classroom. There are strategies and links to resources.
  - Teachers discussed that they did not find the surveys helpful as the resources could have been provided to teachers without requiring teachers to fill out the 40 questions.
  - When teachers looked at the results and the names, there were no surprises on the list
- **Update on DEI Training for Teachers**
  - Dr. Elster reached out to 2 people from the DOE and has not heard back
  - Elisabeth Cohen was looking into the Morningside Institute
- **Admissions Update**
  - SHSAT: 220 students took the test, which went pretty smoothly. It was much easier last year when no one else was in the building. Took a lot of energy to keep the building quiet.
  - Currently no HS admission info available
- **Format of Meetings: In-Person v. Remote**
  - In February we can reconvene in person
  - Sound quality is excellent according to those on Zoom
- **Meeting Adjourned**