

PS/IS 187 School Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

January 18th, 2024 7:00 AM - 7:59 AM

Parent Representatives

1. Joy Waitkus/Co Chair SLT – Elected Parent Rep
2. Jackie Cruz - PTO Co President
3. Emily Hardy - Elected Parent Rep

Staff Representatives

1. Christopher Jennings/Co Chair SLT – UFT Chapter Leader
2. Emel Topbas-Mejia- Principal
3. Jessica Mitchell - 4th Grade General Education Teacher
4. Samantha Pastore – Health/PE Teacher IS
5. Marie Marricco - 5th Grade General Education Teacher
6. Amanda Burley - ENL Teacher

1. Welcome

2. Review and Approval of November 2023 Minutes

- a. Jackie Cruz motioned to approve. Chris Jennings seconded the motion. Unanimous approval by the remaining members.

3. Principal's Updates

a. Council Member DeLaRosa visited the school and gave us the check for \$1.5 million for the playground and bathroom renovations.

b. Academic subcommittee researched last year ways to encourage reading in the garden. The Little Free Library was donated, built, and placed in our garden to support and encourage reading.

c. The playground is under construction and we hope it will be ready to use by the spring.

d. We are currently renovating the bathrooms to meet ADA regulations. The girls restroom is currently closed, the boys room is currently being used and monitored by an adult. All student bathrooms will be renovated by the end of the school year. A student gender neutral bathroom was opened in 351 (directly outside of the gym).

e. The schoolyard renovation project is waiting to be picked up by a construction company. They will focus on resurfacing the asphalt, installing new basketball hoops, and new game lines will include a track.

f. 187 hosted a FACIL study group from the district. The FACIL team includes K-2 teachers. The group visited three classrooms (K, 1 & 8th grade math) Our staff members are visiting other schools as well.

g. Mid-Year assessments will take place in the next few weeks for iReady, Acadience & STAR. Families can access their child's results in their NYCSA account. The IS switched to STAR because students in IS were “testing out” of iReady and STAR is strictly an assessment tool. The data from Star is more accurate and user friendly. NYCSA information will be reshared with families via IG & our weekly updates via Ms. Capellan.

h. The IS is moving forward with the Yonder Pouch system. A representative from the company will support our roll out. A letter will go out to families sharing the system/logistics/processes. Next week assemblies will be held with students.

i. Attendance - We have 767 students. Our attendance rate is 93%. There are approximately 23 students that are chronically absent (3%). There are 150 students that are at risk (20%).

j. Upcoming events - Right to Read Screening (D6 is hosting at NYP on 2/01), Mayoral Control Hearing (1/18), Back to the Palace (D6 hosted Art show on 5/17) & District 6 STEM Expo (6/01).

4. Subcommittee Updates

a. Academic -

i. Discussion focused on establishing dates for workshops to inform and update families regarding the transition to computer based testing and Next Generation Standards. We will try to take a two prong approach to both inform and simulate the test for families. Parent leaders from the SLT would speak to family refusals impact on school and staff from SLT would focus on simulating the test for an in-person workshop. Parents members would share during the February PTO meeting and staff representatives would host a workshop in March.

ii. The subcommittee modified the CEP goals to reflect our current percentages from the beginning of year assessments for iReady, particularly for the priority of vocabulary. The expected increased growth will now be 10% from 39% (2023 BOY) to 49% (2024 EOY).

b. School Culture - The new phone policy was discussed and more focused on how we can implement it in a positive way. They also discussed continuing to implement Screenagers and looking into renewing the subscription to host different events at the school for both students and families.

5. I Challenge Myself Update - Ms. Pastore shared that many of our students are lacking endurance based on the Pacer Test (66% of 8th, 61% of 7th, 62% of 6th, 59% of 5th are not in a healthy fitness zone). There is a significant increase of students not passing the healthy fitness zone. No other pretests have been conducted, only cardiovascular. (PushUPs, curl ups, flexibility, trunk lift are the others that are tested). We are beginning a cycling program. I Challenge Myself will be coming to help assist with the roll out of the program. Some students want to ride their bikes to school, there was a discussion around installing bike racks to support this endeavor. Ms. Pastore is considering conducting early gym class to support students that may feel insecure with participation in larger classes.

6. Planning for the next meeting

- a. Joy will share the NYT article on testing with SLT members.
- b. We will meet in person on 2/15 in room 101 from 7-8.
- c. Subcommittees will meet before 2/15.