

PS/IS 187 School Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

November 16th 2023 5:34 - 7:02

Parent Representatives

1. Joy Waitkus/Co Chair SLT – Elected Parent Rep
2. Jackie Cruz – PTO Co President
3. Amanda Shaw - PTO Co President
4. Kelly Ceynowa- Elected Parent Rep
5. Karima Khawja - Elected Parent Rep
6. Kierstin Hettler - 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 October 2023 Minutes

- a. J. Mitchell motioned to approve. J. Waitkus seconded the motion.

Unanimous approval by the remaining members.

3. Principal Updates

- a. Emel shared that our future SLT meetings must be in person. Ms. Alicea (from D6) shared that we can have a hybrid approach but must be in quorum. If we do decide to be hybrid our bylaws must be revisited.
- b. Members of 187 SLT attended the CEC 6 mandatory meeting led by Dr. Lindsey. On Monday 11/20 at 10 am

members of CEC 6 and council member Lisa Brassell will visit the school to learn more about the 187 community with a focus on infrastructure.

- c. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system/approach has been rolled out in the IS for 7th and 8th graders in an assembly on 11/16. Grades 5 and 6 will learn more in an assembly on 11/17. Moving forward, more information will be shared with families.
- d. Our Request for security door installation went through a review process to see if it could be approved. According to the city, all schools should be receiving locked doors and an intercom system. We were denied the buzzer system inside. However, our installation date for the buzzer system for the main doors was moved up. The Division of School Facilities bumped up our installation date to the Spring.
- e. We will receive support regarding the slt responsibilities. Our team needs to find the form that was shown at the CEC 6 meeting.
- f. Ms. Burley created a team folder with the remuneration forms for each member.
- g. Inspector Castillo or a team representative will visit in December or January.
- h. Members that attended the CEC 6 mandatory meeting learned that on the iPlan portal there are suggested

agendas that we are not mandated to follow. However, there are actions we must take (ie review bylaws, review our goals, The CEP & progress monitor goals).

4. Subcommittee Updates

I. Academic subcommittee

a. Analyzed the ELA Instructional Report from June 2023.

b. Writing appeared to be a school-wide area for growth. Grades 3-8 are using similar frameworks (RADD, RACE, RACES) to support student writing.

c. Ms.Marricco created a writing survey for grade teams to complete to share their noticings around student strengths and areas of growth.

d. There was a discussion around whether or not students are struggling with the framing of the questions, are not understanding what is being asked, or with the concept itself.

II. School Culture

a. Assessed current practices that 187 has in place (IE...anti-bullying assemblies, PBIS approach, EL Curriculum

incorporates character values, Safety and Consolidated Plans, RESPECT For All, Screenagers Event).

b. There are amazing things happening in the school. We must get the word out and brainstorm where the opportunities are to inform and share with families. Use some existing communication and potentially start new modes.

c. Brainstormed ideas about how to encourage and support conversations at home. Some ideas were: SEL curriculum shared with parents, more assemblies in collaboration with Friends of 187 & PTO, Book Club read along with parents and students (Yardsticks & Troublemakers), exploring mindful thinking organizations, and sharing the new telemental health platform Talkspace launched by City

d. A takeaway from the meeting was the school needs to “up” our communication with families regarding what we are doing in classes. Particularly regarding the language, approaches & strategies we are using. They should be disseminated more widely using the platforms we currently have to communicate with families (blackboard, email, family newsletter, teacher communications, K newsletter, social media account)

i. Members shared that given all vehicles of communication the school has, we need a more uniform approach. The websites should be streamlined (school, Friends, PTO).

ii. Can the SLT School Culture Subcommittee take this on to ensure we reach our inclusivity goal? A suggestion was made to have a “hub”. This depends on our budget/personnel resources. Can we outsource the work?

5. Planning for the next meeting

- a. We will meet in person on 12/14 in room 101 from 7-8.
- b. Subcommittees will reconvene in January.

6. Open Forum

- a. There is an interest in in-person meetings/events. Can we convert two SLT meetings to in person family events opening the door for more opportunities to bring families back into the building?
- b. Welcoming families back into the building is surfacing on many levels. We are working on in-person community building. Some things we need to think about: How can we support the adults in the community to come together? How can we set up opportunities to teach/educate our families?
- c. An idea that arose was Family Game Night to teach our families things that they can do at home to support students.
- d. As an SLT we will consider school-wide platforms that would work best (ie

Remind or Class Dojo)

- e. There are concerns from 1st grade parents due to enrollment numbers. The teachers appreciate the extra support and concern expressed by families. The school has secured student teacher partnerships with Monroe College. In addition, we have reconnected with Teacher's College to bring student teachers in the Spring. This will provide support for the two first grade classrooms that have one teacher.
- f. There are concerns regarding the Math Regents classes. Families are concerned about potential "tracking" and the messages it sends to students. How are we codifying the Regents class in 3 the 8th grade classrooms? All three classes were told that they were on the regents track, then one class was informed they were not. How is regents math being scheduled? There is an understanding that students are being shifted and swapped based on the grades from the first marking period and determining if students are eligible or not to take The Regents. There are two classes (one is ICT) that are on the Regents track. Ms. Daskaris will be invited to the next SLT meeting to address and discuss concerns.