

SLT MEETING MINUTES
Meeting Date: March 9, 2022

In attendance:

1. Emel Topbas-Mejia
2. Chris Jennings
3. Marissa Pashley
4. Katie O'Connor
5. Conor Doyle
6. Melissa Velasco
7. Karima Khawja
8. Christina Harvey
9. Gwen Kingsberry (PTO Co-President)
10. Joy Waitkus
11. Einat Lev
12. Jen Benion (PTO Co-President/Observer)
13. Lilliana

I. Welcome

Principal Emel Topbas-Mejia presented the agenda. Einat Lev asked if there were any updates on Regents. Topbas-Mejia said no, but invited AP Dimitra Daskaris for a future meeting.

II. Review and Approval of February 2022 Minutes

Minutes approved in full.

III. Review of Old Business

a. Social Media/Cyberbullying

Karima Khawja reiterated the need to set up a committee on the issue and that we need parent engagement. She, Chris Jennings and Gwen Kingsberry, raised concerns that the recent parent workshop was not well publicized as communication was sent out the morning of the meeting. Only five parents attended.

Khawja reiterated her concerns about reports she is hearing, not only peer-to-peer incidents but also students targeting teachers. She asked if this is common or something that has gotten worse?

Marissa Pashley noted they are seeing social-emotional issues in all grades but not as much bad behavior in the ES. She suggested an outside organization could be helpful for the IS as the kids may be more responsive.

Joy Waitkus asked if the information the PTO has on the website can be backpacked <https://www.187pto.org/copy-of-our-dei-mission>.

She said that this has been an ongoing issue, especially in the IS, and parents don't realize that they can control and monitor their kid's devices, and also have the responsibility to do so.

Lev suggested two organizations:

<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/bullying-and-cyberbullying-workshops>

<https://www.projectrocket.com.au/schoolworkshops/>

Topbas-Mejia said the school is working with NYCID to train staff and students. Many situations take place during lunch and recess and staff needs to be trained how to de-escalate situations. <https://nycid.org/>

Members agreed:

1. To create a subcommittee on cyberbullying and social media usage with Ms. Capellan. Teachers and guidance counselors should be involved. (1st meeting on April 1)
2. To better publicize work-shops (two-week lead time) (two parent workshops scheduled for April 6 and 13)
3. To backpack information on PTO website (link)
4. To share the information Ms. Capellan about apps and tools parents can use.

IV. New Business

a. ICT Needs

Mejia-Topas updated that a new teacher (Ms. Kimble) was hired for the 3rd-grade ICT class with Ms. Ayuso.

Jennings expressed concerns about planning for next year, especially for the 4th grade. He wanted to know if that was being considered and what budgeting and staffing issues are.

Topbas-Mejia presented current numbers: About 19% of our students have IEPs but for a range of different reasons (related services, ICT, or 12-1-1 setting) We had about 130 consistently, but the team should take a closer look.

Pashley asked if there had been any talk about a self-contained class for ES as there candidates in each grade for self-contained. The “Turning 5 IEP” is changed to fit the needs of the school because parents don’t want them to go elsewhere.

Topbas-Mejia said the issue hasn’t been discussed recently but we can look into it.

Jennings suggested forming a subcommittee to bring in staff involved with ICT issues to deal with ICT and special education more broadly. He asked to have the IEP and ICT data and estimates available for planning.

Topbas-Mejia agreed. She also presented this information from the School Performance Dashboard:

19% of 743 have IEPs

2% are self-contained

3% are ELL

38% are at poverty level or below

We have the same levels as city and district-wide.

We also have opened two sections in 6th and 7th grade. 91/22 in 6th 90/25 in 7th.

V. Sub-Committee Reports

a. ELA/Math Sub-Committee

Doyle updated, we will plan to survey 2nd to 5th. Karmia requested the data for grades 6th-8th.

Lev: We would like to get teachers involved because we need teacher perspective.

Conor Doyle: Ms. Mitchell said she is willing to join as long as she can get procession for those meetings.

- b. DEI/Wellness/Attendance Committee
Tabled

VI. Learning Environment Surveys.

The surveys went home and the deadline was March 31. Members said the information about the surveys and how to hand them in was unclear.

Members agreed to: provide more information, incentives and volunteers to boost numbers.

VII. Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Topbas-Mejia said we need to complete the CEP by the end of June. We should have access to the i-plan portal (this was later shared). We need to devote more time to look at our Comprehensive Needs where our strengths and areas of growth and identifying our focus areas for next year

She asked the subcommittees to look at the data before the next meeting: Demographic, assessment information (Acadience and i-Ready) and Dessa Screeners.

VII. Student Interviews

Mejia-Topbas noted we should think about using interviews to gather information for younger students to help plan for CEP. She will share a tool interviewing students. She asked members to see if they think this tool will be practical.

IIIX. Plan for Next Meeting

Focus on CEP

Members will go through i-plan together so we can learn how to use

Khawja said she is worried about budget cuts and Senator Robert Jackson could update us. Mejia Topas said she could reach out to him and perhaps a bigger group would be suitable like the PTO or Town Hall.

IX. Covid Policy Updates

Tabled.