

SLT MEETING MINUTES
Meeting Date: February 9, 2022

In attendance:

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

I. Welcome

II. Review and Approval of January 2022 Minutes

Minutes approved in full

III. Review of Old Business

a. Covid Testing

Principal Topbas-Mejia: All students and staff members will get at-home tests on 2/18 before the winter break to take before returning to school (It will not be required to show a negative test to return).

Testing threshold has increased to 63 students and nine staff members.

b. Regents Updates

Topbas-Mejia: We need to identify and train math and science teachers. We also could explore Saturday as an option. Science needs a lab component because there is a lab practicum.

Katie O'Connor asked about licensing, she said two current science teachers have the 7-12 license.

Topbas-Mejia: We should identify who can begin training so it can be offered next year.

IV. Sub-Committee Reports

a. ELA/Math Sub-Committee

Christina Harvey updated. There was a problem with lack of data and the group was trying to figure out if it should look at i-ready and state tests or look at cohorts and how to bring them up to where they should be?

The committee had two questions:

1. Can we get access to i-plan?
2. Does school funding depend on meeting the CEP goals?

Topbas-Mejia provided the link <https://www.ipanportal.com/> for members and said school funding depends on enrollment.

Harvey then asked what the committee can do to support the teachers and wanted to know how the goals have been helpful in the past. The committee is wondering how long it will take to get students back to pre-pandemic levels.

Conor Doyle: We really need experienced teachers to join this committee.

Karima Khawja: Could Ms. Marrero or Daskaris could join? Also, she asked if we could survey the teachers about what are the most pressing needs that are not being captured with -i ready or testing.

Topbas-Mejia: These issues may overlap with the DEI/Attendance Committee.

Chris Jennings: Is there a way to put the CEP goals front and center? Teachers are reluctant to join because they don't feel like they are relevant to what they are

doing. These goals should be central to the work and mission that we are trying to accomplish at the school.

O'Connor agreed with what Jennings had to say. She said we need to look at the past CEP goals but we cannot access them, even though we have asked the administration to provide them.

There was some discussion among group members that there was a problem accessing the necessary documents through the DOE system.

Topbas-Mejia said she would address and distribute a one-pager and agreed that the goals should be at the center of our work. We should also have a planning meeting with faculty about the goals.

b. DEI/Wellness/Attendance Committee

Gwen Kingsberry updated. She said that the PTO has also been discussing the parents and whether we need to reach out to them. We don't have a base to work with. Also, one of the things that is coming up a lot is the social media/bullying.

Jennings reiterated what she said and noted that we need a better sense of where we are. We have not received any of the data we have requested.

Topbas-Mejia: The CEP is still waiting for approval.

Harvey noted that seems to be the case for the whole city.

O'Connor: They are still waiting on attendance data, our previous goal was focused on the white subgroup.

Jennings asked Topbas-Mejia if she could help them get the data they need?

Topbas-Mejia presented a School Accountability slide with some of the information and said she would help O'Connor access the data through the platform.

Khawja: Can we put out a parent and teacher survey with both committees working together on it. (The meeting date was set for 2/16).

V.

New Business

a. Student Advisory Roundtable

Topbas-Mejia and Kingsberry met and talked about being more inclusive with students when talking about race and identity. We reached out to Morningside and how to support students, staff and parents. We have identified four students and we want to have a roundtable of 10 to read Stamped (Ibram X. Kendi). We are meeting on a weekly basis, to impact change across the school community. There is also a social justice educator whole is working with our middle schoolers

Jennings: What was the gender breakdown of the kids that were attending?

Topbas-Mejia: It was 50/50 gender and 50/50 for race.

b. Respect for All Week, 2/14-2/18

Topbas-Mejia: The guidance counselors have been working diligently as a school team and next week will be a week of focusing on kindness. Every day we are going to have a kindness challenge for each grade and each day.

O'Connor: We haven't got flyers in the ES yet?

Kingsberry: Also, how do we include the more introverted kids in this? How do we include the kids who might not want to celebrate this week? For example, the kids who are shy or don't have many friends, how do we make it more sensitive to that?

Topbas-Mejia: One of the activities is “No One Stands Alone” to emphasize this and we are focusing on during lunch and recess.

O’Connor: I was very excited about this. The kids were really excited about LGBTQ day and we talked about the “No One Stands Alone” day.

c. Social Media/Cyberbullying

Khawja: I feel like we are rushing this conversation and we need to really focus on this issue. I don’t know the solution and this probably warrants it’s own meeting, I think we need further discussion.

Jennings: Maybe we can see if the teachers want to join. We need to have teachers involved

Jennings: Would you be able to send a one-page summary of the CEP to members of the committee via email, I want to reiterate the importance of getting the CEP front and center.

VI. Plan for Next Meeting