

PS/IS 187 School Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2024 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

Parent Representatives

1. Joy Waitkus/Co Chair SLT – Elected Parent Rep
2. Jackie Cruz - PTO Co President
3. Kelly Ceynowa - Elected Parent Rep
4. Karima Khawja - Elected Parent Rep
5. Kiersten 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. Amanda Burley - ENL Teacher
6. Marie Marricco - 5th Grade General Education Teacher

1. Welcome

2. Review and Approval of March 2024 Minutes

- a. Joy motioned to approve the minutes, Amanda seconded. Unanimous vote to approve followed by remaining members present.

3. Principal's Updates

- a. Emel shared the principal's updates to review CEP goals for the 2024-25 school year, end of year assessments with current goals to update the iPlan portal.
- b. Additionally, in alignment with Mr.Cardillo's SEL work, 4th graders are being trained to become peer mediators with Doyle as lead teacher in May.
- c. Cycling program beginning as spring approaches, as well as Saturday family cycling program to incorporate families - as well as Wellness Event with spin bikes classes.
- d. Summer Rising will take place at 187 - families should have received their placements, there is a waitlist for 187. Approximately 200 students for the NYJTL and PSW programs. Welcoming all students from the community - not just from 187. Ms. Daskaris and Ms. Emel will be here this summer facilitating the program - the teacher hiring process will begin soon.

4. Presentation by Olympia Kazi from the parent-led Class Size Committee

- a. Olympia presents her scenario of potential grade sizes and class options - idea of transfer school, split grades, shared spaces and classes, budget/ funding is a key part of this complex issue, need to start planning now for the future for full compliance, budget delays, annex option at charter school, potentially reworking music or art spaces for class spaces

5. SLT Member Questions & Wonderings

- a. Ms. Emel shares points to clarify, mindful around language that we would never “kick students out,” sharing more information around CAPs that exist (i.e. 33 students in 6th grade is capacity), an overflow site is identified as part of the enrollment process, especially for zone families. Unfortunately, the capping process has not been updated to reflect the legislature on the class size implementation. Neither has funding.
- b. Joy - comments regarding Success Academy: Wonderings around pushing/ advocating for space there for annex, especially for 6-8 students. Space available there as well as lease there being up. Keeping in mind a meeting with Manny might be necessary.
- c. Questions regarding colocation of the school - safety and security concerns, pros and cons with collated space.
- d. Emel shares scheduling a meeting with Mr. Ramirez for May to meet with SLT to begin thinking about long-range planning to work towards class size legislation implementation - in seeking outside physical space, we need to reach out to 187 faculty to share their input on the matter. We may need temporary separate locations, with funding available. Concerns about school culture with classes being out of the building.
- e. Olympia presents the idea of split school with afternoon times and concerns about next year for K-1.
- f. Preplanning for meeting with Manny; Emel suggests parent reps of SLT gathering questions from the parent community, and faculty gathering questions from the faculty community. Organizing by immediate short term, immediate concerns, as well as long range.
- g. Questions regarding being out of compliance with the class size legislation implementation

6. Subcommittee Updates

a. Academic Sub-Committee

Moving forward onto academic subcommittee updates in relation to academic CEP goals, improvement is shown in vocabulary in iReady, we should be in line with our goals on that. Next, the state ELA exam data, Acadience data looks strong despite last year’s slight dip, which could be due to the novelty of the program and lack of training. This year has much more training so we will await the trends. High-quality academic performance is linked to STAR assessment which we are still monitoring. Finally, very strong growth on iReady within the beginning and middle of the school year. Overall, we seem to be on track to meeting our Academic CEP goals.

5. Planning for the next meeting

See if Manny can make a 7 am meeting with us. Potentially scheduling a longer after-school meeting as opposed to only one hour in the morning. Wonderings around if that meeting would supplement our regular meeting. In person meeting. Potentially May 16th, 5pm-7pm meeting with Manny in person if he is available. In the meantime, collect questions, concerns, ideas etc. --

potentially May 9th SLT check in virtual 5:30 pm.