

PS/IS 187 SLT MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: June 1, 2022 (7:00 AM-8:00 AM)

In Attendance:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Emel Topbas-Mejia | 8. Christina Harvey |
| 2. Chris Jennings | 9. Liliana Nunez |
| 3. Marissa Pashley | 10. Gwen Kingsberry |
| 4. Conor Doyle | 11. Joy Waitkus |
| 5. Jen Bennion (PTO Observer) | 12. Melissa Velasco |
| 6. Einat Lev | |
| 7. Karima Khawja | |

I. Welcome

II. Review and Approval of May 2022 Minutes

Minutes approved.

III. Review of Old Business

a. Pond Upgrade Updates

Principal-Topbas-Mejia presented: The PTO approved \$10,000 for the pond upgrade. Outdoor Magic quoted us \$15,000. Once a new budget is available we can set up with the Division of School Facilities. Outdoor Magic meets all the liabilities. The pond is a valuable instructional tool for our school community.

Work on the pond will start in fall.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

a. ELA/Math Sub-Committee

Conor Doyle presented: The survey should be sent out to teachers this week. Our goal is to get back to the scores we met pre-pandemic. There has been a big drop-off because of COVID. We are looking at Fountas and Pinell for ELA and i-Ready for Math and ELA, as well as 2019 state exams. We will draft goals by the end of the month.

DOE Learning Environment Surveys should be available by the end of the month.

Topbas-Mejia said the draft is due by the end of June and was wondering what skills are being focused on? Doyle: We want to look at what the data shows.

b. DEI/Wellness/Attendance Committee

Karima Khawja updated: We have been meeting with DEI and Wellness organizations and evaluating them. We would like to see parent/student questionnaires to see how they relate to DEI and social-emotional learning. The organizations are:

- Facing History (professional development set up for November)
- Anti-Defamation League (workshop set up for fall)
- Turn to Us Mental Health (Columbia Presbyterian)
- The Morningside Center
- Center for Racial Justice

Khawja said we would love to have staff or parents who are passionate about these issues participate.

Mejia-Topbas: We will seek more voices as well as involve guidance counselors and assistant principals.

Khawja asked whether there is more information on the Asian-American Module from the DOE.

Topbas Mejia: It's in alignment with MOSAIC and we are getting books and resources.

Khawja: It would be good to set up a committee to support the MOSAIC curriculum with Friends of 187 or PTO (MOSAIC Link).

V. New Business

a. Safety Protocols

Following the tragic school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24, members discussed questions and concerns.

Chancellor David Banks started to have round-table conversations with students and schools about safety, so this is clearly going to be a focus of the new leadership.

Jennings noted: “Security issues are important but the fact that we are talking about them is unacceptable. We can’t accept this as reality and we can’t accept legislative inaction on these issues.”

Members of the school community should be encouraged to attend:

June 3: Rally on Gun Violence with State Senator Robert Jackson in Inwood

June 11: March for Our Live in Washington Square Park (UFT will attend)

Harvey noted that the legislature governor did agree on a package of bills last night to prohibit anyone under 21 from purchasing a semi-automatic weapon or body armor without authorization in the wake of the Buffalo shooting (May 14).

Khawja noted a New York Post article that said the teachers’ pension needs to be divested from gun-related companies. Jennings said this had already been done.

b. Data Breach with Illuminate (Proposed by Liliana)

Tabled

VI. Plan for Next Meeting

Tabled

Next Meeting: September 21 at 7 a.m.