

School Leadership Team (SLT) Meeting

February 7th, 2023

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

Parent Representatives

1. Joy Waitkus – Elected Parent Rep
2. Kierstin Hettler – PTO Co President
3. Hila Milo – PTO Co President
4. Liliana Nunez – Elected Parent Rep
5. Kelly Ceynowa- Elected Parent Rep
6. Karima Khawja - Elected Parent Rep
7. Emily Hardy – Elected Parent Rep

Staff Representatives

1. Christopher Jennings – UFT Chapter Leader
2. Emel Topbas-Mejia- Principal
3. Marissa Pashley – 2-Grade Teacher
4. Melissa Velasco- 2nd Grade Special Education Teacher
5. Sarah Sanders -Art Teacher PS
6. Samantha Pastore – Health/PE Teacher IS
7. Staff Guests: Ms Luna 3rd Grade; Ms Daskaris IS Principal

Additional Guests

Jackie Cruz; Karen Blundell; Margaret Ryan

Welcome

Review and Approval of January 2022 Minutes

1. Mr. Jennings motion to changes to minutes .
2. Joy motion to approve minutes
3. Melissa Velasco 2nd motion
4. Jan min approved

Principal Updates

- COVID Updates
 - Beginning Feb 10th visitors entering DOE School buildings will no longer be required to provide proof of vaccination
 - School is distributing 4 covid test kits to every student and staff member on a monthly basis
 - If there is covid exposure, 2 covid test kits are distributed to each student and staff member
 - We are no longer sending notifications via letters about covid exposure
- Big Apple Awards – DOE accepting nominations until Feb 28th
 - [Schools.nyc.gov/BigAppleAwards](https://schools.nyc.gov/BigAppleAwards)
- NY State Assessments
 - ELA 3-8 April 19-20 Make Ups April 24-28
 - Math 3-8 May 2nd -May 4th Make Ups May 5th-11th
 - Paper based
 - NYSESLAT all Grades ELL Students only May 15th -May 26th speaking portion begins April 17th
 - Science Assessment Grade 8 (4th grade no longer being administered; beginning 2024 5th grade will start)
 - May 23rd -June 2nd performance task
 - June 5th Written Portion
 - Make Ups June 6th -9th
- English Language Arts Assessment
 - 2023 Grades 3-8 ELA will assess reading Writing and language standards using multiple choice, two credit constructed response, and four credit constructed response questions.
 - All questions will be based on close reading of informational and literary texts, including paired texts in grades 4-8
 - All texts will be drawn from authentic, grade level works
 - TBD family facing workshops
- Calendar
 - Feb 15th Family Café
 - Feb 28th Wellness committee
 - Feb 2023 Learning Environment Surveys (Grades 6-8th students; families all grades)
 - March 9th: Parent teacher conf (virtual)
 - Report Card distribution
 - March 15th: family care

ELA Subcommittee : Kiersten

- 1st meeting a couple of weeks ago.
- Reviewed teacher feedback from last SLT meeting and came up with actionable steps
- Identified need for parent workshops for March and April ; in line with State tests; aiming to conduct workshops before spring break
- Bring back Book fair with PTO

- Engage with Word Up
- Family Game night with vocab games ; TBD March 31st ; coordinate with afterschool programs and PTO ; 2.5 hour time frame for IS and PS students
- Readathon – reached out to organization that helps with fundraiser to challenge students to read each day. 75% of all funds raised goes to school; students get 15% of individual earnings to spend on readathon store. Could coincide with Read Across America March 2nd, and extend to March. Up to our discretion on timing.
- Next Meeting Feb 13th 6pm

DEI/ committee- Kelly

- Met and Renamed focus of committee
- Collaborative scope of parents/school/administration and collaboration of school/SLT/Friends/PTO
- Focused on what is working currently
- Revisited action steps
- Next steps: NYP proposal; Screenagers with PTO in March
- Need to include guidance counselors and dean; Kelly to work with Emel to get date/time
- Emel : Centers for Responsive Classrooms; de-escalation language skills
- Karima: Emel to revisit No Place for Hate; ADL

Math Data (guided analysis with faculty)

- Ms Daskaris What a typical math lesson is composed of: Grades 5-8
 - DO NOW : review of concept learned from previous day; students review what they learned the day before.
 - Homework is assigned daily, up to 10 questions; (allows for students to ask question and review in class)
 - MINI LESSON: Lesson of the day
 - INDEPENDENT/GROUP WORK: (single or double period)
 - CLOSURE- to reinforce concept reviewed in the day
- Ms. Luna 3rd Grade Teacher what a typical math lesson is composed of : Elementary
 - Open up with WARM UP; review what was already taught
 - MINI LESSON: use a lot of white boards; modeling of concept and then assess students understanding of concepts; scanning the room to see student understanding ; speak to where there is confusion
 - PARTNER WORK/GROUP; engaging enrichment activity, paper or electronic: Iknowit.com (Ms. Luna can tailor lessons)
 - Close off with a share/exit slip
- Mr. Jennings: please speak to things that parent community; families can do to support the work the teachers are doing
 - Ms. Luna – has daughter in 6th and 1st grade; has observed how math evolves from K-6th ;
 - 1st graders create own word problem

- 1st-2nd addition and subtraction
 - 3rd grade- multiplication is the core
 - Students need to use basic facts for addition and subtraction;
 - Multiplication facts are a must for 4th grade; multiplication and long division. use of large numbers
 - Ms. Luna tries to model for 3rd graders the importance of knowing basic facts
 - Parents need to practice basic facts nightly ; addition/subtraction/multiplication
 - Word problems; students should not rush, what are the facts, need to analyze what the question is asking; looking at clues
 - 3rd grade is the stepping stone to the upper grades knowledge of the facts is key
- Ms. Daskaris- when in middle school, core foundations of the facts are key for ratios; proportions/expressions and equations. Facts 1st-3rd grade facts gets utilized in IS curriculum.
 - Algebra class Ms. Daskaris is current teacher ; a solid foundation is important for students to master this class;
 - Teaching of 8th and 9th grade math and Algebra
 - Goal is to have more than 1 class taking the Algebra Regents
- Mr. Jennings Question: Are parents made aware of what the foundational concepts are that students should have?
 - Ms. Luna – yes discussed in teacher meetings at the beginning of the year, core topics are discussed; main topics reviewed ie 3rd grade Multiplication/Division/Fractions
 - Mr. Jennings: what are the pre-requisites knowledge that will help the child to succeed with new concepts being introduced in the school year.
 - Ms. Luna – beginning of the year should bring in for the start of the year from the 2nd grade. Encourage parents to practice addition/subtraction facts. Moving to 2 chapters +/- 3 digit number minus 3 digit number with regrouping; bumping with regrouping to the hundreds, there needs to be mastery. Knowledge of basic facts is a must.
- Ms. Daskaris: Are you asking that is it helpful to have at end of year have an idea of what will be discussed in the upcoming year. Not sure how helpful a list of topics is vs resources on how to guide your child through those topics
 - Can share maps with parents topics for parents
 - Resources list would be good to share
- Mr. Jennings: thinks the more public facing information we could provide would be helpful.
- Kiersten: What resources could be provided ? Parents reinforcement/habits, creating environment; milestones missed in ELA/Math , what are the red flags for a teacher? What is the recourse to provide support, when is that recommendation summer school or additional support/services?
 - Ms. Daskaris : 4 basic operations are the biggest red flags (Add/Subtract/Multiplication/Divide), RTI periods teachers exclusively work on concepts that students need help; small groups are pulled to work on those concepts ; what would be helpful is reinforcement at home with resources provided; additional help ; Middle School after school homework help ; there are opportunities

are presented during the day for the needs to be met. It starts in the elementary school for the basic facts to be mastered.

- Kiersten: Do the Practice Makes Perfect tutors help after school thru one of the programs? How would a student get the additional tutoring support?
 - NYJTL brining in tutors from practice makes perfect
- Karima: Question to Ms. Emel, NYJTL is brining in Tutors, are they only available to students enrolled in NYJTL?
 - Ms. Emel: Planning is done with Practice Makes Perfect. We have to check to see if they have additional tutors to come in earlier to provide tutoring earlier in the day to provide extra help.
- Ms. Daskaris: Parent's what are you seeing?
 - Kelly: As it stands the way a parent knows if there gaps is it through the Parent/Teacher conferences and during nightly homework?
 - Ms. Daskaris: struggling with homework is a red flag; middle school weekly quizzes are given.
 - Kelly: element of resources speaks volumes,
- Joy: textbook log ins, curating resources, not just a list of websites.
 - Kelly: importance of using resources that are already being used in the classroom
 - Karima during pandemic was helpful boom cards ; Kahn academy ; weekly reco of where to get information; for reinforcement at home.
- Ms. Velasco: 2nd grade posts vidoes; and handy helpers in google classroom and remind me app send home handy helpers
- Emily are grade curriculums updated on website for the year; pointing it out to parents that this is a resource.
- Emily: 8th Algebra class; how are students are identified who takes the class? Where do you hope to see it in the upcoming years?
 - Ms. Daskaris; at end of 7th grade placement test; messages go out to parents ; based on test performance and teacher input and how they are doing the year in math; class has to touch on full year of 8th grade math and current algebra concepts taught to 9th graders in the first 2 semesters.
 - In the past 2 classrooms.
 - Important to not have students pushed into the class. Always has the conversation with parents. Material is hard. It is never ok to have a student frustrated ; some students are more than ready.
 - 32-33 students.
 - Karima: What needs to be done to have the 2nd class:
 - Ms. Daskaris: Hopefully will in September Pending 8th grade math teacher hiring
 - Karima: could class size be smaller with additional teacher
 - Ms. Daskaris
- Ms. Daskaris: focused resources on specific websites; geared to a topic not generic websites, clarifying what I said earlier. Should be both, watch and practice.
 - Middle school IXL for 4th grade piloting out; so far its good; perhaps it can be used for other grades.

- Question from Chat: Math is being taught differently now, are there resources to help:
 - Kierstin: are there any resources (recorded lessons, slideshows) from remote teaching that could be utilized?
 - Ms. Daskaris – Yes , especially 3-5th grade new methods are introduced and there is expectation to master them.
 - Ms. Luna – distributed property ; shows different ways and allow students to select which way give the students a variety of solving.
- Emily Hardy: Math has changed prior was memorization; now different ways of doing math
 - Ms. Luna- the review videos would be helpful for the parents
 - Mr. Jennings- would be beneficial to help parents understand the why's of the new methods of teaching math, ie concepts
 - Joy: parents have to learn the new methods to help their children. Kahn Academy.
 - Ms. Daskaris: students are very savvy with apps/students can take picture of math problem and get them solved with steps.
- Karima: what can we do to better support the students struggling in math: Saturday; Afterschool extra help/math clinic optional/mandatory;
 - What can we do to help the students excelling in math; STEM Team
 - How can we help both sides
 - Not all parents have access to computers to review math videos
- Math Subcommittee: workshops for parents ;
 - Ms. Daskaris: in the past after school support; need parental support to get help in math; need help to get parents more supportive
 - Enrichment: Mathnasium; competing with other states; if there is interest we can make it happen. Math Olympiad ; had fee \$100 fee school paid
 - It's hard to get students to stay to get extra help with math

Funding Staff to support CEP goals

- Joy: good to have PTO/SLT/Friends to discuss staffing positions can be funded to support CEP goals
 - o IE reading intervention specialist
 - o Kierstin agrees broader meeting is a good idea
 - o Mr. Jennings: Ms. Emel to provide part time costs for reading intervention specialist
 - Ms. Emel: \$96k ; F Status Retired; daily rate tbd part time or full time ; ideal to have more than 2x per week
After school; per session : \$66k/hour with fringe; w/out fringe \$57; para professional – teaching Assistant \$40-\$50k for full time ; funding from PTO and Friends/sustainability is key to make sure we have for more than one year.
 - o Kierstin: Looking at CBO to find gaps in ELA or Math

Planning for March 2023 meeting

Kelly Motion to adjourn ; Kiersten 2nd. 7pm adjourn