

# SLT Meeting 4/17/2019 – Minutes

## Attendance:

1. Cynthia Chory
2. Joe Biehl
3. Gerry Goss
4. Casey Mellili
5. Kesha Brewer
6. Chris Jennings
7. Bianka Crespo
8. Marissa DeFranca
9. Leanne Gonzalez-Singer
10. Sarah Kim
11. Ellen Noonan
12. Emily Hardy

## Minutes Approval

- Minutes from March were approved.

## Literacy Support Letter

- Parents wrote a letter of support for the literacy curriculum in response to the concerns brought up last month

## SLT Bylaws

- Need to codify the procedure around allowing parent guest presenters
- In the March SLT meeting, the question presented was possibly not appropriate for this venue (should be directed to the literacy faculty), and the discussion quickly became heated – may not be an appropriate use of SLT time
- Concern that SLT meetings could become just a forum for people to come in and complain
- We need to define what constitutes a presentation. I.e. can there be a question and answer period?
- It is difficult to stop conflict once it begins
- There is a point under Robert's Rules of Order where we can table a topic if it gets heated
- We might avoid potential for conflict by inviting guests to submit topics which will then be presented by an SLT member, as has been done effectively in the past
- We should make a bigger effort to make parents aware of how to get in touch with SLT members
- Some parents also need clarification on SLT's function
- The Bylaws subcommittee will meet again to address these issues

## Differentiation Survey Responses and Next Steps

- Leanne provided a typed summary of survey results and a typed list of potential professional development courses and printed resources for enrichment for above-grade-level kids
- Ms. Mellili will circulate
- There is substantial teacher interest in professional development on differentiation
- The budget for the year is allotted; the SLT will have to discuss again in September the potential appropriate professional development

## SLT Elections

- Two parent slots are coming up available for elections
- The date of elections has not yet been decided
- The teachers' union will decide on teacher rotations

## CEP Goals Subcommittee

- Need to form a subcommittee to evaluate the CEP goals for next year
  - The goals are somewhat cookie-cutter to address the DOE's prescribed goals
  - Joe Biehl, Emily Hardy, Chris Jennings, and Ms. Mellili will join Ms. Chory on the subcommittee, which will meet one morning by availability and conduct most business by email

## New Business

- Professional Development:
  - Possibility of a professional development session from a licensed therapist on recognizing the effects of trauma in the classroom
  - Ms. Chory would like Ms. McCullough and Ms. Chen to reach out to the potential provider

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- With social-emotional content, there is concern for maintaining individual students' privacy in the event that student incidents are discussed
- New York State Exams:
  - Leanne would like to write a letter to Betty Rosa, State Chancellor at the New York State Department of Regents regarding detrimental effects of the state tests in their current format
  - Teachers report that usually strong test-takers are anxious, especially so in the two-day format
  - If this is affecting scores, the state should be concerned that it is producing skewed data
  - Ms. Chory stresses that tests should be age-appropriate and that field test questions should not be placed on the exam
  - Kids should not be working on these tests until 2:00pm
  - 4<sup>th</sup> graders had to write 6 short responses and one essay: 10 paragraphs
  - 3 consecutive days are not better than 2 days.
  - Staff suggest a day of rest between test days
  - Some kids have been choosing not to eat lunch so they could keep working on the tests
  - The school sent lunch upstairs for 30 kids in the I.S.
  - Math test: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades can use a calculator for Day 2 of testing, but this may make the questions harder
  - Computer-based testing at other schools had massive system failures, causing the tests to take upwards of 5 days. In general the system is not well prepared for online testing.
- SLT stipend form
  - Requirements are more rigorous this year. Last year many reports were questioned. Chronological reports with narratives will be submitted this year.