

The Children's School
Minutes of School Leadership Meeting
February 10, 2016

In Attendance: Rosa Amato, Catherine Sarno, Rosemarie Astartia, Anne Baker, Angela Ferrante, Matthew Miller, Michael O'Neill, Herbert Quester, Unyque Rencher, David Rubel, ToniAnn Tepedino, David Tipson, Lucia Burns

Non-Attendance: MaryBeth Carroll, Nicole Krieger, Kerry Aguilar

The minutes from our January meeting were revised and approved.

Status to Fill Open AP Position

- AP position posts 2/16/16-3/1/16
- The position will not be solely for the ASD site; it is for Special Education organization
- No 1 person will be stationed at the ASD site. APs will be organized differently, rotating between different functions to expand the experience of all parties.
- In approximately 2 weeks the resumes of the 11 best candidates will be forwarded. 3/1-3/15 resumes will be reviewed to select candidates for the C30 process, which should be overseen by Rosa.

F/U on Tolerance Discussion

- Big turnout for Islamophobia event; all grades were represented
- There is a need to do more, perhaps a community event with other schools involved. We may contact Dr. Henry Goldschmidt, Director of Education Programs at The Interfaith Center of New York, to help plan an event.
- We discussed the poster displayed at Park Slope Collegiate previously shared by Lucia. It was displayed inside and sponsored by a student organization, which required less oversight. The language for a display outside the building must be approved by Central. We may have more flexibility if the sign(s) is displayed inside. An attorney for D15 said to post something only with a general message of "education for all", not highlighting any specific group(s).
 - We will develop language that fits the guidelines and ultimately translate to other languages.
 - This display is on hold pending advice from school administration.
- Curriculum needs to be developed to incorporate our message. This can be combined with the SEC work, possibly pairing with the Empathy theme. Steve distributed a letter in draft form he would like to distribute to teachers.

Principal's Update

- There are changes to ELA and Math assessments for 2016. There will be less questions and the exams will be untimed. We are awaiting more specific information. Rosa will be meeting on 3/1 with Barbara Clark (Testing Coordinator) to begin planning.
 - Some questions are: What do we do with students who have finished? Can students take breaks? Do we need to meet with parents?
 - Steve mentioned that he uses untimed exams in his 2nd grade class. This has been very well received.
- Rosa is scheduled to meet with Kindergarten Admissions today. To date, 606 applications were received. 17 seats are available for the new Free Lunch/ELL priority. There are ~12 additional gen. ed. seats once sibling seats are factored in.

- 6 classrooms will test valves controlled by teachers to try to combat extreme heat. The rooms with the most difficulty were selected (some rooms exceed temperatures above 90 with the windows open in winter).

UFT Update

- The chapter is getting along smoothly with the new administration
- Michael briefly reviewed the Freidrich's Case in the US Supreme Court
 - Brought by a teacher's union in California to contest the union charging dues for members who elect not to pay. This is worth keeping an eye on as it could ultimately result in NYS law being overturned. Currently the union is allowed to collect certain portions of the dues even for members opting not to join the union.

PTA Update

- Valentine's Dance far exceeded the fund raising goal
- The issue raised last month about people winning multiple raffles was not addressed for this event.
- Arts and Sciences Day will have a Da Vinci theme.
- The Auction Gala is an issue. Much help is needed to plan and coordinate, as volunteerism is way down. It raised the broader issue of parent involvement, as much of the Executive Board is comprised of parents of rising 5th grade students. We may need to "tap" certain parents by "invitation".
 - Question of whether or not to cancel the Gala, in part to send a message. There is a chunk of money in reserves. Can we go an entire year without fundraising events?
 - We proposed outreach to parents in the younger grades.
 - Can we use reserves to hire an event coordinator or can we create an internship opportunity for a college student to help with planning and running events?
- Nicole has been trying to step down, but no volunteer has stepped forward to take over.

Diversity Committee

- This month's meeting will begin to look at how to enhance a welcoming environment as we gain more diversity. They will also be documenting outreach steps to institutionalize the process.

Expansion Committee

- Matt reached out to Mr. Joe, who is friends with Principal Mills at MS 442. He is sending a letter to try to set up a new meeting to further discuss the possibility of a relationship with PS 372 as a feeder school. We are also waiting to hear of their relocation could impact the possibility of this relationship.

Social Emotional Committee

- There has been almost no parent turnout. This is the first time in a long time more teachers than parents are involved (especially Ina, Gillian, and Mora).
- 2/10 is Compliment Day. Students are giving peers compliments via notes on post-its. Nobody can receive more than 2 compliments.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wed. March 16, 2106 7:15am – 8:20am