

School Leadership Team Meeting

Date: 05/03/2021 – Online via Zoom

Compiled by Kathryn Reklis

Attendees: Jessica Geller, Katherine Tsimis, Lambrini Matsas, Olivia Ramirez, Ingrid Nunez, Anastasia Smith, Kathryn Reklis, Maritza Baqueiro, Jennifer Trizulino, Jennifer Carrel Picerno, Sarah Frazier, Jennifer Tuttle, Michelle Perr, Fela Cortés

Absent: Kalliopi Alevriadis

Principal's Report

The minutes from the 4.05.21 meeting were unanimously approved.

Ms. Geller shared that finding substitutes has proven nearly impossible now that middle schools are open. Many school aides have been absent, meaning that guidance counselors have to do the job of several school aides. Teachers have had to give up lunch time in order to have COVID testing. The school is radically understaffed.

The DOE Health Screener has changed again to remove all mention of international travel.

89 new students returned to the school last Monday and overall things went well. We are close to 60% in person students. The kids are excited to be here and overall this will help the transition back to school in the fall.

Kindergarten enrollment is exceptionally low. As of the deadline to claim seats on Friday, April 20, we had 70 non-DL students and 26 DL accepted seats (12 Spanish, 14 English). Several families called today that they missed the deadline of last Friday. The school will attempt in person kindergarten registration and turn new attention to enrolling the next year class.

There was discussion about the hoped for return of parent volunteers who could help with school aide jobs and office support. Ms. Geller emphasized how amazingly staff are working to adjust to this impossible year.

The re-zoning process is underway but it is unclear how it will proceed. Now that PS 384 has opened it has not been zoned. Zoning PS 384 will require redrawing zone lines for other schools. Currently enrolled families will not be impacted by a rezoning activity, nor will siblings of current students.

Math State tests will be this week, May 6 and 7. NYSESLAT testing will begin in the coming weeks.

The last day of school, June 25, will be a full day for all students. Virtual field day is coming soon! And iReady testing will be offered again at the end of this month for

grades 2-5. The Chancellor is looking to select the same testing service for each district, and perhaps the whole city.

CEC voting is open for all parents.

Ms. Geller reported that if the school receives the 10% of owed money we will make up the money lost when we lost our Title I funding. Some of the money that had to be spent this year was used to purchase supplies to help keep the cost down for families and to replenish recess toys. Other funds were spent on new library books, especially dual language resources and early education books.

ReadyGen has been our main reading curriculum for many years but is now discontinued. The school will begin searching for a new reading curriculum. It is possible to replace the math curriculum, but we may not change both curricula in the same year.

Some schools have been informed that they have received 3K classes for next year. We have not been informed of this yet, so this may mean we will not receive 3K.

Ms. Geller praised teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week and there was general acclaim for the heroic work of our teachers.

There was discussion of the Summer Rising program. It is a required all-day commitment. Ms. Geller's understanding is that there will be an academic portion, followed by a camp portion. Right now PS 166 is supposed to host kids from our school, 112, 76, 78, and 384. No guidance has been given about who will be teaching the academic portion or how the school will accommodate all children if they want spots.

PTA Report:

Picture day was a huge success! In a couple weeks we will receive codes for each student that we will ask teachers to share with families.

Our two big projects left of the year are an online auction, May 18-28. Teachers can still contribute special experiences.

The second project is school supplies for Fall 2021. We are asking parents to pay \$25/child to cover all supplies. Our first email will go out this week and we would love teachers to help promote the project.

Other Topics

Ms. Geller is still working on the SLT Remuneration form. She also shared that all teacher positions on SLT are up for election this year. There

No other concerns/topics/business were raised.

The meeting adjourned unanimously.

Follow Up Discussion on 5/17/2021

Ms. Geller confirmed that PS 166 will not get 3-K next year.

She also confirmed that she sent new SLT remuneration forms that all SLT members should fill out the form after our final meeting of the year.

The re-zoning committee will meet with our SLT on Monday, June 7 to discuss how the re-zoning plans will affect PS 166 families. Members should bring any questions to that meeting.

Ms. Geller has not received any particular word about the new funding announced from Albany. We have still not found out if we are designated Title I for this year. No word on the budget yet, but it came after the end of school last year so it is very uncertain this year.

The staff had a discussion about the school's new reading curriculum and decided to adopt "HMH Into Reading," which is a phonics based program already available in English and Spanish. The staff also elected to stay with Pearson Envision math, with the updated 2020 version that includes more digital resources.

No new details about the fall have been issued. However, the postings for teacher positions for Summer Rising are entirely in person, which suggests that the city is pressing for a robust opening.

PS 166 will be open for the summer. We have been partnered with four other public school: 76, 112, 78, and 384. Jacob Riis will be running the social camp component. They can take 165 students. However, there has been no guidance on how to divide these numbers between kids who are mandated for summer school and those families that sign up voluntarily. Ms. Geller does believe that all students will have to attend the academic portion and the social portion of each day.

Virtual Field Day week has begun! All students are encouraged to participate and post videos on FlipGrid.

There was discussion about continuing with SLT in Zoom format if it is allowed. The team agreed that assuming dates and times work for everyone, the SLT would like to continue meeting via Zoom. The issue will be revisited and confirmed next fall.

iReady testing will begin next week, but details are still being worked out for in person vs. remote testing.

PTA Update

The PTA Auction will start tomorrow May 18 and last until May 28. Everyone is encouraged to check out the items and bid away!

We are hosting a free family cooking night sponsored by Zenon Taverna on May 24. Families can sign up to pick up free ingredients.

Kathryn Reklis shared that she cannot run for PTA President again due to health and personal concerns and the PTA is seeking new parent volunteers to serve in leadership positions.

CEP Update

Ms. Matsas presented the CEP goals and plans for AY 2021-22. The data we had to compare this year are: iReady testing, MAPS testing, and NY State exams. The most recent NY state exams are from 2018. The youngest students who took those are now graduating, so this does not seem like valuable data. iReady scores are readily available and very helpful. The iReady scores help identify areas for growth and development.

A whole school goal for math is to focus on "Measurement and Data," which was an area of concern across all grades. The kids need more hands on and project-based learning to develop strength in this area. We will also set a school-wide goal to drop at least two percentage points in the number of students in the "at risk" tier from 7% to at least 5%.

A whole school goal for ELA is increased reading comprehension in both literary and informational texts. We will continue a strong phonics learning goal for the whole school. We will set a school-wide goal to increase the number of students in Tier 2 by at least 2%.

The struggles and challenges that are root causes of our challenges are among:

- the ongoing trauma of the pandemic
- the drastic transition to hybrid-online learning
- unequal learning supports at home
- potential trauma from loss of social-emotional connection
- absence of hands-on learning

Students will take spring iReady tests. We will compare those results to the Fall 2020 data and identify any new trends or insights. This will be shared with teachers and staff to discuss schoolwide initiatives to support school-wide goals.

Fela Cortés talked about the value of getting kids back engaged with tactile learning, particularly holding physical books to increase comprehension. Ms. Geller shared that the school spent nearly \$12,000 on supplemental books to add to each classroom.

Ms. Geller talked about possible new teacher positions and supports if full funding is restored: we have posted a job description for a visual art teacher so far. In the past, the school has had reading specialist, math support teachers, more cluster teachers, etc.

The meeting adjourned unanimously.