

School Leadership Team Meeting

Date: 04/21/2020 – Online via Google Meet

Compiled by Kathryn Reklis

Attendees: Jessica Geller, Katherine Tsimis, Lambrini Matsas, Kalliopi Alevriadis, Olivia Ramirez, Ingrid Nunez, Anastasia Smith, Michelle Perr, Emily Carrus, Kathryn Reklis, Fela Cortés, Guadalupe Marino, Maritza Baquerio

Absent: Jennifer Carre-Picerno

The minutes of the SLT meeting on March 2, 2020 will be approved electronically.

Principal's Report

This transition has been incredibly challenging and the staff is working incredibly hard to adjust to this new reality.

The DOE has promised to release a grading and promotion policy, hopefully this week.

Budget cuts predicted due to loss of Title I are now compounded by budget cuts across the city and state. We have made the difficult decision to combine the rising fourth grade and rising fifth grade program into one class each. This will mean shrinking each grade by seven students (4th grade) and eight students (5th grade). We are open to ideas about how to proceed.

There was general discussion suggesting that parents should have the option to volunteer to withdraw, coupled with teacher advice and insight about which students are struggling. If more parents volunteer than there are spots the school could rely on teacher recommendations or a lottery. If not enough parents volunteer, teachers should recommend and counsel students based on student grades and facility with Spanish.

The budget process for next year has not been explained yet. The school hopes to avoid excising positions by making budget cuts in other areas.

Kindergarten enrollment has been extended until the end of June, but we are not sure how this will proceed in this new environment. We expect to offer all the same cluster classes next year. It is difficult to plan until we know enrollment numbers, but we expect these to fluctuate more given global conditions.

Teachers and parents discussed their experiences with online learning. General discussion of the psychological burden kids are feeling and praise for the teachers for the care they are providing.

A suggestion was made to ask if Ms. Soper could host an emotional wellness day for each cluster of grades, and Ms. Geller confirmed that this was possible.

We have made contact with 100% of our students and we have 95-96% attendance rate on a daily basis. About 20 families are still waiting for electronic devices, which the DOE promises to provide soon.

PTA Report:

Read-A-Thon was happening when all of this happened. We raised a net of over \$7,000. The "prizes" that come with student donations will most likely have to wait until September. We hope to email fifth grade families to arrange to pick up prizes in the fall.

The DOE has not provided guidance on how to proceed with elections, though they will likely be postponed until the fall.

Other topics

Parent-teacher conferences for early May have been cancelled.

Graduation is being discussed among staff; plans will be shared as they are finalized. We will do whatever we can to make this special.

There is uncertainty about how to refund parents for caps and gowns and senior trip payments.

Right now, no one is allowed in the building. We hope that at some time before the end of the year very small numbers of people will be allowed to return to collect personal supplies or teaching materials.

Great uncertainty about school supplies and what we can afford to provide. We are investigating various options to see what might be possible and how to make these decisions.

No other concerns/topics/business were raised.

The meeting adjourned unanimously.