

School Leadership Team Meeting

Date:05/19/2020 – Online via Zoom

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, Jennifer Carre-Picerno, Jennifer Trizulino

The minutes of the SLT meetings on March 2, 2020 and April 20, 2020 were approved.

Principal's Report

New information is coming in every day and we are uncertain about many things.

There will be NO school on Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day. We have not learned any information about September. The DOE will be sending more information about how COVID is affecting children.

The DOE has announced grading criteria for the year. All students will be graded as "Meets Standards" or "Needs Improvement." We do not yet know exactly what "Needs Improvement" will indicate. We are still waiting for guidance about how we will assign individual grades (e.g. "Reads independently for a period of time"). In September, we will create contingency grading plans in case of future remote learning.

Ms. Geller shared the PS 166 grading rubric for the remote learning period (third marking period). Students can only improve their grade; they cannot go down. Students can go up by one level. In general, the goal is to cause no harm. On the other hand, we want to encourage all students to keep participating and learning for the remainder of the year. We still do not know what promotional criteria will be – for example, do all children with "Needs Improvement" have to attend summer school? Grades will be posted via the NY Schools account.

As mentioned at the last SLT meeting, the school is committed to reimbursing everyone for any money spent (e.g. field trips, caps and gowns) though it may not be until the fall. We will send a parent survey asking for preferences about this and other issues.

We are also working on creating celebratory ceremonies for fifth and kindergarten, but all will be asynchronous. We are proceeding with the fifth grade year book and fifth grade t-shirts. We have been told explicitly that we cannot give vendors our families' mailing addresses nor can things be sent to an administrator's home. We have to wait for guidance about when anyone can get into the school or how we will distribute from the school. Teachers are allowed to enter the building for very short periods to gather remote learning materials. But no parents are not yet allowed to enter.

There was discussion about whether or not to give fifth graders their caps and gowns for home ceremonies or keep sakes.

SLT members will still be paid for their hours. Ms. Geller will send digital timesheets, which are designed to be printed, signed, and sent back as photos/scans. If they cannot be signed, that is OK. All members need to re-enter hours. Emily Carrus can send photographs of the physical time sheets after next Tuesday. New SLT elections are tied together with PTA elections and as of now they have been delayed until September.

There will likely be an optional meeting to work on CEP planning in addition to the June SLT meeting.

The DOE has now made the “blue cards” (family information cards) available electronically. All blue cards will be filled out digitally for next year.

May Parent-teacher conferences were always held as “meet the teacher” overviews of the year instead of individual conferences. Teachers will schedule individual conferences with students who are struggling or need additional assistance.

There was some discussion about how to provide gifts to teachers at the end of the year. There has been some discussion about how to reach a cluster teacher. If they are not available on Dojo or they have not responded to Google Classroom, a parent can email the main school address (30Q166@schools.nyc.gov) and the school will forward it to the teacher.

Pre-K and Kindergarten enrollment is underway. We have had 14 Pre-K seats accepted out of the 36 offers. 45 general education slots out of 70+ and 26 out of 50 offers have been accepted so far. Families have until the end of June to accept an offer, which is much longer than usual. Staff will be calling parents to see if they plan to accept their offers. Once families officially decline, the school will move to the waiting list. There are no opportunities to skip ahead on the waiting list. We are not doing screening for the DL program this year. We anticipate movement across lists and off wait lists, but there is a lot of uncertainty about how many people will enroll. We are encouraging all families to accept their initial offer even if they want another offer. Accepting one offer does not prevent you from accepting another offer if it becomes available.

Final or further decisions will be made about the 4th and 5th grade DL classes by the June meeting.

We are very uncertain about our school supply situation for next year. School budgets have been frozen so the school has not purchased folders for the beginning of the year. The school does not have a huge reserve of school supplies. There are many questions about how the PTA Equitable School Supplies project will work: how could they be received, when will the school building be opened, will parent volunteers be allowed to enter the building, will parents contribute money, what supplies will be needed, do parents need supplies at home? There was a general discussion about the many

challenges, needs, and uncertainties facing this project and the opening of school in general. There was general consensus that all decisions will have to be made later when more information is available. Teachers, parents, and students will have to be flexible and patient with whatever the first part of the year brings.

There was general discussion about budget cuts and needs for next year, in particular imagining how to bring students into a digital environment without first knowing each other in a classroom.

PTA Report:

The Executive Committee will meet later this week and will have more information to share at the June meeting.

The PTA continues to debate school supplies and planning for PTA meetings.

We did receive an \$1800 matching donation from a parent's company.

The PTA has hired an accountant to file our taxes.

Other topics

Fela Cortés raised a question from another parent: what happens to the videos from live instruction? Ms. Geller responded that all videos are being archived but there is no guidance on how they will be stored or for how long.

All student accounts are DOE accounts and should move with students from grade to grade and school to school.

A parent asked if anyone in the PS 166 staff community was directly impacted by COVID. Ms. Geller shared that many staff members were directly impacted and that it had been a very difficult and intense few months.

No other concerns/topics/business were raised.

The meeting adjourned unanimously.