

School Leadership Team Meeting

Date: 9/11/2023 – Online via Zoom

Minutes Taken by Jennifer Aldano

Members in Attendance: Jessica Geller, Janis Soper, Jennifer Aldano, Kalliopi Alevriadis, Ingrid Nunez, Jennifer Trizulino, Katherine Tsimis, Erin Bersak LaFarge, Nicole Arriaga-Bell, Sarah Frazier, Krishna Ruano, Elizabeth O'Connor, Olivia Ramirez, Jennifer Picerno, Athena Gonzalez, and Tara Alcaraz

Additional individuals in attendance:

Absent: Lambrini Matsas

Meeting Convened

Minutes from 6/12/2023 unanimously approved

Principal's Report

SLT elections results for 3 roles:

Treasurer- Janis Soper

Secretary-Jennifer Aldano

Chair- Nicole Arriaga-Bell

SLT Meetings:

We are going back to our 2 hour format (pre-pandemic), we will be meeting one time a month for 2 hours. Since the SLT is a 3 hour a month commitment, the remaining hour can be completed by donating time to a PTA event or school event. The chair person is in charge of doing an agenda for any event in which the SLT person will attend so that we can add to remuneration at the end of the year.

Anastasia Smith has left the school to become an assistant principal in a school in LI. Thankfully Ms. Trizulino and Ms. Morales have stepped up to fill her ESL roles and Ms. Waxman will be taking over her role as student body advisor.

Budget and Enrollment:

Budget is fine. The budget is based on the number of students enrolled. This year we projected 764 students (k-5) and we are well over 800 students. Including pre-k we are approximately 865.

Mr. Forman is no longer with us as of June. We had 3 gym teachers and we were going to go to a gym and a health class; additionally we needed more ESL teachers out of the classroom to service all these students.

Based on a conversation with the SLT, we opened a theatre class cluster which will be taught by Ms. Velez and will be hopefully up and running at the end of the week.

We are still in need of more ESL teachers. We have already reached out for additional funding because of all the enrollment surge. If anyone knows of a licensed ENL teacher or holds a license even if they have not worked under that license per the new tenure rules they will not lose their place in tenure. We are looking to hire at least 1 if not 2 ESL teachers.

We raised the limits on G&T classes. We have one class over full. We had to collapse the 3rd grade Dual language class into once class and currently it is at 33 students.

Due to students leaving either to other schools or moving within the school the dual language classes had to be combined to one.

Many of the Spanish speaking new registrants are enrolling in the kindergarten and 1st grade dual language classes and for the 1st time in a very long time Ms. Ramirez and Ms. Pappas are just about filled in their dual language classes. That leaves it at 25 and 25 and this can sustain 2 classes.

Ms. Nunez and Mr. Roman are teaching the 1st grade section and taking on a substantial amount of enrollment. Many changes happen right before school starts which is why we don't release the names of teachers prior to school year. This year one teacher did not return and we had to make a change the day before school started.

Currently:

3rd, 4th and 5th grade dual language classes are full

3rd grade ESL is full

A little room in 4th grade ESL

It was a lot the 1st few days of school with a lot of enrollment, many kids who don't speak the language and the enormous heat but everything is settling in.

Email was received providing notice of 15 more students coming to enroll 5 of which are 3rd grade students. If the 3rd grade class is at capacity, we would look to open a new class.

They recently converted the paper factory hotel which is right on 36 street and that shelter is zoned for us. There is a lot of small children (pre-k). Agreed to open another pre-k but said we would need funding which has not come our way as of yet.

Some of the other issues we are encountering with the migrants is that some of them have special needs and they have either (a) never been in school because their country didn't have any programming that allowed for it or (b) they were in school but do not have the paperwork to substantiate the placement that they had in their school. All of this is causing an issue because technically we cannot just declare a child Special Ed despite our experience or interaction. We have already opened several initial cases for kids that have special needs ranging from severe to speech and OT related. All things that can be met here but it provides an extra challenge particularly in languages that are not Spanish.

We have already hired 5 new teachers this year and 7 new para professionals in addition to a family worker (a clerical assistant that works with the school psychologist). We have a new SAAPAS- Ms. Nelsi

Other items:

Currently there is a potential bus driver strike. We hope it doesn't happen, we have over 300 kids relying on bus service. Many families who work and will have hardship getting them to school and families in shelters will have financial hardships so we hope it can be resolved.

For busing we had a good start for this school year. We are currently at 12 buses in the afternoon. We have a great group of school aides working the group.

We have to vote at the PTA meeting to see if the parents agree to the pushback of the parent teacher conference. The teachers voted in June to make the semesters more evenly balanced.

Dr. Composto retired in June and the Lisa Hidalgo is the Superintendent. She was a principal in this district and only left for one year when she took a role as a deputy superintendent.

Calendar

No school on 9/25/2023 in observance of Yom Kippor

We will begin celebrating Hispanic heritage month on 9/15/2023

International Peace day on 9/21/2023- Tie Dye day

PTA Report:

Pig Beach will be on Wednesday. Everyone welcome to join

PTA meeting will be tonight 9/11/2023

We will be selling swag at PTA and Pig Beach

Planning a teacher appreciation breakfast as a thank you for the influx of students, hard work etc. Date TBD

Foregoing fright night this year because we are doing a fall festival and the D3 trunk or treat. We are replacing that with a mad scientist event earlier in October for the kids. It will be a free social event.

Due to influx of migrant children and lower income families we want to emphasize more free events.