

Cynthia Chory

Principal

Nilda Marrero and Robin Edmonds

Assistant Principals

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School Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Minutes

Present: Leona Brady-Price, Amanda Burley, Tom Canning, Shelley Castro, Cynthia Chory, Sarah Durham, Isabelle Elton, Marianne Kugler, Jennifer Rose, Hope Traficanti

Review and approval of minutes

The SLT Co-Chair Sarah Durham called the meeting to order and the minutes of the January SLT meeting were reviewed and approved.

Budget

- Ms. Chory reported that the school received approximately \$15,000 in registered growth funding; the funds will be used to pay personnel to grade the state ELA tests instead of sending teachers, who would otherwise miss class for five days. Any funds left over will be used for books and supplies.
- Ms. Chory is still lobbying for the school to receive the \$11,000 for No Child Left Behind.

Mission statement

- Sarah Durham presented the work of the sub-committee dedicated to revising the school's Mission Statement, which focused on academics, and community involvement and high expectations.
- Members suggested revisions to make the statement more concise and focused, while embodying the common values and goals of our children's education.
- The sub-committee will meet before the next SLT meeting to finalize the Mission Statement and formulate a Vision Statement, which will elaborate future goals for the school.

Communications survey

- Following a survey in the last school year on parent communications, ideas were discussed for focusing this school year's survey in certain education areas.
- Suggested questions related to: IEP communications (existing and new IEP parents, speech, OT, counseling, ENL); how often parents reach out to teachers (emails, messaging apps, personal meetings); parents' use of Engrade for communications; parents' preferred communication channels (PowerPoint slides on the website, etc), and parents awareness of teachers' communication preferences;

- It is important to provide parents with guidance on expectations in teacher-parent communications and academic requirements.

Elementary school art teacher

- At the last PTA meeting, a parent queried whether the school could hire a full-time art teacher; this falls within the broader discussion on the school's vision, coordinated fundraising and long-term planning.
- Funding a full-time art teacher would require greater coordination within the school community to develop a long-term strategy for resourcing teachers and developing comprehensive curricula.
- There is also a critical need for early-intervention teachers in reading and other basics, and to be fair and equitable to the entire student body.
- With greater coordination, the school community has the potential to greatly expand the school's offerings; SLT members stressed the importance of: educating parents about the school's needs; and building consensus for a strategic fundraising in line with a long-term vision.

Next meeting – March 16