

Cynthia Chory

Principal

Nilda Marrero and Robin Edmonds

Assistant Principals

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School Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, November 18 2015

Minutes

Present: Amanda Burley, Tom Canning, Shelley Castro, Cynthia Chory, Sarah Durham, Isabelle Elton, Alexis Higgins, Marianne Kugler, Jennifer Rose, Hope Traficanti, Lori Uysal

Review and approval of minutes

The SLT Chair Lori Uysal called the meeting to order and the minutes of the October SLT meeting were reviewed and approved.

Budget

- Approximately \$45,000 in funding for the school's increase in students was being withheld. Ms. Chory would pursue the issue with the DOE; class sizes are larger than last year and funds are badly needed for intervention services (56% of students are not performing at grade level).
- There would be a change in teacher for 5th and 6th grade literacy; Ms. Chory would notify parents at the next PTA meeting and parents could attend coffee with Chory or speak with Ms. Edmonds about the issue.

School quality review

- Officials from the DOE and State Education Department conducted an exhaustive and transparent school quality review; the reviewers visited classrooms and provided valuable feedback. The school received two scores of 'Well developed' (school community and environment) and three 'Proficient' scores.

Literacy intervention

- At the last PTA meeting, members voted to devote \$2,400 to literacy interventions. A targeted population has been selected based on needs; however additional students could benefit from these interventions (ideally, intervention groups should have 12 students and meet twice per week).
- The amount of funds from school photos would not be available until December, but was projected at \$10,000; the PTA membership would vote on allocation of those funds.
- Extended day programmes are a possibility, but not all children can take advantage of them.
- Ms. Chory suggested holding a strategic planning workshop in December to prioritize the school community's needs for the next five years, refining the long-term vision for the school (in line with feedback provided by

school quality review). This would include providing new opportunities for children socially, emotionally and academically.

Project-based learning

- Benchmarks of project-based learning like the wax museum highlight children's creativity and knowledge across many academic areas and provide opportunities for teachers and administrators to interact with students in novel ways.
- SLT members recommended increasing the number of these benchmark projects, especially in middle school.
- Inter-disciplinary projects are more challenging in middle school because students have different teachers for different subjects; this requires greater coordination.
- An assessment of all those in each grade (similar to the previous assessment of field trips by grade) would be conducted by Ms. Burley.
- It is important to make these learning projects public to parents – especially those new to the school.

Other business

- Ms. Burley will nominate two teachers to share their perspectives on the Lions Quest curriculum.

Next meeting – December 2