

Cynthia Chory

Principal

Nilda Marrero and Robin Edmonds

Assistant Principals

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School Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Minutes

Present: Amanda Burley, Tom Canning, Shelley Castro, Cynthia Chory, Sarah Durham, Isabel Elton, Alexis Higgins, Marianne Kugler, Jessica Mitchell, 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 September SLT meeting were reviewed and approved.

Budget

- Ms. Chory presented an update on the school budget. Money for additional students enrolled in the school will not come until December.
- PS/IS 187 is one of two schools in District 6 to be awarded funding through "Rewards for school progress" from New York State; these funds will not arrive until March 2016, and must be earmarked.
- Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez has provided funding for the school to improve acoustics in the cafeteria, upgrade the A/V system in the auditorium and install cameras in the school.

Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP)

- The CEP sub-committee fine-tuned the CEP and produced a final version; all SLT members were required to sign the final draft of the CEP.

501c3/PTA/Friends Committee

- In the last school year, this sub-committee recommended that the new PTA (which had submitted an application for 501c3 status) and Friends of 187 501c3 should merge.
- In this school year, the sub-committee should re-form to facilitate the merging of visions of the two organizations, and complementary programming and fundraising; this issue is addressed by the SLT because it relates to funds utilized by the school.
- SLT members discussed the size and constitution of the sub-committee to ensure optimal representation of parents, teachers, administrators and PTA and Friends board members.
- Alexis Higgins Ms. Castro Ms. Edmonds; Isabelle Elton will serve on the sub-committee. Hope Traficanti and Ms. Rose will be back-up representatives. Ms. Edmonds will announce the first meeting.

Math curriculum reinforcement

- In light of the challenging math curriculum, parents cannot adequately support their children given new terminology and processes related to the Common Core.
- There are perforated vocabulary cards in the beginning of the GoMath book, which teachers can send home; the GoMath online system Think Central will be accessible in a few weeks (it is a free service but there is an additional fee-for-service tool).
- The school needs to communicate better to parents about Think Central and how to use it – a letter will go home in backpacks with login info, but more information for parents may be needed.
- Tuesdays are appropriate for parent discussions with teachers; if teachers know there is a need, they may hold a workshop for groups of parents.
- That there is no text book available for the sixth grade math curriculum (however there are reference books; some teachers create their own packets).
- The school has requested a waiver for eighth grade students to take more than only the Common Core Regents (which could improve students' placement in high schools).
- Pacing calendars are not providing adequate time for mastery of challenging concepts such as fractions; in addition, there is little alignment across grades among basic learning and more difficult math concepts.

Class size/3rd grade support

- Due to funding constraints, third grades are unusually large this school year; academically, the work is more difficult. Academic coaches are a valuable tool for assisting students; CPRs can also organize parents to assist.
- After-school literacy and math intervention programs will soon be available for 3rd and 4th grade soon; there is no funding for in-school literacy or math intervention (but in this case, children do not miss classroom time).
- Class size has risen because caps for numbers of children raise for each grade, and the school does not have funds to maintain extra classes.
- Academic coaches are focused on younger grades; their availability should be communicated to CPRs across all grades. Teachers are ultimately responsible for communicating classroom needs.

Other business

- The DOE will conduct a school quality review in November.

Next meeting – November 18