



School Leadership Team (SLT) Minutes

October 7, 2015

Attendees:

Name	Representation
Claire Lowenstein	Principal
Mary Ann Schmidt	UFT Rep
Stephanie Douglas	Teacher
Erin Moughon-Smith	Teacher
Patricia Kelly	Teacher
Meredith McAssey	Teacher
Suzanne Blank	Teacher
Lisa Giella-Putignano	Parent/Co-PA President
Susan Gargiulo	Parent Rep (4-6)
Kavita Singh Gilchrist	Parent Rep (K-3)
Manuela Zamora	Parent Rep (7-8)
Marisol Morales-Roman	Parent Rep (All Grades)
Maxine Witherspoon	Parent Coordinator/ Observer

The October SLT Meeting began at 3:25pm in Room 519.

1. Welcome

Communications Update – Susan updated the MSC website with the current SLT member names and what the SLT does.

2. Principal's Report

Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP): Claire reported that she received feedback from the DOE on the updated CEP (Comprehensive Education Plan) that was recently submitted. Updates need to be made and submitted by 10/31/15.

Claire asked us to work on addressing the section called Strong Family and Community Ties. The committee broke into 2 groups and reviewed and drafted initial responses for this section.

Manuela will email one group and work via email to finalize their responses. The other group will meet on 10/13 with Claire and a group that is working on the broader updates.

Facilities Update:

Erin reported on the **updating of the auditorium sound system**. They met with facilities and the estimate for repairs was \$460K. The grant provided is only for \$160K.

Charlie Jones and Andree Sanders sat down with DOE – to review the budget and see what could be cut. They were able to cut a number of lines.

They've now sent DOE a revised proposal and are waiting to hear back. Andree is working on getting a second grant to fund some of it. If all goes as planned, the work would likely be done by end of February 2016.

Work to be done includes: whole new speaker system, mounted; 2 wireless soundboards, digital mics, DVD playback, iPad connection. Also getting a new projector, mounted up high.

Equipment will have secured storage with keys. The auditorium is shared with the other schools so anyone who gets keys would need to be trained.

The **sound hasn't been working in the auditorium** since school started. Two speakers are blown. The other school needs to reach out to the vendor who installed it to see when they can fix it. Charlie is looking into a temporary solution, such as bringing in his own.

Bid went out for the outside roof work needed: parapets and pointing of the corner bricks. Work is predicted to start Feb. 2016, once the bid is accepted and run for 2 years. Once work starts, schoolyard will be closed at 4pm.

Water Fountains: Deputy Director of facilities said that the parts purchased by PTA would not fit. They're now ordering new parts which should arrive in about 3 weeks and then they'll install them.

3. Parent's Report.

Updates provided by Lisa.

As part of the **Caring Community Initiative**, volunteer "barker" has been out for past 2 weeks, **encouraging people to take the stairs** instead of the elevator. Seems to be working well; so far no complaints. A parent has volunteered to work on a visual/PSA type campaign to provide more education on taking the stairs. We're reaching out to Junior Honor Society to do some work as well.

Another update, under our Caring Community Initiative: A parent was hurt, assaulted (not near MSC). PTA sent them a Fresh Direct gift card.

On Lice: We sent out a blast by email with information on how to take care of lice. DOE also provided a hardcopy sheet with information, sent home via student backpacks.

On 10/20th, Andree Sanders and Suzanna Shelley (parents) will host a lice clinic.

4. Unfinished Business

a. Reviewed SLT meeting schedule. Because of possible conflicts, the following **meeting date changes were made:**

- November meeting moved to **Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 3:15pm.**
- March meeting moved to **Wednesday, March 9th at 3:15pm.**

b. Planned the remaining SLT workshop schedule for 2015 – 2016 school year

Susan reviewed the list of last year’s workshops.

<i>Title</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>What</i>
MSC Partnership Mixer	October	Open House for families with all external academic partners
Understanding Responsive Classroom (Part II)	November	Small group interactions for parents facilitated by Claire, Wendy and 2 nd Grade Teachers
Understanding Reading Levels	December	Audra Robb presented a workshop to parents to understand how teachers determine reading levels and what they mean
How to talk so kids will listen and listen so kids will talk (Part III)	April	Outside speaker, Shelly McDonald, presented parenting strategies in line with responsive classroom
Stayin’ Smart and Safe Online	May	Panel presented strategies and answered questions on navigating social media to 6 – 8 th graders and parents.
Arts Showcase	June	Arts faculty presenting series of in-school events highlighting MSC’s art-rich curriculum, culminating in evening presentations for families.
Responsive Classroom – Part I	End of 2013-14 School year	An overview of responsive classroom principles

The SLT discussed possible changes, substitutions or revisions. Suggestions from the committee included:

- These workshops were seen as very successful. We should repeat them:
 - Shelly McDonald “How to talk so kids will listen and listen so kids will talk”
 - Suzanne Shelly “Staying Smart & Safe Online” A KEEPER ! We could open it up 4th and 5th graders but that would preclude parents attending as well. Parents appreciated being there to hear the presentation to their kids. This was left unresolved.
 - Partnership Mixer (scheduled for 10/13/15)
- Should we repeat Responsive classroom? Someone said it was well attended.
- Should we add a separate Math workshop? Claire said we are doing a new math curriculum called Engaged NY, being used for 1st – 8th grade. 6th-8th is using the the Connected Mathematics project.
- Should we keep the reading workshop, but broaden it and possibly splitting out the grade levels and have 2 nights... K-3 and 4-8? Possibly discuss this with reading levels. Organize by separate grade levels or by house?
- New workshop suggestions:
 - Workshop about independence (walking without your parents)
 - Anxiety for parents about Testing
 - Add responsive classroom I to the workshop night.
- Should we do a combined reading and math workshop on the same evening?

Teacher were asked, what do you want the parents to know, if we were to do a Math and Reading workshop night combined?

- What is the approach?
- What is coming up? Here is what the unit is going to look like, might be more concrete.
- Show old vs. new approach
- What if 8th graders did a math share?
- Engaged NY is all online. Erin said all 8th graders have digital copies of the book. If someone has a curricular question, they could refer to that.
- Possibly do breakout sessions – Stephanie @ Independent reading, Erin @ Engaged NY.
- Kate (responsive classroom PD person) could videotape the what and why... philosophy - -- then breakout into groups.

If we move forward with joint Math and Ela workshop night – these issues would need to be resolved:

- Teachers would need to volunteer (as they did in Responsive classroom). **Teacher reps will reach out to their houses and figure out who could represent.** Stephanie & Erin will reach out to 6-8. Erin will run an iLearn room.
- Would need to find a NEW name... not curriculum night. Do a jigsaw workshop where people can sign up and visit different things in different rooms.
- We will be bargaining for access to the bldg. while we're under construction. Keep in mind we should save this for our BIG events.

Since this topic needs to be discussed further at the next meeting, the SLT agreed to start with Shelly McDonald workshop "How to talk so kids will listen and listen so kids will talk" as the November workshop. Manuela will reach out to her and check availability.

5. New Business

Claire suggested putting chats with Claire WITH the PTA meeting schedule.

6. SLT Events Update

a. Partnership Mixer on 10/13 (with evening PA meeting)

- RTS – will provide free childcare. Confirmed we can use room 306 for the childcare.

- End the PTA mtg talking about Friends of MSC, which funds many of our partners.

I-Learn and UA are free partnerships that we applied for. Everything else, is paid for by PA.

Music program: Meghan has always been here. 2 new teachers hired – to provide more music (Stefan & Devra)

Meeting adjourned. **Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 10th** at 3:15pm.