

**MSC School Leadership Team
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2015
Meeting started at 3:15 in Room 519**

Attendees:

| Name | Representation |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Claire Lowenstein | Principal |
| Mary Ann Schmidt | UFT Rep |
| Stephanie Douglas | Teacher |
| Erin Moughon-Smith | Teacher |
| Patricia Kelly | Teacher |
| Meredith McAssey | Teacher |
| Brad Rothschild | Parent/Co-PA President |
| Susan Gargiulo | Parent Rep (4-6) |
| Manuela Zamora | Parent Rep (7-8) |
| Marisol Morales-Roman | Parent Rep (All Grades) |

1. Chair welcomed the members and reviewed agenda.

Chair reported on SLT training. As mandated by the DOE, all SLT members received a copy of the MSC SLT By Laws and a copy of the Regulations of the Chancellor for SLT's. A-655. It was noted that SLT members are expected to work a total of 30 hours. Yearly meeting hours add up to 10 meetings/15 hours; the additional 15 hours per member will be recorded on a SLT member activity log--which template was also provided at the meeting—reflecting tasks performed in addition to meeting hours.

Chair also informed the requirement of a PD/seminar SLT members need to attend as a team. An online version is available, a committee will get organize a get together to accomplish the goal.

2. Principal's report

Door alarms have been challenging since parents open the doors and the alarm goes on in all the building. It is especially disruptive for the school on the first floor. The problem might persist, maybe because it is a new system. Most importantly, it was noted that for some families, the accessible doors are the only option to enter the building, therefore this policy is not inclusive and is challenging for our community.

The additional problem is that we need someone to man the auditorium door. When the agents buzz the door, the alarm also goes on. In addition, security agents have not been supportive.

Suggestions: Message the families again they only can come through to the main door of the building except for accessibility.

Considerations: If the accessible door is ever disarmed, an adult has to be there. This Law is based on Avonte's case to avoid any kid leaving the building. Since the accessible door is an exit, it has to be alarmed. Claire is fighting it since it is the only door that special needs population can use, it is their front door. But again, other families are still using the door and the alarm is going on.

Door problem solution/messaging will be given to the Caring community group as a new project. Claire will add an explanation to the community in her next Monday letter.

3. PTA report by Brad

a) The fundraiser Pie Tasting and Sale was reported as a great success in the community. A Pie order form was shared with the team. The form is available on line, hard copies were distributed during the tasting on 11/6 at the school lobby and forms were also distributed to teachers and administration.

b) An issue of concern is the building scaffolding and kids playing on it is still is a problem. Caregivers are not taking care of their children after all mass emails sent by the school.

Solutions: netting and signs. PTA suggested they would pay for the netting (cost calculated in about 3K)

Suggestions: SLT members suggested to get political support from Helen Rosenthal to request that the SCA covers that costs as an additional security measure to avoid student accidents.

Teachers agreed to talk to older kids so they can help showing a good example as well as telling young kids not to play on the scaffolding.

c) The PTA have decided to change the daily email blast and streamline it to 2 emails per week. The analytics of emails show 50% of emails are open across the board with no difference based on day of the week, or time it is sent.

d) Staff appreciation day Dec 3rd- Thursday 5-7 PTA funded

4. CEP review – Section 5A – Framework for Great Schools

Review of the 1st framework (Rigorous Instruction) to support the goals of the school and its CEP.

8 grade ELA Stephanie suggested organizing a workshop that supports parents on independent reading at home. A workshop that shows all ways parents can help at home, to have a more active reading support.

A Workshop at Book Culture (Susan and Chris) was suggested, organized by Stephanie and Meredith . The ideal dates are second or third week of December. Specific date to be confirmed based on Book Culture availability. Brad will follow-up with Susan and Chris.

Math 7+8 Erin suggested a workshop to foster math connections to real life. The workshop would address the anxiety of learning and the frustration on “why I am learning this.”

Storytelling Mary Ann said that the program Engaging Math doesn't necessarily fit our mission statement for grades k-5 (different program from the one we used in the past: the context for learning). The Math program for 6-8th grade is called CMP3 . Meredith's class had this year a mini parent workshop and taught how to do understand the math curriculum. 2nd grade, went through a lot of steps teaching this math program.

Teachers agreed on the importance to always adapt the programs we use for math and ELA into our progressive philosophy. They also brought up the importance to support new teachers that might not be as progressive and experienced as teachers who have been at MSC for a longer period of time.

It was suggested to discuss revisions or additions to the CEP in February 2016 to make sure the plan aligns to our mission statement of progressive education, connecting learning through hands-on approach with the whole child perspective. CEP could include efforts to talk about becoming a PRO school, but most importantly, what progressive education is at MSC.

Claire commented that all curriculum should be common core aligned, the bigger question is how we own it, how to manipulate it to make it ours. Therefore, teachers teach the common core standards with a progressive approach. For example, portfolios are a way to lean about the whole child, we have a student-centered approach, we have “unconferenced” practices since everybody in the room is valuable.

The importance to maintain the school philosophy and to transfer this knowledge into the upper school was discussed. A workshop on how we talk about progressive education was suggested. A workshop for parents on what is Progressive Education and what makes MSC a progressive school.

4th grade Patty brought the idea of having a "Progressive Potluck" (or Curriculum Night Part 2) to be scheduled for January. The idea behind a "Progressive Potluck" is the analogy so each group/presentation involved would represent one course.

One of the Chancellor's initiatives is mandating to have students involved in family conferences. A piece of this event can be an example of student's lead conferences.

The goal is that in March all kids attend the parent-teacher conferences and they lead the conferences.

Problem: this format will extend the conference time

Suggestion: have the conferences during a half day.

Ideas to be considered for this event:

- Progressive educators network, a group of K-8th grade schools
- How we have grown as a school in the Common Core era
- K-8 Progressive education night
- Key note speaker + Claire
- DELTA math with Jeff
- I learn tutorial
- Responsive classroom

5. Meeting Adjourned with remaining CEP Frameworks to be reviewed in future meetings. Other New Business items postponed to next meeting:

- Common Language Guidelines - Erin