



School Leadership Team (SLT) Minutes

April 6, 2015

Attendees:

Name	Representation
Claire Lowenstein	Principal
Mary Ann Schmidt	UFT Rep
Erin Moughon-Smith	Teacher
Patricia Kelly	Teacher
Meredith McAssey	Teacher
Suzanne Blank	Teacher
Brad Rothschild	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

SLT Meeting began at 3:15pm in Room 519.

1. Welcome – Chair

Reviewed Agenda.

2. Principal's Report

Waiting for 2nd round of eighth graders' high school placements before announcing.

Science fair meeting held yesterday. School is planning for a day and evening session.

Completed 2 days of testing, with new 'extended' time for productively working. Kids who weren't done in the suggested time frame were escorted to a room. If it went beyond they were able to take a break/have lunch and then get back to it. Claire thinks it has helped some kids with anxiety, and teachers said kids were actually spending more time.

3. Parent's Report

Brad asked if any teachers had taken the kids to the food pantry yet. SLT teachers said that Gerri did as well as the 5th grade. Marisol explains the point/value system that was explained to the kids by the Food Pantry, based on your need. Idea is to have all the students visit and then in 2 weeks, MSC

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will make their food drive donations, making a connection between the two. Donations should all be non-perishables.

4. Old Business

Welcome to MSC Event – Will be on Monday, May 9th at 6-7:30pm – for ALL NEW families to the school, primarily Kindergarten families. Agenda is to share with families what the school is – get excited about the school and about progressive education. Then Lisa & Brad will get up and explain what are the expectations of parents/PTA.

- Will be followed by a meet and greet with students:
- Request to Erin to identify some 7th and 8th graders who could be there. Erin suggests the music students who have practice until 6pm. Erin will reach out to student government and music kids.

Suggestions from SLT:

- Have people with nametags: I'm a parent, I'm a student, I'm on the SLT, I'm a teacher

- Who does Claire want to do the progressive education at MSC? Claire is going to ask the 1st and 2nd grade teachers.
- Important to have someone speak about Inclusive education. Manuela explained that 10 years ago, it was very clearly explained. Can we possibly get a parent to speak to this?
- Erin suggests the 7th and 8th graders do a song, showcasing upper grade students.

Update on Auditorium: It's awesome. Can be controlled by an iPad, sound is amazing. Camera set up next to projector, records at 1080i – can be zoomed in and out on the iPad !
Stage is in process of being fixed.

Update on lighting: Parent who works for a DOE approved contractor. Had great suggestions for portable, battery operated lights. Also have stage monitors now.
Have applied to Helen Rosenthal and Gail Brewer for additional funding.

School Survey Results – Maxine was not yet present.

As of April 4th: 89% teachers, 61% parents, 78% students responded.

Suggestions: phone chain/tree next year to increase response rate.

Middle school event - for who? Even though we do so much publicity, there seems a disconnect. We want to start outreaching to kids in 4th grade. Kids have to be involved – we really need the kids to want to stay. Also want to build in buy in from our teachers.

Suggestions to connect upper to lower grades more:

Suzanne Shelley did a fireside chat. We do a tour also for the existing 5th grade families.

Patti: we have a couple new 4th grade teachers. They are very committed, but they need to be educated about the upper grade. Stephanie did poetry with the younger grades.

How do we help K-3 see the upper grades more? There are reading buddies. 7th graders read to 3rd graders.

Marianne: Let's switch the town hall permanently to K-8. Classes come with their reading buddies. Possibly alternate this mixed approach.

Power of Stephanie and Kristin's presentation: The rigor, the depth, the socratic exchange.

Erin: Her kids made a game for K-8 and had the younger kids come up and play the game.

Pull upper grade kids into more events so parents can meet more of them.

5. New Business

Writopia offer – She won a grant from a foundation so could do ONE (1) 9-week cycle with a grade. As an elective? She is proposing to do it for MS kids who could submit for the Scholastic award.

Marianne & Erin: Please talk to your group about what you think could be possible.

Claire suggests starting as an elective. (Erin has 15 and 17 kids in her electives)

Susan task: Tell writopia that the teachers are going to talk/think about it. She'll also find out when the awards actually are.

Who's Who project – Need teacher and paraprofessional list.

Katharine, 2nd grade parent and Claire Wasserman, parent will do the photos and artistic display.

Want to do one on each floor – here's who you have on this floor.

OTHER suggestion: a group photo by floor

- ARON will present his book on May 20th. Also same day as used book fair. And a former 8th graders reunion

- Ask Justine to do some video interviews: Best memory.. etc.

IDC event: America's Promise viewing with filmmaker - 6pm to 7:45pm. Help promote this.

International Thespian day: Erin taking 9 students. (last year she took 2 students.)

SLT Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.