

## MINUTES

School Leadership Team of P.S./I.S. 78Q The Robert F. Wagner, Jr. School  
Friday, November 10, 2017  
7:15AM, Family Room, MS Building

Minutes Taken by Esther Verhalle (EV).

Members present: Genevieve Bernier (GB), Gerry Gianutsos (GG), Carmen Gibson (CG), Tomoko Kawamoto (TK), Erin Morrissey (EM), Victoria Mulligan (VM), Louis Pavone (LP), Lakshmi Reddy (LR), AnneMarie Tamis (AT), Esther Verhalle (EV).

Observer: present

### **Review / Approval of minutes**

- October Minutes approved with corrections.

### **CEP**

- CEP was submitted to the Superintendent and was approved.
- EV looked up the DoE's survey questions that informed a statement in Section 5B Supportive Environment, Part 1 regarding the relationship between children's strong character and students' own belief in following school rules and feelings of safety. EV did not find proof of the stated relationship between the factors and suggests to amend the text. She will leave feedback online through DoE's iPlan.

### **Parent Coordinator**

- LP announces that the school has hired and is currently processing a new parent coordinator, who can hopefully start next week

### **Learning Leaders**

- The parent coordinator will be coordinating the Learning Leaders, relieving Ms. Morgan of this temporary task.
- EV asks if there is any new development regarding the certification of new parent volunteers. LP explains that this is a responsibility of the DoE/the Superintendent, not the parent coordinator

### **Panel for Educational Policy (PEP)**

- LP wants to bring the activities of PEP to everyone's attention. The panel, consisting of 13 appointed members (by Borough Presidents and by Mayor) and the NYC Chancellor, discusses city schools and educational policy. The PEP was the body that approved the expansion of PS78 in 2009, when the new school building was planned.
- All data and info regarding PEP can be found on the DoE website (videos, agenda's)
- LP offers to forward emails he receives from the panel that can be of interest, to all SLT members

Before going to the last agenda item, EV asks why there is no Q&A on the agenda this month. EV assumed that a question that came up after the deadline to send in agenda items and after the agenda was mailed, could be mentioned during a fixed Q&A. GG does not agree with introducing a fixed agenda item named "Q&A". Others had understood last month's discussion about Q&A as agenda item differently, assuming we had agreed to have the item fixed on the agenda. We could call it "New Business". Team agrees that "Q&A" will be a new agenda item.

### **Bylaws**

- Article II, Section 8 Responsibilities of School Leadership Members.  
EV: in the DoE's example of SLT Bylaws, and in both proposals for amendments of the bylaws, a paragraph states that "the SLT shall provide an annual assessment to the superintendent / community of

the principal's record of developing an effective shared decision-making relationship with the SLT members during the year."

EV asks what the annual task entails. GG thinks it is reflected in the signature page of the CEP.

- LP provides information about SLT training sessions that are organized in District 30. Possibly, representatives would be able to answer the question. EV will contact office of FACE and/or DLT members for clarification.
- For now, the paragraph will be maintained as is.
- EV asks if in the last paragraph of Section 8 concerning effective communication with constituent groups more specifics need to be added. The consensus is to leave the text general instead of adding specific means of communication such as bulletin boards, websites and class parents.
- TK requests to add the topic of efficient communication with constituents to the agenda of next month's SLT meeting.

## **Q&A/New Business**

### **Alternative lunch**

- LP distributes examples of School Food's regular and alternative lunch menus. Parents have shown interest in replacing the current menu with the alternative menu. LP suggests a survey among parents. In order to change the menu, 80% of the people who return the survey need to be in favor of change. We can further discuss, including during PTA meetings, if this is something we want to vote on.

### **Garden**

- LP informs that on Election Day, teachers attended a workshop about integration of the garden in the school curriculum and student use of the school gardens. Teachers were introduced to websites which included lesson plans and other resources. (EM)
- The students in K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade have better access to the school garden in Gantry State Park than to the garden next to the Middle School Building.
- Currently parents have organized in a Committee. There are also plans to organize an After School Club.
- SASF (after school for MS students) has shown interest in participating in a Garden Club
- One of the parent-organizers concerning the garden, Ms. Lin, would like to present ideas to the SLT. This idea can be discussed during next month's meeting. In addition, EV would like to discuss inviting members of student government in case a presentation takes place.

### **SASF**

- SASF has now added chess to its after school activities.
- LP has discussed possibilities to have SASF organize after school programs in our school for K-5, in addition to grades 6-8. As a non-Title I school, after school programs for K-5 are not funded in our school.

### **Turkey Trot**

- PTA calls for volunteers to help with the event.
- TK, GB note and commend the volunteering by Middle School Students during the Fall Festival and would like to know how best to attract volunteers among grades 6-8. Possibly through Student Council.
- LP notes that it is important to find out the names of the students who volunteered in order for them to receive credit. It is a form of community service that MS students are expected to do before graduation. Community service is a graduation expectation for Middle School.

### **Student Council**

- LP informs that the Student Council induction needs to be added to the current PTA agenda

Adjourned, 8:16AM. Seconded by VM