

MINUTES

School Leadership Team Meeting, P.S./I.S. 78Q, The Robert F. Wagner, Jr. School
Friday, April 12, 2019
7:15AM, Family Room, MS Building

Minutes Taken by Gerry Gianutsos.

Members present: Genevieve Bernier (GB), Bree Chambers (BC), Andre Galan (AG), Gerry Gianutsos (GG), Carmen Gibson (CG), Nancy Mendez-Shiu (NM), Erin Morrissey (EM), Annawa Naing (AN), Ann Marie Nasello (AMN), Louis Pavone (LP), Dennis Wysocki (DW)

- Review / Approve Minutes
 - Minutes approved with changes.
- CEP
 - CEP stipulates that we will have 4 marking periods and 3 updates to parents during the year.
 - LP indicates that he is in favor of maintaining the status quo.
 - LP outlines discussion with AN in which different possibilities were raised.
 - LP feels it is important to have 4 marking periods so that there is consistency throughout the grades.
 - LP presents a compromise from discussion with AN in which he agreed to allow classroom teachers to only print reading levels from Assessment Pro and will not require them to handwrite levels into a grid. They can also do this at the end of the year to pass along to the next year's teacher.
 - LP also presented compromises to dispense with the progress report in April/May and allow classroom teachers to use a printout from Assessment Pro as an alternative to filling out a progress report.
 - AN states that before this school expanded to include middle school grades, there were only 3 marking periods.
 - AN says that the teachers have noticed that there is very little time because of the short window of school days between November and January.
 - This reduces the demonstrated progress for students and makes the grade levels fluctuate based on the difficulty of the curriculum. (AN)
 - AN states that children in lower grades fluctuate in their assessment levels.
 - BC asserts that it is important for parents to be informed of that so that they can really see the flow of the child's development.
 - AN replies that parents could get unnecessarily concerned and that individual communication would be a better solution if there is a problem.
 - AG says that November to March seems like a long time to go, especially for a student that is in need of help. By the time the parents receive a report card that does not show progress, it is too late.
 - LP points out that the marking periods are evenly distributed through the first 3 marking periods, (school days).
 - GB states that some parents are more involved than others and there are teachers that are more communicative than others, so having a longer gap between report cards wouldn't always be good.
 - DW asks for clarification of whether the 4th report card represents a final grade. LP confirms that it is. DW states that he prefers 4 marking periods because it would better mitigate the effect of a weak unit for the student.
 - BC points out that staying on top of their child's progress helps parents especially in the 4th and 5th grades because it opens up options in middle schools.
 - EM states that the teachers she spoke to are fine with 4 marking periods and they like the grid.
 - NM concurs that 4 marking periods are very helpful for information regarding progress.
 - AN proposes that in compromise, April progress report can be dropped.
 - Parent representatives advise LP agree that this is an acceptable compromise.
 - AN states that she appreciative of parent input.
 - AG asks for clarification on whether middle school admissions officers are able to see a child's whole report card or just the final grade. LP confirms that they see the whole report card.
- After School / Recess Programs
 - After School Programs
 - SLT needs to decide whether we will maintain the programs in place, (Serious Fun, SASF).
 - Recess
 - Photos of children and staff of 78 and NY Edge were posted on social media in a context which questioned the efficacy of the program and the value of what we are getting for the PTA funds spent.
 - LP requests that if people know of programs that are better to bring suggestions to him.
 - Safety is the primary concern.
 - LP will address the issues brought to him with the staff.

- China Program
 - LP and several teachers were approached by Tom ?Shelton? to extend the program next year.
 - LP is in favor of that.
 - Chinese program has been very successful in the grades it has been piloted in.
 - Expansion ideas include Tai Chi and more cultural focus beyond language.
 - DW expresses concern that if the program doesn't extend to the upper grades, it loses efficacy.
- Quality Review
 - Review is available online and on the DOE website.
- Questions and Answers
 - AT was approached by a parent that did not feel they were communicated to regarding middle school application.
 - There was a middle school application workshop given, but there was 0 attendance by parents.
 - AG and AT will work together to increase reach out to the community.
 - Community Service requirement for middle school students are in question.
 - Future teachers group is one way for middle school students to effect the lower grade students.
 - Staffing issues were discussed including planning for long term leaves and absences.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 AM. Seconded by NM.