

PS261 SLT Meeting Minutes 1/12/18

In attendance:

- AP Alex Messer
- Teachers: Nicole Easteer, Stephanie Scarborough, Lindsey Sproul, Khadija Algamoos
- PTA Representative: Nora McCauley
- Parent Coordinator: Heather Weston
- Parents: Maud Abeel, Tanya Friedman, Wayne Isaak, Scott Jackson, Cindy Lobel, Kathleen Mulholland
- DC 37 Rep: Nancy Sinatra

1. Meeting called to order at 7:40 – prior minutes approved
2. Math workshops
 - The 4th grade workshop was just held and the 5th grade workshop was held in December. The 3rd grade workshop will be held next week.
 - Very good responses from parents – teachers were happy to see faces that they do not usually see
 - Slides will be sent out and added to website for those who could not appear
 - People seemed excited about website
 - There was a lot of interest in the Homework Helper despite the Cost
 - Stephanie found some a District Website that had a parent handbook on it; the teachers will explore to see if these are helpful resources
 - There are no workshops for Kindergarten but Cindy suggested that there be an end of the year one held so that parents know more going into first grade
3. MLK March – 10th Anniversary – held despite weather
 - Eric Adams and Brian Jones (former parent and activist) are expected to come
 - There will be a guitarist for songs
 - We were not able to get inside the building because it was already booked so event will be held on the steps
4. Homework survey
 - SLT has held some in the past – Cindy will check to see what was previously used
 - Nora will check with other SLTs
 - Tanya was going to share some research regarding the need (or lack of) for homework
 - Purpose of homework was discussed – teachers explained that it is for
 - a. Reinforcement
 - b. Informal assessments
 - c. Agency – it can be empowering for kids
 - d. Provides a window to the parents

- There is a large variance among parents as to how much homework is needed – amount can be reflective of a teacher trying to accommodate views of parents in his/her class
- Include in the survey a questions about a family's feelings about homework
- Need to convey school's philosophy overall and to lessen inconsistencies

5. SLT Officers – Tanya has agreed to report at next PTA meeting

6. Meeting adjourned at 8:20

Action items for next meeting:

- Grants
- Math Equity
- Tutors for Afterschool