

## PS261 SLT Meeting Minutes 12/4/15

In attendance:

- Principal/AP: Zipporah Mills
- Teachers: Jodie Park, Susannah Weiss Ortiz
- PTA Rep: Nora McCauley
- Parents: Kate Hazel-Busch, Amy Huggans, Curt Iiams, Wayne Isaak, Cindy Lobel, Kathleen Mulholland

1. Cindy Lobel called the meeting to order at 7:45 am.
2. Communications – Jodie
  - Website is up and live. They are still working linking to old website but hope to have that resolved shortly
  - Google Apps for Education has been installed and will be used by school staff for in-house communication. Although parents cannot log into it, it will result in more uniform email addresses for staff personnel, which will help parents communicate directly with teachers. At present, there are many different email addresses; by next school year, the format should be relatively uniform, although the teachers are each permitted to set up their emails as they choose.
  - Communication can also go through class parents but need to confirm that every class has a class parent.
3. Parent Survey – Cindy
  - Draft topics had been put together by the parent members of the SLT prior to the meeting but many involved curriculum issues, particularly with regard to math. After further discussion with Principal Mills where she explained that the vertical team and staff developer are working on putting together programs to help explain the new math, it was decided that parenting issues might be a better focus. During the prior bullying workshops, it was clear to Principal Mills that many of the parents' questions related to helping foster their children's education overall rather than just issues with curriculum
  - Possible topics discussed were programs helping foster independence and resilience. There was a discussion of looking to a Park Slope parent who offers a program "Parents Helping Parents"
  - The parent members agreed that a survey would be created by December 11, to be distributed the week of December 14. It will be circulated by the following means:
    - a. Class parents
    - b. Backpacks
    - c. Heather – on line
    - d. SLT parents being present at drop off to talk to parents

- Results of survey will be discussed at next SLT meeting January 8.

#### 4. Budget – Principal Mills

- The budget was provided, in detail, by Principal Mills. She explained many of the ways in which funds are allocated. They receive \$4,000 per child from the state, pretty much all of which goes to staff salaries.
- We received the grant from the Qatar Foundation, which pays for our science teacher, the Arabic art teacher and our partnership with the Met.
- Pre-K funding has been strong under Mayor DeBlasio’s initiatives.
- PTA grant provided funding for the library
- Additional supplements were provided -- Principal Mills was not sure of their origination but they were of assistance in countering what was initially a substantial budget shortfall.
- Per diem charges are for substitutes
- Per session charges are for hourly staff who work with math or literacy issues and for teacher overtime (all of which was used to help the kids who lost jumpstart)
- Jumpstart was helpful to kids but was often difficult to pull kids in off from playground or out of cafeteria to go – at present, kids who need extra help can be pulled from class and given that assistance.

5. Because of the lengthy discussions regarding the budget, we were not able to discuss the CEP. It will be addressed at the next meeting.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 am.

#### 7. Action Items

- a. CEP
- b. Parent Survey