

PS261 SLT Meeting Minutes 3/2/18

In attendance:

- Principal Allen; AP Messer
- Teachers: Khadija Algamoos, Nicole Eastzer, Jamie Gifkins, Stephanie Scarborough, Lindsey Sproul
- PTA Representative: Nora McCauly
- 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. Homework Survey – was tabled for the next meeting to be addressed by Tanya – Nora mentioned that she did reach out to other schools and did not get much in the way of a response. Alex will also check with 321 so we can have a more detailed discussion at next meeting.
3. Music Grants
 - Wayne will look into some music grants following the talent show
 - Scott reached out to a few friends who are in pretty successful indie bands and they may be willing to put together something and use 261 as a testing ground. He will discuss further with Wayne when talent show is over
 - Question is: what does 261 want its music program to look like?
4. Opt out – Jackie is unclear as to what the penalty is for a school with a large opt out population; she has no concrete information
 - A third-grade parent is very interesting in spearheading the program
 - Social action committee is also going to work on informational meeting – needs to be informative but not for it to look like privilege
 - School administration cannot get involved
5. Initiative to deal with segregation in New York City schools – District 15 received a grant to create a team to address
 - Jackie is on the team but is not sure what it will look like
 - Should involve members of our staff equity team
 - The schools need to be aware that racial diversity is not the same as equity
 - ASID – Alliance for School Integration and Desegregation – will be a policy making group and will have a Deputy under the Mayor; Zipp is currently a part of the group and Jackie has been invited to become a member

6. Border Crossers –
 - we have 50 people registered
 - Tanya believed that the people registered was a pretty good representation of the school community overall
 - Childcare being provided
 - Lower grades are better represented
 - Tanya will debrief on how it went and what the next steps are

7. March 14 – school walk out – March 14 – 10 a.m.
 - Will be 3-5 graders
 - Instead of it being officially 17 minutes, we may walk around the block
 - March 24, a non-school day is also a day of protest – something from school may also be done
 - Jackie is also planning on having an overall staff meeting regarding addressing gun violence – it has been discussed in small groups but not yet on a school-wide basis; articles may also be sent out to parents

8. “Creates” Grant
 - Allows us to look at the social studies curriculum to make sure that it is equitable and making kids more connected
 - Lindsay indicated that the vertical team is currently taking stock of the current curriculum to determine where the gaps are and then disseminate to teams
 - Scott mentioned that, in his classes, they use the term “journey” and that Smithsonian has some very good resources

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Action items for next meeting:

- Homework survey
- Grants
- Opt Out
- Elections?