

P.S.174Q School Leadership Team Minutes
Friday, October 14th, 2011

The meeting began at 7:45 AM.

Attendance: Principal Karin Kelly, PA Co-President Dawn Geniale, Pat Evens, Susan Hammer, Geraldo Maldonado, Gina Mastrogiacomo, Marie Russell, Elizabeth Vogelmann, Julie Milner, Nisren Ali

Observers: Laura Hui, Parent Coordinator

Team members went over the dates for the future SLT meetings and they were approved. It was stated that the meeting dates would be forwarded to the CEC office.

Team members reviewed the bylaws. Julie Milner suggested that we add the motto to article one. Some corrections and revisions were made. It was also suggested that the SLT meeting dates be posted on the online calendar. Laura Hui stated that she would put them in her email and would also try to put them on the website.

Team members worked through the wording in the bylaws and came up with the following statement:

“In an event of a resignation, termination of eligibility or loss of team membership due to removal, a member will be appointed prior to the next scheduled team meeting. The Parents Association and UFT members may choose to confirm the appointment or an election will be held. Team members elected/appointed to fill vacancies shall be eligible to serve until the completion of that term.”

Geraldo Maldonado and Pat Evens approved the minutes with corrections.

Principal Kelly shared goals. Team members discussed the goals and how the school staff is working toward meeting the goals, such as focusing on students who attend the morning program and putting an emphasis on attendance. The goals were approved.

Team members continued the conversation on truncation and began to create a chart noting the pros and the cons. The following items were discussed.

- Principal Kelly stated that our school would eventually have to truncate. She explained that if we don't truncate we would not have room to house our students in 2013/2014. Further she said that this year the DOE gave our school 500,000 dollars to support small class size, and without this money it would not be possible to maintain the number of students we have in our classes currently. Principal Kelly said that it takes about 28 students to be able to fund a class. She explained that right now we are able to fund classes because we have the extra 500,000 dollars. Principal Kelly and Susan Hammer also explained that if we do not have enough students attending sixth grade then we would have to create a “bridge class”.
- Elizabeth Vogelmann stated that last year we said that it was feasible and possible to keep our sixth grade and wanted to know whether it was feasible and possible for next year.

- Team members questioned what would happen to the staff members if we don't have a sixth grade. Principal Kelly explained that we may need teachers for other areas, but the amount of teachers that we have is dependent on the numbers of students in our school.
- Principal Kelly said that we would have the option to apply to reconfigure in the future if our numbers somehow rise. Nisren Ali said that this message conflicted with what they are saying in the meetings from the city. Nisren Ali explained that there is a lot of conflicting information out there.
- Laura Hui explained that the entire city is pushing toward this process. The families are being presented with choice and the middle schools are preparing them for these choices. Laura Hui explained that we have to start to think ahead – way ahead.
- Elizabeth Vogelmann asked if we have a sense of what the entire school wants. Geraldo Maldonado said that we would need to have another discussion about this. Team members agreed that we needed to schedule an interim meeting because we can't make a decision now. We scheduled a meeting for October 28th at 7:30, which is after the general PA meeting where the topic will be brought up for open discussion. In the meantime Laura Hui stated that she is going to send out an email to parents requesting their opinions on truncation. Team members agreed that it would be helpful to review the responses at our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.