

MSC SLT Minutes

February 7, 2023

Attendance:

Marciarie Rodriguez (Principal); Emily Lowe (UFT Rep); Karel Miles (Paraprofessional); Kati Bornholdt (5th Grade Teacher); Chenora Davis (Administrator); Olivia Greer (Parent Rep); Cristina Fabricant (Parent Rep); Lisa Muratori (Parent Rep); Kieren Hartsough (Parent Rep); Jessica Weiss (Parent/PA Rep)

Meeting called to order at 3:24 PM

General Business

- Minutes from January meeting approved, Cristina will send to Malaka

Principal's Report

- Interviews occurred for Parent Coordinator position - six candidates were interviewed
 - 3 candidates are being considered
 - Malaka's last day is 2/16/24
 - New candidate will start as soon as possible
- Greenhouse
 - Kaitlin (Kati's former student teacher) will be functioning as our Sunworks coordinator
 - Kindergarten will experience the greenhouse occasionally
 - Everyone else should get in the greenhouse once a week
 - Plan to start March 1
- Events in February
 - Relatives and Special Friends Day
 - More notice in the future to help make sure the event is able to meet goals
 - Help teachers to make a plan to have a fun interactive day
 - School has a plan for security for facilitating visitors
 - May be beneficial to have teachers collect an RSVP to have some idea of who will be attending
 - Climate Action Day
 - 5th graders monitoring compost
 - IDC - Black Story Hour
 - Musical IQ - drumming activity for all grades
 - Respect for All
- No updates on district-wide changes discussed last month
 - West Prep potentially moving to former Ascension building
- No known impacts of budget cuts on the school currently

- New ENL teacher started, at MSC 3 days a week - background in math and science, working mostly with middle school

PA Report

- Family Giving - at about 83% of goal (most successful in several years)
 - PA adjusted budget to account for difference
- Saving money in the greenhouse due to parent maintenance and hiring of sub (Kaitlin)
- Other grants provide some additional funding
- Decided to move all PA meetings to evenings (on Zoom)
- Fun events:
 - Read-a-thon off to a great start
 - Fun Run
 - Auction
 - Kickoff - "Night Out" event
 - Spring Fair (May 19th)
- Successful dinner for new New Yorkers - Diana is really successfully connecting with community
- IDC planning a Black Story Hour
- Discussing a seltzer fridge to show teachers appreciation
- KING - conversation to address how children are being spoken to
 - have not yet officially decided if KING will be continuing next year
- There is now a button on the PA website where teachers can provide feedback anonymously (or not)
 - Already receiving feedback

Parent Report

K-2

- Heat on the 5th floor is an issue
 - Custodians are trying to meet needs
- Elevator for kindergarteners is going more smoothly

3-5

- Racist and sexist slurs written in the play yard
 - Cleared by custodians quickly
 - Parents curious about follow up - see Marciarie's email on 2/7/24
- School yard aggression during recess - how does the school respond?
 - Bullying - what is the school's definition, what is the policy
 - System = online occurrence reporting into public database
 - MSC follows chancellors expectations and city-wide regulations
 - Parents contacted when children are involved (via email or phone call)
 - Restorative justice framework used - typically Kerry or Dr. Jones facilitates
 - If administration is not aware, they cannot follow protocol
 - students and parents should feel comfortable bringing events to teacher and administrators

- Families will benefit from taking ownership and starting conversations if they are unsure or uncomfortable with how situations are handled
- Part of the conversation should be about reintegration into the community post-harm
- Suggested parent education around Restorative Justice practices to help facilitate family participation - possibly a job for new Parent Coordinator
- IB practices coincide with Restorative Justice philosophy
- Onboarding new teachers to RJ practices is part of the process, but done in phases
- 3rd grade - curious about phonics support
 - Map testing and reading assessments determined students who need more support
 - Nichole (intervention teacher) provides support based on data with parent permission
 - Ideally in a differentiated classroom where small group instruction can occur students who need the intervention will be supported
 - Example: students who need extra support in math are getting some remediation; ideally will be supported by a specialized staff member
 - 2 positions for SETTTS teachers this year to provide academic intervention
 - Parents should have individual conversations with teachers to discuss

6-8

- Some parents feel that MSC is not a welcoming and inclusive community for all
 - Middle school parents do not feel included in community events
 - Further communication with groups requested - asking what they would like to see change
- Marciarie and Lisa will coordinate a meeting with middle school parents

Faculty Report

UFT

- PA change to PTA will be brought up at next UFT meeting (2/8 and 2/9)

K-2

- Excited for the 100th day of school
- Hoping for a community event to merge middle school and Kindergarten to help bridge the divide in common spaces and help middle schoolers appreciate the younger student's perspectives (bathrooms and hallways)
 - PA will support appropriate waste receptacles in girls bathrooms
 - Potentially offer community service hours to encourage middle schoolers to get to know younger students

3-5

- Working in microcosms - teachers, PA, administration - would be great to create communication systems to help facilitate internal connections
- Teachers are interested in more direct, personal communication with administration

- Consider a goal to create more interconnection between teachers, parents, and administration through clearer touch points when developing CEP

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM

Minutes submitted by Cristina Fabricant