
District 2 Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025/1:45pm-3:00pm/Via Zoom

Attendees:

Kelly McGuire, District 2 Superintendent
Bill Doyle, Director of State and Federal Program Implementation (DSFP)
Craig Slutzkin, President, Community Education Council 2
Jennifer Stone, OPE Lead, Manhattan High School District
Jung Min Lee, Manhattan High School President's Council
Jessica Harvey, D2 UFT Representative
Caitlin Canfield, Elementary and Middle Schools President's Council
Pamela Rodriguez, DC 37 Union Representative
Renny Fong, CSA Chair
Dayvonne Smith, Manhattan High School President's Council
Leslie Hurdle, D2 Manager of Operations and Special Projects
Tina Sibulkin-Yacker, D2 Family Support Coordinator

• Meeting Overview

- Kelly McGuire started the meeting, apologizing for the delay and asking attendees to register their attendance via a survey link in the chat.
- Leslie Hurdle mentioned that there were no minutes available for approval at the moment.

• Reports and Updates

- Kelly McGuire provided updates on various topics:
 - Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism: Current attendance rate is around 93%, with a slight improvement in chronic absenteeism compared to the previous year. The district has been conducting attendance investigations to identify students who may have moved out of New York City but are still on the register. New protocols are being implemented to reduce chronic absenteeism, focusing on encouraging regular school attendance and addressing barriers.
 - Suspensions: Noted a 15% decrease in suspensions.
 - Demographics: Increase in Hispanic students, students in temporary housing, and English language learners, partly due to families seeking asylum.
 - Civics for All Week: Highlighted successful participation and activities in the district.
 - School Spotlight Visits: Upcoming visit to PS 124 focusing on social and emotional learning.
 - Math Intensification Strategies: Training for 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade math teachers on new strategies.
 - Wit & Wisdom Curriculum: Successful implementation at PS 3, especially for students in the ASD Horizons program.

- Reading Goals: Current performance on reading benchmarks for K-2 and 3-8 grades, with goals for improvement by the end of the year.

- **Data and Goals**

- Reading and Math Performance: Shared current performance data and goals for the district's comprehensive education plan (DCEP).
- Chancellor's Memos: Emphasized support for diversity, equity, inclusion, and multilingual programs, and reassured commitment to these areas despite potential federal changes.
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): The Chancellor reaffirmed the district's dedication to maintaining and expanding DEI initiatives, ensuring equitable educational opportunities and resources for all students.
 - School Safety: Emphasized that schools should remain safe spaces for students, free from non-local law enforcement involvement.
 - LGBTQ+ and Transgender Student Support: Highlighted ongoing support for LGBTQ+ students and their families, including policies that protect the rights of transgender students in physical education and sports.
 - Multilingual and Bilingual Programs: Reiterated the commitment to promoting multilingual and bilingual education, addressing concerns over executive orders, and ensuring continued support for non-English speaking students and families.

- **Upcoming Events**

- CEC Elections: Scheduled for April, with three dates for candidate forums.
- Key Dates: Mentioned upcoming events like Eid al-Fitr, spring break, and New York State exams.

- **Additional Reports**

- Bill (Director of State and Federal Programs): Discussed the importance of updating the DCEP, parent engagement, and the potential at-risk status of some schools.
- Pamela Rodriguez (DC37 Union Representative): Highlighted the need for DC37 members to be included in SLTs and concerns about Title I funding.
- Renny Fong (CSA Representative): Expressed concerns about budget impacts and shrinking student populations in certain areas.
- Jessica Harvey (UFT Representative): Mentioned the impact of congestion pricing on staff and the Respect for Paraprofessionals campaign.

- **General Discussion**

- Parent Engagement: Emphasized as a key predictor of student success, with examples from Success Academy's approach.
- Educational Technologies: Mentioned interest in piloting a math tutoring program.

- **Meeting Close**

- Kelly McGuire concluded the meeting, thanking everyone for their participation and patience. He wished everyone a happy Thursday and a good weekend.
- Next Meeting: The next DLT meeting is scheduled for April 21st, 2025.