
District 2 Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2025/8:30am-9:30am/Via Zoom

Attendees:

Kelly McGuire, District 2 Superintendent
Craig Slutzkin, President, Community Education Council 2
Jennifer Stone, OPE Lead, Manhattan High School District
Jessica Harvey, D2 UFT Representative
Dayvonne Smith, Manhattan High School President's Council (MHSPC)
Caitlin Canfield, Elementary and Middle School President's Council
Leslie Hurdle, D2 Manager of Operations and Special Projects
Renny Fong, CSA Chair
Tina Sibulkin-Yacker, D2 Family Support Coordinator

Introductions

- Kelly McGuire started the meeting by welcoming everyone and mentioning that Jessica Harvey from CSA would join shortly. He also announced that Bill Doyle would not be sharing today, leading to an abbreviated agenda. Kelly reminded everyone to sign in using the Google form.

Superintendent's Report

- **Highlights**
- Kelly McGuire shared a report from the superintendent, highlighting:
 - District Attendance: Up by over 6% compared to last year, serving over 22,000 students.
 - Students in Temporary Housing: Holding at 2,000, an increase due to families seeking asylum.
 - Students with Disabilities: 4,100 students.
 - English Language Learners: 2,400 students.
 - Pre-K Students: 553, including 22 in new special classes at the Peck Slip building.

Craig Slutzkin asked questions about the 22 new students in special classes and the reasons behind chronic absenteeism. Kelly explained the definition of chronic absenteeism and shared strategies schools use to address it.

- **Attendance and Absenteeism**
- Kelly McGuire discussed attendance rates and chronic absenteeism, noting:
 - Overall Attendance Rate: 93%.
 - Chronically Absent Students: 20%.
 - Factors Affecting Attendance: Family vacations, transportation issues, and family circumstances.

Craig Slutzkin and Jessica Harvey raised concerns about families' fear of ICE and its impact on attendance. Kelly acknowledged these concerns and emphasized the importance of ensuring children's safety while encouraging attendance.

Tina Sibulkin-Yacker added that District 2 has historically had high attendance rates compared to other districts. She highlighted the importance of addressing absenteeism on an individual basis, understanding the barriers families face, and providing targeted support. Tina mentioned that attendance teachers and school attendance teams work together to identify and address these barriers, often through personalized outreach and support strategies.

- **Incidents and Suspensions**

- Kelly McGuire reported on incidents and suspensions, noting:
 - Level 4 and 5 Incidents: Decreased by 44 compared to last year.
 - Principal Suspensions: Decreased by 39.
 - Superintendent Suspensions: Slight increase, used for more serious incidents like fights or threats.
 - Overall Suspensions: Dropped by 24% since last year.
 - Suicidal Ideation: Increased by 7 incidents compared to last year.
 - Bullying Data: Not readily available, but efforts are being made to gather this information.

Kelly emphasized the importance of monitoring these measures and working to reduce incidents and suspensions while supporting students' well-being.

- **Spotlight Visit at PS 59**

- Kelly McGuire shared highlights from a recent visit to PS 59, focusing on their math curriculum and activities.

- **Respect for All Week**

- Kelly mentioned activities during Respect for All Week and a student finalist from PS 183 in a poster contest.

- **Wit and Wisdom Workshop**

- Kelly announced the upcoming Wit and Wisdom NYC Reads workshop for District 2 families, focusing on writing progression.

- **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)**

- Kelly explained MTSS and its application in the district, emphasizing the importance of core curriculum access for all students and differentiation for small groups.

- **Progress Monitoring**

- Kelly discussed progress monitoring and shared data on math performance, highlighting improvements from fall to winter screeners.

- **New Pre-K Classes at Peck Slip**

- Kelly announced the start of new pre-K classes at the Peck Slip building, serving 22 students with special needs.

- **Community Education Council Elections**

- Kelly reminded everyone about the ongoing applications for Community Education Council elections, extended through Thursday.

Reports from Constituent Groups

- **Parents**

- Craig Slutzkin and Caitlin Canfield shared updates from the Elementary and Middle Schools' President's Council and CEC, focusing on concerns about ICE and the importance of communication regarding Wit and Wisdom.

- **Manhattan High School Presidents Council**

- Dayvonne Smith discussed efforts to engage high school families and the challenges of maintaining engagement as students approach graduation.

- **DC 37**

- Pamela Rodriguez reported on site meetings, hiring calls for school food staff, and new member

orientations.

- **UFT**

- Jessica Harvey shared updates on upcoming lobby day, City Council bill for paraprofessional wages, and UFT elections.

- **Principals**

- Renny Fong expressed gratitude for support and communication, and concerns about budgets and Title I funding.

Closing

- Kelly McGuire reiterated the importance of supporting students and families amidst federal policy changes and confirmed that NYC policies remain unchanged. The next meeting is scheduled for March 17th.