
District 2 Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2024/8:30am-9:30am/Via Zoom

Attendees:

Kelly McGuire District 2 Deputy Superintendent
Craig Slutzkin, President, Community Education Council 2
Bill Doyle, Director of State and Federal Program Implementation (DSFP)
Jennifer Stone, OPE Lead, Manhattan High School District
Jessica Harvey, D2 UFT Representative
Caitlin Canfield, Elementary and Middle School President's Council
Leslie Hurdle, D2 Manager of Operations and Special Projects
Tina Sibulkin-Yacker, D2 Family Support Coordinator

Introductions

- Kelly McGuire welcomed everyone and reminded attendees to sign in using the Google form. He mentioned that Bill Doyle would start his section soon.
- Leslie Hurdle: Thanked everyone and emphasized the importance of the recording.
- Kelly McGuire: Welcomed everyone again and reminded them to sign in.
- Bill Doyle: Mentioned he would talk about the district parent and family engagement policy.
- Craig Slutzkin: Commented on the upcoming Cec meeting and the preview of the superintendent's report.

Superintendent's Report

- **Updates**

Kelly McGuire shared the following updates:

- School Spotlight Visit: Recent visit to 75 Morton focused on school climate and culture. New principal Claudia Rivera Wisdom Kofi has been working on improving the school's environment and building peer mediators and teacher leadership.
- Clinton School: Their Middle Years program was accepted into the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, starting from 6th grade.
- Wit and Wisdom NYC Reads Workshop: First parent workshop was held, with recordings available for those who missed it. Upcoming workshops are scheduled for January and February.
- Illustrative Math Curriculum Workshop: Focused on co-teaching models for middle school teachers and principals.

- **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.
- **Progress Monitoring**
 - Kelly McGuire discussed progress monitoring and shared data on reading and math performance, highlighting improvements from fall to winter screeners. She explained the use of various screeners and assessments, such as Acadians, MAP, and iReady, to set goals and monitor progress.
 - Jessica Harvey asked about the screeners used and their duration. Kelly clarified that the screeners are quick assessments, typically taking up to 10 minutes per student, and are administered by classroom teachers or designated staff.
- **Community Engagement**
 - Bill Doyle presented the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy, emphasizing the importance of alignment between the policy and the district's goals. He requested feedback and a nod of approval from the team, despite the absence of some required members.

Reports from Constituent Groups

- **Parents**
 - Craig Slutzkin shared updates from the President's Council and CEC, including upcoming meetings and capital requests for the School Construction Authority (SCA).
- **DC 37**
 - Pamela Rodriguez reported on new member orientations, site meetings, and hiring processes for school food staff and school crossing guards.
- **UFT**
 - Jessica Harvey shared updates on workshops for tenure, parent engagement, and paraprofessional hiring. She also mentioned the recent shift of OTs and PTs to the TRS retirement system.

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 January 27th.