



THE JESSE OWENS SCHOOL ~ P.S. 26
1014 Lafayette Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11221
(718) 919-5707/ Fax (718) 574-2803
Diana Collazo-Funtleyder, Principal
Maxx Luddy, Assistant Principal

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT) MINUTES

October 14, 2025

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ROLES</u>
School Leadership Team	Chairperson: Sam Posner (acting) Note taker: Kristine Kirton Time Keeper: Sam Posner
MEETING OBJECTIVES:	
1. Welcome to Danny 2. Last meeting minutes 3. Updates ○ UFT Update ○ PTA Update 4. Assistant Principal's Update ○ Conflict reporting ○ Bullying and conflict res. (Ms. Malik) ○ Staffing updates ○ Academic updates 5. Discussion Items ○ DYCD compass programs - RFP opportunity: Lisa ○ Start-of-year family feedback: Doris (Retention) ○ Promoting the weekly assembly: Sam (Celebration) ○ Update on the new school event spreadsheet: Ms. Jones & Sam (Communication) ○ Jesse Owens Playground - current status / any required follow ups ○ Parent meeting w D16 Superintendent	

6. Any other business

MINUTES

Call to Order

- The monthly meeting of the School Leadership Team at P.S. 26 was called to order on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 3:11pm.

Present

- 11 participants were in attendance:

Maxx Luddy (Assistant Principal)	Brenda Leonard-Burton (UFT Chapter Leader)
Jessica Jones (Parent Coordinator)	Sam Posner (PTA President)
Kristine Kirton (UFT)	Jacqueline McCurdy-Boyce (UFT)
D. Crepo (Parent/Guardian)	Shahla Jabeen (Parent/Guardian)
Doris Jean (Parent/Guardian)	
Guest Speaker - Ms. Malik (Guidance Counselor)	
Guest Speaker - Mrs. Caldwell (Guidance Counselor)	

Reading and Approval of the SLT minutes on September 9, 2025.

- The minutes from the previous meeting on September 9, 2025 were approved.

Guest Speaker, Ms. Malik:

- Ms. Malik is the guidance counselor who works with students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, as well as with students in the NEST program. Mrs. Caldwell is the guidance counselor who works with students in 3rd grade to 5th grade. Ms. Malik presented on the topic of Bullying vs. Conflict, covering the following key points:
 - What is bullying?
 - What is conflict?
 - How to report it?
 - The role of the Respect for All liaison
- She also reviewed Chancellor's Regulation A-832 and emphasized that she is the main point of contact for students regarding these matters.

[a-832 student-to-student discrimination, harassment, intimidation and/or bullying 10/07/2021](#)

- Sam Posner suggested that the school could hold a more open forum to discuss bullying and address any related concerns. Mr. Luddy proposed that the PTA meeting might be the most appropriate setting for this discussion.

Committee Reports

- Principal Funtleyder is currently absent due to a serious injury and is taking time to

recover.

- Please note that the 2-hour mandatory SLT training (virtual) will take place on October 29, 2025, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

UFT

- Mrs. Burton reported that the UFT has introduced a new platform called the NYC Childcare Navigator. According to the UFT, it is “a platform to connect UFT members seeking quality child care with UFT members who provide it.” Mrs. Burton will share more information about this resource during the upcoming PTA meeting.

<https://www.uft.org/your-union/uft-programs/nyc-childcare-navigator>

PTA

- Fall Movie Night was a success, with approximately 75 attendees gathering in the courtyard to watch Lilo & Stitch. Picnic tables were used during the event; however, it was noted that they may not need to be anchored yet, as their flexibility proved useful.
- The PTA approved and funded the purchase of 50 noise-cancelling headphones, which have already been distributed to staff for use.
- Additionally, the PTA will be purchasing more items to stock the recess shed, further supporting students' play and engagement during recess. The shed is currently stocked with soccer goals, jump ropes, kickballs, sidewalk chalk, and more.
- A shared calendar is now available for families to subscribe to. P.S. 26's internal calendar was published to make school events more accessible to the community. However, it's currently not possible to track how many people have subscribed to it.
- The school is working with a new photography vendor this year. Families will be able to view proofs online before placing an order, and orders can be completed digitally.
 - Every student will have their picture taken, regardless of whether families choose to purchase photos.
 - Fall pictures will include individual portrait shots as well as class photos.
 - Spring pictures will offer a variety of backdrop options for more personalized portraits.
 - Teachers will also have the opportunity to get their photos taken.
- Students are expected to be in school uniform for picture day; however, no child will be excluded from having their photo taken if they are not in uniform.
- Cool Culture Pass Update: Over 100 families and staff members signed up for the Cool Culture Pass during the first enrollment phase. Cards are now being distributed to those

who registered. Special shoutout to Shahla Jabeen for spearheading this initiative and ensuring its success.

Discussion of Unfinished Business Agenda Items

Staffing Update/Budget:

- The school has officially offered the Physical Education position to Mr. Ampeuro. The previously hired physical education teacher left unexpectedly, prompting the search for a new candidate. A replacement has been identified and is currently in the onboarding process, which includes a background check. As part of the interview process, the candidate conducted a mock lesson with a 3rd-grade class, which was well received.

The PTA Executive Board Goals

- The PTA Executive Board met to establish key goals to guide their collaboration with the school administration this year.
 1. **Community Building:** Foster a welcoming and inclusive environment where all families feel connected and valued.
 2. **Communication:** Ensure that families clearly understand important information by promoting clear, consistent, and accessible communication.
 3. **Family Retention:** Support collaboration between families and the school to increase engagement and encourage families to remain part of the P.S. 26 community.

Start-of-year family [feedback](#): Doris (Retention) - Doris Jean shared the following key issues based on feedback:

1. General communication
 2. Event communication
 3. Classroom and orientation information
 4. After-school program — late start date
 5. Communication platforms and accessibility, including a need for a central communication hub and a weekly digest email
 6. Follow up and meeting summaries - summaries of PTA or curriculum night meetings.
- Families appreciate clear communication but expressed a desire for information to be provided earlier. Specific requests included:

Clearer homework expectations, Earlier notice for events, An overview of upcoming events from the school, Earlier communication of class schedules and teacher assignments, What to expect in the next grade. (Several Kindergarten families shared

that they would appreciate more communication and clarity about what's happening in the Kindergarten program.)

- It was noted that in some other elementary schools, families receive teacher assignments well before the first day of school, sometimes as early as July 16th.
- Mrs. Burton suggested that the school supply issue is an easy fix, and the supply list can be added to the school website.

Supporting Ms. Jones with Communication (Ms. Jones/Sam Posner)

- To support Ms. Jones in ensuring timely and effective communication with families, a structured system was developed to establish clear expectations and streamline communication efforts.
- A tool called the "School Events with Communication Dates" spreadsheet was created. It outlines every event taking place during the first quarter of the school year and includes a checklist to help track responsibilities and deadlines.
- The spreadsheet includes the following categories: Event, Category, Date & Time, File Permit, Add to ClassDojo/Event Calendar, Communication Assigns, ClassDojo Notification (10 days prior), Backpack Notice (5 days prior), Last Reminder (1 day prior).
- This system helps ensure that all school events are communicated clearly and in a timely manner across all platforms.

Jesse Owens Playground:

- Mr. Kwasim has begun taking the younger grades to the track area at Jesse Owens Playground. Efforts are underway to begin bringing the older students there as well.

Parent meeting with D16 Superintendent, Fabayo McIntosh

- Fabayo McIntosh responded to the email inviting her to the next SLT meeting. This meeting is scheduled for the third week of November, on November 18, 2025.

Discussion of New Business Agenda Items

- The NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) COMPASS programs - RFP opportunity - no information on this as of yet.

Behavioral Consequences at P.S. 26

- At P.S. 26, student discipline is approached through restorative and supportive practices. The school does not issue detentions, as this is viewed as a form of corporal punishment, which is not aligned with DOE policy or the school's philosophy.
- When behavioral concerns arise, the school may take the following steps:
 - Remedial conferences with Mr. Luddy or the guidance counselor during

lunch or recess, allowing time to reflect and discuss the behavior.

- Phone calls home to inform and engage families.
- One-on-one meetings with the student.
- Family meetings to collaboratively create a support plan.
- In more serious situations, the following disciplinary actions may occur:
 - A Principal's Suspension, during which the student is temporarily placed in an alternate classroom within the school.
 - A Superintendent's Suspension, which requires the student to attend a different DOE location for a period of time.
- The goal in all cases is to support positive behavior, ensure student safety, and maintain a respectful learning environment.

Technology Concern

- Shahla Jabeen reported that the smartboard in the 3rd grade Gifted & Talented classroom is not functioning. Mr. Luddy responded that they will first check if the technology teacher, Ms. Johnson, is able to repair it. If not, the school may contact TEQ for repair services or to obtain a quote for replacement.
- In the meantime, Mr. Luddy has a projector available that can serve as a temporary solution. Once the cost of repair or replacement is determined, the school may reach out to the PTA for potential funding support.

Weekly School Assembly

- The school should post the weekly school assembly link every Friday, allowing parents to tune in and stay connected with what's happening at P.S. 26.
- Additionally, families are encouraged to check out *Dear New York*, "a major public art installation and new book by *Humans of New York* creator Brandon Stanton." This powerful tribute to New Yorkers is currently on display at Grand Central Station and features a special highlight: four P.S. 26 staff members, Ms. Jones, Ms. Vaval, Mrs. Ralph, and Ms. Torres.

<https://grandcentralterminal.com/event/dear-new-york/>

Creation of Agenda for the Next Meeting

- Progress against CEP Goals

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm.