



THE JESSE OWENS SCHOOL ~ P.S. 26
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 Diana Collazo-Funtleyder, Principal
 Maxx Luddy, Assistant Principal

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT) MINUTES

September 09, 2025

<u>TOPIC</u> School Leadership Team	<u>ROLES</u> Chairperson: Simon Moss Note taker: Kristine Kirton Time Keeper: Sam Posner
MEETING OBJECTIVES: 1. Welcome 2. <u>Last meeting minutes</u> 3. SLT Role Review 1. <u>Bylaws</u>, 2. Goals of SLT for this academic year. 3. Members for 2025-26 4. Review calendar for SLT for this academic year - working proposal is 2nd Tuesday of every Month, 3-5pm. 4. Updates 1. UFT Update 2. PTA Update 5. Principal's Update 1. Staffing & Budget 2. Progress against CEP Goals 1. 10% growth in ELA performance. 6. Discussion Items 1. Shared Goals: Introduce and discuss the 3 broad goals PTA has drafted for our partnership with the school this year	

2. Implementing courtyard improvements: Discuss pending tasks and next steps
3. Jesse Owens Playground - current status / any required follow ups
4. School Communication Channels: ClassDojo & Instagram - how can we drive adoption?
5. Advocacy on behalf of School: D16, CEC, etc - priorities for outreach
6. PTA support for NYC PS Galaxy Budget ... did it ever happen?
7. Enrichment Programs: how best to communicate these with school community?
7. 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, September 9, 2025 at 3:10pm.

Present

- 11 participants were in attendance:

Diana Collazo-Funtleyder (Principal)

Simon Moss (Chairperson)

Jessica Jones (Parent Coordinator)

Kristine Kirton (UFT)

Lisa Donlan (Community School Director)

Doris Jean (Parent/Guardian)

Maxx Luddy (Assistant Principal)

Brenda Leonard-Burton (UFT Chapter Leader)

Sam Posner (PTA President)

Jacqueline McCurdy-Boyce (UFT)

Shahla Jabeen (Parent/Guardian)

Reading and Approval of the SLT minutes on June 12, 2025.

- The minutes from the previous meeting on June 12, 2025 were approved.

Committee Reports

- SLT meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, for the 2025/2026 school year.
- There are no amendments to the Bylaws [w SLT Bylaws 2025-2026.docx](#)
- Mr. Posner will serve as the PTA President on the SLT. At the upcoming PTA meeting, a new parent member will be elected to the SLT.

UFT

- The statewide bell-to-bell ban on cellphones is now in effect. This ban includes all internet-enabled electronic communication devices, such as cellphones, earbuds, smartwatches, laptops, tablets, and portable entertainment systems (e.g., gaming consoles).

An effective plan is already in place to support this policy. The lockbox for Kindergarten through 2nd grade is located in the main office. Lockboxes for 3rd through 5th grades are located in the guidance counselor's office. Each child is assigned a numbered box that corresponds to their device. During dismissal, students are escorted to retrieve their cellphones.

- Parent-Teacher Conferences: All Parent-Teacher Conferences will continue to be held remotely, including curriculum night. Curriculum night is approaching, September 17, 2025.

PTA

- The PTA meeting will take place next Tuesday, September 16, 2025, during which a Treasurer will be elected to complete the roster.
- A list of current PTA members will be shared, along with a summary of recent key accomplishments.
- A Fall Community Calendar, highlighting upcoming events and holidays, will be distributed, providing a single reference point for families through Winter Recess.
- P.S. 26 should create a pamphlet highlighting all of the enrichment programs offered at PS 26. The pamphlet should include a detailed description of each enrichment program with photos showcasing student participation and activities.
- **Courtyard/Blacktop Additions:**

Three picnic tables, four benches, one shed, and two metal shelves have been added. These items have not yet been anchored to the ground. The total cost was \$5,500, with \$7,000 originally allocated for this project. Various games are needed to stock the shed.

Discussion of Unfinished Business Agenda Items

- Principal Funtleyder shared that this year's Open House was the largest to date, with 121 families in attendance, a huge success. Additionally, over 20 families from the broader community expressed interest in the school.
- One hundred ninety-seven students are enrolled, and the school was projected for 189.

Staffing Update/Budget:

- Principal Funtleyder announced 100% staffing for the first time.
- A Social Studies teacher has been nominated and is currently in the final stage of the onboarding process. Her name appears in the Galaxy budget.

Progress against CEP Goals:

- AP Luddy reported the following:
- The school uses Acadience for ELA and i-Ready for math. State test results showed significant growth, with math scores increasing by 7%, and ELA scores rose by 14%, marking the highest growth in the past eight years. Fifth-grade data is not yet available.
- Seventy-two percent of third graders scored at levels 3 or 4 on the exam, which is above the city average. In fourth grade, forty-six percent of students achieved levels 3 and 4. Students performed well on the following standards: point of view and text structure; however, they struggled with vocabulary.
- Edmentum will be incorporated into instruction this year ([edmentum.com](https://www.edmentum.com)). Edmentum functions similarly to i-Ready.
- P.S. 26 was recognized as one of the top user schools for i-Ready. Teachers will incorporate more writing across the curriculum, including in both reading and math. Access to i-Ready is cut off during the middle of the summer.
- Suggestions from families include providing parent reports to help them better understand student progress, as well as receiving information about i-Ready in advance. The parent handbook does not mention TeachHub or i-Ready. This could be addressed by the assistant principal or principal in upcoming family communications. Will look into whether i-Ready offers a parent workshop.
- Principal Funtleyder stated that newsletters will be sent out this Friday, September 12, 2025, and will now include a hyperlink to i-Ready moving forward.

- Math Coach Burton reported the following:

The school showed significant gains in geometry, which had previously been an area of weakness. This improvement is attributed to teachers beginning geometry instruction earlier in the school year. For grades 3 to 5, the current instructional focus is on fractions, as students did not perform well in that area.

Jesse Owens Playground:

- AP Luddy met with the Block Association President, who confirmed that P.S. 26 is permitted to lock the racetrack section of the Jesse Owens Playground during lunch hours (10:30am – 12:30pm). AP Luddy will conduct a walkthrough with the custodial staff on September 10, 2025.

PTA support for NYCPS Galaxy Budget:

- Continued Discussion: Can the PTA directly add money to the NYCPS Galaxy Budget? It was previously suggested to possibly start with a sample amount to test the process. The sample amount was not sent. It was discussed that a co-treasurer from another school within the district transfers PTA funds to their school, allowing the school to pay vendors directly. Principal Funtleyder will follow up to gather more information on how this process works and whether it can be implemented at our

school.

Discussion of New Business Agenda Items

- 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 PS 26 community.

- Examples include informing parents about their child's teacher in advance, providing the school supply list ahead of time, clearly communicating the school's uniform policy, and preparing families for major transitions, such as when a student moves from prekindergarten to kindergarten.
- Ms. Lisa presented the Back-to-School Survey. The survey can include specific questions asking families what practices or programs they've seen at other schools that they would like to see implemented at PS 26.

Supporting Ms. Jones with Communication

- To help Ms. Jones ensure timely and effective communication with families, a simplified system can be implemented that includes clear expectations and a communication checklist. Notices can be sent out at least 10 days in advance. To support this, suggestions include:
 - Was the flyer drafted?
 - Was the flyer submitted for approval?
 - Was the flyer approved?
 - Was it sent out to families (via backpack/home)?
 - Was it posted on ClassDojo?
 - Was it shared on the school website/calendar?

- Kirton suggested creating a shared Google Calendar that families can sync with their personal calendars to help them stay informed about important school events.

Cafeteria and Technology Upgrades:

- A cafeteria upgrade and technology improvements were promised; however, the upgrades were not completed over the summer. Custodial staff are unable to carry out such upgrades when the building is overutilized.
- Principal Funtleyder had a conversation with Superintendent Fabayo regarding this issue. The P.S. 26 school building hosts multiple programs during the summer, which limits access for facility improvements. Support is needed to ensure these upgrades can be completed moving forward.

Creation of Agenda for the Next Meeting

Key Topics to Discuss with Superintendent Fabayo:

- Ms. Lisa would like to highlight the Community School to the Superintendent, as its current grant funding is coming to an end. The Office of Community School gave a 2-year grant. The program was originally supported under the 21st Century District Grant.
- Enrichment Programs
- Celebrating the positive work at P.S. 26; Highlight successful programs, student achievements, and staff initiatives
- Cafeteria and Technology Upgrade Needs; Request support in prioritizing and scheduling the cafeteria and technology improvements.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06pm.