

School Leadership Team Meeting- February 12, 2020

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Review of Minutes

- January minutes were reviewed and approved. No Corrections.

No student council representatives for this month's meeting.

Old Business

- STEAM/Science Fair
 - Afterschool clubs have been formed for students who need assistance with their projects (one group is working on plant growth). Teachers are working with students from all grades to prepare them for the Science Fair (scheduled for Saturday, March 7- book fair will be cleaned up by Friday, March 6).
- Gym Construction
 - The project- which will move some of the basketball hoops and put up a divider in the gym so that there are 2 courts- will take 20 to 24 months to complete, with a summer start and April finish.
 - The money was originally granted in 2018 with a projected start date for 2019...it is now 2020 so we are hoping to get started soon!
 - This construction means that there will NOT be a gym in the main building. We have been granted the "Move to Improve" award, which allows movement in classrooms. This will allow 45 minutes of movement per week, which does NOT meet the requirements for movement set by NYS, so we have to continue to look into meeting the requirement in other ways.
- Library Construction
 - We received a \$200K grant through Mark Gjonaj's office and CSA has already shown up to take a look at the library space in the Main Building.
 - We will be removing the carpet so that it is all tile and we will be fixing the ACs.
 - Someone will be going through the entire renovation process with Mr. Muccino in the next few weeks.

New Business

- Practice Makes Perfect
 - Because our 8th grade science teacher left suddenly, Ms. Falotico was also pulled from her program to go back into the classroom. This left Ms. Burrell as the only Als teacher for grades 5 to 8.
 - PMP is a program with tutors from graduate programs from local colleges that currently servicing general education students in grades in both buildings.
- February Break Academy
 - Students who were PID on the last report card and are still struggling were the students invited to this program.
 - It will run on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with Mrs. S. Weihe as the program director. There are currently 2 classes for each grade from K to 5. The program will support students with topics in core subjects, as well as movement.

- MAP Growth Testing
 - We are almost done with the mid-year testing. Before this round of testing, letters were sent home to parents informing them of the seriousness of this test and asking them to reinforce that with their children at home. This test will be used as our start off point for students next year.
 - This test is unique in that its “pause feature” allows teachers to monitor when students are randomly guessing answers because the program will pause itself until the teacher can talk to the student and manually restart the test.
- Wellness team
 - There are a few events coming up in the Spring: family fitness night, cookshop for families night, and an updated version of the wellness fair with a fitness challenge. More information regarding these events will be forthcoming.

Committee Updates

- UCS
 - Attendance: letters were sent home to parents because so many students were out (which hurt our percentages). It turns out that many students were out with the flu. Many letters were returned.
 - Guidance counselors are now part of attendance meetings to help keep the percentages up where they have been for the year.
 - Forum Planning: trying to figure out which topics should be included. Continuing question: what do parents want to hear about? We have to discuss the state of the school, but what else should we include?
 - UCS Expo Vendors:
 - Girl Scouts of America: train parents how to be leaders. Mr. Muccino is leery of having a girl scouts troop at PS 83 again (we had one in the past) because it very often turns into a babysitting service.
 - Guidance programs: Vibrant: free service with workshops that teach parents how to talk to their children about social/ emotional topics.
 - Math program- Salvadori (not free): incorporates engineering and technology and can be done after school. An engineer comes in and teaches the students how to eventually build their own structures. This program can be tailored to all grades
 - It is an 8 week program that is available for 4 classes, in 45 minute sessions.
 - We had applied for this before and were rejected (we need to look into why we were not chosen). We are also going to find out which grants they accept and where we can get these grants from.
 - Because of new budgeting rules, we cannot “roll over” money from the budget from one year to the next. All money has to be used before the summer so we cannot hold it to pay for the program next year.
 - Bronx Borough Meeting: all UCS schools get together and share their ideas (vendors used, attendance incentives, etc.)
 - The focus this year is “Theory of Change”. Should our direction change to get more support from shareholders?
 - They are looking for feedback from parents and administrators. They are willing to provide a car service if there are enough parents who need it in order to attend the meeting.

- UFT
 - NO REPRESENTATIVE
- PTA
 - Dave and Buster's was great. We are planning a family night for the end of the year.
 - People are asking for a "Yankees Day Out" so the PTA will be looking into it.
 - We are trying to plan a parent/child basketball game.
 - The April PTA meeting will be changed from April 22 to April 29.
 - Kindergarten picture day is April 27. This is our last time using Donner Studios. They have very poor customer service. We will be going with Irving Simon. They plan to send 10 photographers (5 for each building). Every teacher will receive a picture ID.
 - The Book Fair is coming! Trying to set up a "Teacher Preview Day" on 2/28. The book fair will run from 3/2 to 3/6. The theme this year is Dr. Seuss because his birthday is 3/2. Book fair wish list papers will be given out.
 - Multi-Cultural Night is 3/13. The theme is Prince and Princess. People will be donating food (and the recipe). The PTA will then create a cook book to be sold as a fundraiser.
 - NY Edge is also having a multi-cultural celebration but they are catering their food.
 - 3/21 (Saturday from 9am to 4pm)
 - Mental health/ First Aid training day. Breakfast and lunch will be provided by Title 1 funds. Participants who meet all requirements will receive a 3 year certificate. This is an 8 hour course, open to school staff.
 - Still have to put in for the building permit.
 - 3/27 is the Spring Fling for the Annex.
 - Card party is 4/8 and people are beginning to purchase tickets.
 - 6/3 is the Father/ Daughter dance but it is being called the Quincenera Dance. There will be a meeting with Ms. Degasperis (2/14) to coordinate the event.
 - Mother/Son paint night and Mother/daughter tea are in the works.
 - We are still trying to set up a carnival and health fair for the spring.
 - A parent asked if they could host an aromatherapy night or a crochet club, or a fitness night. For the aromatherapy and/or crochet option, we would have to purchase the supplies for other parents to use. We will meet with Mrs. Versace to set up and coordinate some type of fitness opportunity for staff and parents along with the Wellness day.
 - The Wellness Committee asked if the PTA would be willing to host the smoothie social again this year and PTA informed us that they had already allocated money for that day.
 - Scholastic wants to collect loose change from students and pool it together so that students who cannot normally afford books will be able to purchase some. One idea was to have students donate the change in exchange for a vote about their favorite animal. Whichever animal wins- Mr. Shapiro will dress up as that animal (choices are monkey, elephant, or lion).
 - Upcoming events
 - March: form nomination committee
 - April: votes for PTA seats
 - June: vote for Title 1 seats
 - SLT seats are also up and these elections should also be held in June so we are ready for September.

- We will be sending out another flier to teachers about donating baskets to the card party. The group who donates the most will receive a pasta dinner. The class who donates the most will receive a pizza party.
- Parent/Teacher Gift Swap went so great! There was a nice spread of food. (Mr. Muccino was even using one of his gifts at the meeting!)
- 6/9 is the Staff Appreciation Breakfast (staff development day)
- Currently working on incentives for Teacher Appreciation week in May.
- 4/28 and 6/23: annex lunch will be OUTSIDE because of voting.
- Title 1
 - Mad Science will take place tomorrow (2/13). 220 parents have signed up for family science night. This will be held in the Annex. Food will be served from 6 to 6:30 pm and Mad Science presentation will begin at 6:30pm.
 - Volunteers will need help from the custodians setting up because there is only a 15 minute set up window between the dismissal of afterschool and the beginning of family science night dinner.
 - Looking into “Maker State” to present a family STEM/Science workshop (costs \$350). It has to take place in April. They will need access to computers.