

School Leadership Team Meeting- October 23, 2019

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Review of Minutes

- September minutes were reviewed and approved. No Corrections.

Student Council (Moderators - Ms. Bondi and Ms. Riehm)

- Jalexis Santos and Isabella Santillan: here to formally discuss topics having to do with the school from the students' point of view.
 - Issue discussed: 8th grade trip changed from Lake Compounce to Holiday Hills
 - Few reasons for change: Lake Compounce cancels very often because of rain, Holiday Hills doesn't. Lake Compounce only allows you to eat at certain times, Holiday Hills lets you eat all day. Holiday Hills just allows more options in general.
 - Next order of business: elect class reps (officers will be elected from the reps)
 - There will be a Student Council bulletin board in the cafeteria (so student body knows who the reps are and how to get in touch with them about any issues)
 - Some ideas Student Council has for Title 1
 - Parent night to show parents how to use Pupil Path
 - Thinking about fundraisers for the school and community (there is still some budget left over from last year)

Old Business

- C-30 level 1: concluded last month, there were some SLT members on the committee. Ms. Mercora passed with flying colors (had the highest score out of all candidates) She will be announced to the DOE on 10/24 as the newest AP for grades K,1,and 2.
- Fundraisers: still waiting for ideas!
 - Thought of having paid, themed dress down days but that is too easy for kids to feel excluded from (if they can't pay).
 - Bulldog Swag: phone cases and hand sanitizers, things that parents would pay for, all with PS 83 logo.
 - Penny wars: can't do it without somewhere to donate it to, and we can't just donate it back to the school.
 - Cook off: bring your own dish, parents can be judges, pay admission for competition
 - Book fair in November
- Astor Counseling
 - Everything has finally been approved so the next step is to find the office worker (contact insurance, book appointments, etc.) and clinician (deliver counseling services).
 - Hopefully the clinic will be open from 10 am to 6 pm so families can be involved.
 - Recommendation letters were given to guidance counselors and they distributed them to students so they can sign up with the counselors if they feel they need these services.

New Business

- New Parent Coordinator: Joanna Morales. She is currently in the main office so she can work closely with Anne Daly (congratulations on her official secretary status) while she learns the job. She will probably be in the main office for this entire school year.
- Daffodil Project: students from 3rd grade will be working with the Morris Park Business Outreach Association to plant daffodil bulbs up and down Morris Park Avenue with Sen. Biaggi.
- After School Programs
 - Today (10/23) was the first day for orchestra (has been extended to include 3rd grade this year. They will practice in the annex and someone will move them back and forth between the buildings.
 - SHSAT prep classes started today (10/23)
 - After school tutoring begins on 11/6.
- Restorative Room (previously the suspension room/ SAVE room)
 - Being freshly painted, with padding for the floor and new seating (bean bags and other comfortable choices). All old and extraneous furniture will be removed. We are looking to make the room a place for students who need to regroup and will be working with the Astor clinician once they are here to help with students in crisis.
 - Suspensions are down so far this year, in accordance with the district goal (reduce suspensions for black and Hispanic males).

Committee Updates

- UCS (members filled out an updated contact sheet along with the sign in sheet)
 - Chronically absent students are down from 177 students last year to 83 this year (for the same point in the school year). PS 83 is currently tied for 6th in the district.
 - Incentives are in place for these students (we have hosted 2 breakfasts so far. 11/4 will be another (catered by Panera Bread) for those who have improved their attendance from last year. We are projecting about 70 students.
 - Our 3 Tier Reward system is in place and the 1st reward incentive is set for 12/19. At this point last year, there were 688 students with 0 days absent. This year there are 853. If they continue with only 0 or 1 day absent their prize will be: gift bag with prizes, dance party, bulldog bucks, no HW passes, and no uniform pass. (Those with 3 absences will receive everything but the gift bag).
 - Looking at the data from last year's state test, general education students (not at risk) with good attendance averaged a 3 or above on state test while those chronically absent scored in the 2 range.
 - Smile NY will be here from 12/9 to 12/13
 - Vision Screening: no longer using Warby Parker- now using Helen Keller International. The forms will be going out (parents only return slip if they DON'T want child to be screened). We are receiving the screening earlier this year (from 11/18 to 11/22)
 - Daffodil Project: 400 bulbs were ordered. Ms. Sanders contacted teachers from grades 1 through 5 to sign up to help with planting the daffodils in front of both buildings.
 - Kindness Rocks for the Gardening Program: 4th grade project. They will paint rocks with quotes and design sand place them in the annex garden area.
 - Equity Clubs begin on 11/13 (ordered snacks and water for all the clubs for the year)

- Young Men Initiative and Young Girl Empowerment Club (about 20 students all together)
 - Run by Ms. Loretta
 - Throwing a Thanksgiving party catered by Boston Market
 - \$2500 PhRMA grant to use for Green Generations
 - They will be pushing into 3rd and 4th grade ICT classes starting in January. The push in period will be the last period of the day on Mondays and Tuesdays. They will deal with the students' social and emotional well-being.
 - UFT/ Teacher Union Day: Roseanna Ayala received the achievement award.
 - UCS Kick Off: event went well! They spoke about what they want to see accomplished during this school year- attendance is a huge push.
- UFT
 - Bronx Parent Conference on 11/9 (food will be provided). They will hold workshops and provide parents access to many different resources. Roseanna will send the flyer to the PTA for them to disseminate to parents.
 - 4th grade teachers (work closely with Morris Park Library) reached out to Dawn Halliday and she will be sending info about "My Library". The program costs \$600 for the school, for the year BUT every teacher gets an "educator" library card that allows them access to borrow 100 books at a time, class sets of books will be delivered and picked up, and student cards allow students to borrow without late fees. This program aligns closely with all of our CEP (reading/vocabulary) and equity goals.
 - Include NYC: help parents and families with IEPs or if families have questions for students with special needs.
- PTA
 - Boo Bingo was on Saturday (10/19) and there was an awesome turnout. Parents want another bingo day. Tentatively planning a Thanksgiving Bingo/Pajama party.
 - December event: Breakfast with Santa
 - Hat/Blanket Drive (11/1 to 12/1): will be collected and given to children receiving chemotherapy in NY, NJ, and Puerto Rico
 - Thinking of activities for 5th to 8th grade: video game tournament. They will compete against each other and winners from each class will compete (like a bracket system)
 - Card Party in the planning stages for 3/20. They are waiting on the Morris Park Association to approve the date. They will also be reaching out to Maestro's for pricing information in case the interest is higher than the 100 people that fit in the MPA. They will also begin creating the flyers and reaching out to merchants for donations.
 - Multicultural Night planned for 3/13. This year's them will be the Royal Multicultural Ball.
 - Planning a Fundraiser Game Night based upon the game Let's Make a Deal. There will definitely be raffles. It might take the place of the card party.
 - School is trying to become a 501 school (tax deductible)
 - People can make donations to the school and write it off on their taxes. This makes people more willing to donate.
 - The Scholastic delivery for the book fair will be here on 11/8. Flyers will go out after the Wonder Walk on 10/31.
- Title 1: NO UPDATES
- Miscellaneous

- Bulldog store in the main was last week (10/17) and will occur in the annex on 11/18. The main building has more prizes this year that are intangible (lunch with teacher, etc.) while the annex still has lots of great prizes for the kids.