

PS 204
School Leadership Team Meeting
September 27, 2023

Minutes- Start Time 2:55pm (Technical Issues/Hybrid Meeting)

Attendance: **In Person:** Roseann Sainato (Principal), Brittany Bugge (Assistant Principal/SLT Chairperson), Laura Bonolomo (Assistant Principal), Denise Racioppo (Assistant Principal, IA), Annmarie Guiffre (Teacher), Alexandra Cagliostro (Teacher), Bonny Tan, Alfredo Campos, Debra Richards, Nour

Virtual: Debra Thompson (Parent), David Nilsen (UFT), Becky Wang (Parent), Priscilla Tan (PTA President)

I. Welcome & Review of Minutes

Ms. Bugge- Welcomed everyone.

Reviewed and approved minutes from June

II. PS 204 SLT Bylaws

- We need to update the school mission statement, which was revised in the Spring. Ms. Bonomolo shared our new vision which was developed with the administrative team, staff, and students.

PS 204's Revised Vision (2023)

As a school community, it is our core belief that students learn best when ***meaningful connections and relationships have been established among teachers, students, and peers.***

When all students feel safe, supported, and respected, we enable them to become risk-takers, high-level thinkers, and problem solvers by providing them with opportunities to participate in meaningful and rigorous learning tasks, productive discourse, and collaboration with peers.

We believe a ***student-centered*** approach to learning ***takes place when students' strengths, needs, learning styles, and interests are understood and valued.***

Such an approach allows for all students to take ***ownership of their learning*** and receive the support, scaffolds, and differentiation needed to increase their engagement and deepen their understanding.

This will lead students on a path to meet the demands of the Next Generation Learning Standards and to achieve 21st Century success.

- The number of members will also be revised in the bylaws. There are no longer 12 members, we are now up to 14 members.
- The minutes will be posted for public viewing. They will be hung up downstairs as well as posted on our school website.

We did not share the dates for SLT because there is a discussion

Mondays and Fridays- Bonny

After Oct 2- Becky can come in person/ mon and fri

Priscilla- cannot make it in person

Debra- in person but not until 3:30

Dave- cannot make Wed/Thurs

There are concerns about not having the option to be virtual. Everyone was elected under the same assumption that the meetings would be virtual. As an advocate, Debra feels that not allowing virtual meetings limits the access to parents who are working.

The information that we received from the Superintendent was that these meetings cannot be held fully remote. There were regulations stipulated for hybrid meetings that include extraordinary circumstances. Debra stated that other districts are still doing fully remote meetings. She suggested using a google form to survey everyone regarding day and time. Since the Covid Emergency Order expired we need to do it in person. We will consider all points, and we want all voices to be heard. We will bring these concerns back to the district. We will also create a google form and share the findings at the next meeting.

In a hybrid condition, the camera must be on for all attending members. We need to clarify about extenuating circumstances.

III. School Status Report- Mrs. Sainato

Welcome. It has been a great start to the school year. We are only at the beginning of the school year although it feels much longer. Thank you for the patience from teachers, staff, and families have had with the construction. There was some chaos the first few days and plans needed to be adjusted. Dismissal and arrival are now running smoothly. Thank you again for your patience and support.

The playground has some updates. Since we started 5 months early we will be ending early. We were notified that Nike gave significant contributions to our playground. The construction will most likely end in November. The only piece that cannot be done by November is the painting on the turf. In late spring the school yard would be closed for one week so that they can paint the turf. We are very pleased with this update since the limited access for entrance/exit and recess has been a stress. However we are thankful because students have been very cooperative.

Beginning in October, Mrs. Bonomolo and Mrs. Sainato are working on scheduled rotations during lunchtime. This includes arts and crafts, movement, games. We are considering

community walks. We put in a request to close off 82nd street to allow for outside recess. There will be another meeting with construction in mid October.

Does anyone have any questions? No questions

C30 Process

Michele Bennett has been a staple at PS 204. She received a principalship position in PS 6, Staten Island. Right now, Ms. Racioppo has been placed as Interim Acting Assistant Principal since she had the license and was willing to step up to the position. She has served as an instructional coach and a key member of our team prior to this. We are pleased to have her, but she will still have to go through the C30 process. The posting went up and came down. We will be selecting members from SLT for the C30 process for the interview.

Level I- Interview Process

Level II- 2 people are selected

Selection of Candidate

We are at the point that the 5 candidates were chosen. They just received notification of the Level I interviews.

Any questions on the C30?

Academic Screeners- We are all following the same academic screener calendar across the District. Acadience is a screener for K-2 and iReady is for 3-5 (ELA) and K-5 (Math)

Following this assessment window, we will go through the process of selecting students for AIS Intervention. We also received state test scores which are embargoed. We will consider all data when determining intervention.

Once students are selected, they will receive research based intervention in a specified amount of time (6 week cycles)

Once Ms. Racioppo stepped down from Instructional Coach, Ms. Terranova took over the coach position. Ms. Terranova, Ms. Racioppo and Mrs. Bonomolo met with the HMH Into Reading coach today to set up 9 dates. These sessions will include instructional rounds, and the remaining sessions will be modeling and supporting teachers in implementing the programs.

Any questions?

Once all assessments are complete we will be sending home parent reports to families. Workshops for families will also be provided

Question- How do state test results come into play?

It drives our CEP, and selection of priority standards. We can't disclose too much since the scores are embargoed. However we are in the process of examining the scores, and selection of these standards so that teachers can utilize these standards to prioritize instruction.

Debra has been an integral part of understanding the Science of Reading. We have made the shift from Word Walls to Sound Walls. Therefore we are in the process of making that shift. We hope to embed this work into SLT.

I have been helping PS 204 with the Science of Reading. We want to ensure that the texts that are being sent home. There are texts that are being sent home that are too advanced for the skills that they are learning.

Concerns about decodables that are sent home.

My Family- Decodable sent home

Ms. Racioppo- Thank you for beginning this to our attention. The only decidable texts that I'm aware of are Geodes and Just Right Readers. Please send me more information so that we can follow up.

IV. CEP Overview

Our goal is to increase 5%. We can't disclose specific goals. This was the first year where the exams were aligned with NGLS which may explain why there continues to be an embargo

PS 204's Instructional Priorities

1. Unpack the NGLS for clarity and utilize the backwards design model for planning and assessment. The standards will be our North Star and we need to ensure that all students are working towards mastery
2. All of our lessons will be student focused. We will be using a school wide protocol: Think-Ink-Pair-Share. We felt the writing component was important to include. There are different ways that this can be incorporated throughout the curriculum.
3. Use our targeted instruction to meet all students' needs. We will be using our screeners and diagnostics to provide appropriate scaffolds and support to make sure all students have access to the curriculum and can participate in all learning activities.

ELA and Math goal both involve a 5% growth in relation to our current standards.

We would also like to share a District Priority which is Chronic Absenteeism. We are fortunate to have good attendance rates (93-95%) however we need to focus on this because we are at 19-22% chronically absent.

There are a lot of factors that contribute to chronic absenteeism. 10%=18 days a year
20%= 36 days

We had students last year in the 50s and 60s. Is this a grade level issue?

We looked at subgroup data and noticed that some red flags were our youngest students. These students have the lowest attendance rates. It could be contributed to covid. Another factor are students that go back to their countries for extended breaks. We have had students

who remain in their country the first few weeks of school and come after 3 weeks. We have already exceeded 20%.

Parents also have to recognize that an excused absence with documentation is still a recorded absence. If there's two days a month for the whole year, you would be considered chronically absent. Even with a doctor's note it's considered an absence.

We are doing an attendance awareness campaign to reduce our absenteeism rate. Our rate is high right now because we know we have several students who are in their native countries and we know when they will return, but it still affects our numbers. The attendance system is being monitored weekly by our Superintendent. Any absences must be documented in iLog. This is a place where we document the reasoning to ensure that the school is following up. One step we have taken is sending out robocalls to notify parents about absences at 1pm. This allows us time to correct any lateness so that parents are not concerned. Teachers are still filling our daily logs to allow Lucille to notify if students have been absent for consecutive days. This year it is not permitted for students to login remotely and be given credit for attendance, which was the case in the past.

We are trying to encourage good attendance for the people who are here. We have put a message on the monthly calendar. In September we hung giant posters so that it's visible to parents. We are hoping to change those monthly. We will continue to have monthly attendance messages

Bonny- I manage the social media account. If there's anything I can do to reach parents I'd be happy to help since we have about 500 followers. That's another way we can reach parents and families

We will be having a competition for attendance among the grades which will be displayed in the hallway. This month we will be giving a BRAG TAG to the winners for September as an incentive for students to want to come to school.

October- Routines for Increasing Attendance (bed time, well visits, immunizations, scheduling)

We are trying to encourage building good habits that school is important.

The incentive might be shoutouts on the school board our front

During the winter the incentives will probably be more enticing. We can also partner up with the PTA. We may order pencils, free homework passes, fun Friday afternoon for grade levels, coupons for free snacks during Snack Sale (Becky maybe you will approve that). If anyone has any ideas for incentives, please let me know.

We may also want to highlight the biggest improvement rates as well. Historically we used to have breakfast with the principal. We can't do 100% attendance. We need to focus on the highest rates because we don't want kids to blame kids for being sick or also encourage kids coming to school sick. Other ideas include having theme days connected to days where there's low attendance: day after Halloween, Superbowl

Bonny: Maybe

Can integrate electives as a reward. My son was motivated to come to school early today because he knew he could work with Ms. Eckman with the legos.

We could do a student survey. What would be an incentive for you?

So we will continue to make attendance a priority and understand that kids are going to be sick. Each month we will focus on a different theme and we think the kids and teachers will enjoy it as well. Once we have the liberty to discuss scores we will fully discuss the CEP Goals

V. Title I Update

We are a Title I school. Every year we are required to have a meeting, which will be held tomorrow at 6pm virtually. Bonny has set up the link. Ms. Bugge will be on that team along with the PTA. We will be discussing what it means to be Title I and how this affects parent involvement in the school.

PAC- Parent Advisory Council. We need to hold a vote for a chairperson and an alternate. There will be emergency elections held tomorrow. PAC talks about different activities that we can do with the kids to utilize our Title I funds and how to support the CEP. PAC is supposed to be lead by the chair, which should be parents. Tomorrow I will be supporting this since elections need to be held. Salina sent home flyers and messages were also sent out through Operoo as well.

Any questions- I think we need to discuss how to run the meeting.

Ms. Bugge- Title I has to be presented first and then the elections can be held. I have a few names of people who are interested and we can also see if anyone else comes forward and then we can have the vote

VI. Dates to Remember

Today we went longer, but in the future we are going to try to keep time limits.

Upcoming Dates

October is National Bullying Prevention Month

Box Out Bullying- two assemblies to kick off 9/29

October 18th- Unity Day (Wearing orange unity shirts) to encourage inclusivity

Spirit day for students

October 31st- Spookley Activities- Encourages Respect for All /Bullying Prevention

Can we get a list of all the spirit days to send out a blast?

Oct 4th and 5th- Picture Day schedule will be sent to families

Retake Day will be in January

This will also be 5th grade senior picture days

October 7th- Columbus Day parade/ Il Centro supports this parade

PS 204 will be joining this event. Mr. Rosenberg is preparing our band to participate as well

We may be college shopping so I may not be attending.

October 9th- Indigenous People's Day- School Closed

October 31st- Bonny/Pricilla- PTA- Two fundraisers- Annual Boo Grams with a kindness theme. Spook the School with Ghouls- We will purchase these glow in the dark flamingo signs to cover the school and kindness one's for the front. The goal is to get as many people to participate as possible. We won't be able to do Trunk or Treat since we can't close 15th ave. On October 27th we are thinking about Trick or Treat activities as an alternative.

Mrs. Sainato - We will consider alternatives to pumpkin patch/March of Dimes Walk since we do not have access to the school yard.

VII. Questions/Concerns

Meeting adjourned 4:35pm