

School Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 8, 2023
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Members in Attendance:

- Sonita Ramkishun (Principal)
- Alejandra Roma (Teacher)
- Leanne Bolson (Teacher)
- Alisha Arthur (Parent)
- Laura Parris (Teacher)
- Yvette Choy (Parent + PTA President)
- Maria Hantzopoulos (Parent)
- Fiona Yung (Parent)
- Dragos Bozdog (Parent)
- Luka Makino-Siller (student)

Absent: Ali Lisberger (Teacher + UFT Rep)

1. Call to Order

The meeting opened at 6:05 pm for all on zoom.

2. Review and approval of last month's minutes

Motion to approve January minutes were made and seconded.

3. Leslie Cano from Global Kids

Announced that GK will start lunch clubs at school During the day after the break (Art, LGBTQ)

3. Future Meeting Dates

We hope to remain virtual and the meetings will now start at 6pm. The dates are all on Wednesdays: February 8, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 7, and June 21 (as budget)

4. Students at the Center- Chapter 4

What are ideas we should explore at Q300?

- 3rd Grade: Biographies and a change maker (Black History Month); deciding as a group how to evaluate (each class is coming up with different criteria)
- 5th Grade: For the unit they are in, they are doing a research share. Students choose their own book clubs, they could choose a research topic; students add their own ideas with the teachers; teacher-led opportunities allow for students to co-create the end product
- Question from parent: How is this tracked and implemented grade by grade?
 - Goal for this year is to try something, even one thing.

- For next year, implementing what they tried with fidelity and come up with some ideas by consensus
- Maybe this can reinvigorate service learning projects for the school. Can be a way to incorporate research, driving what the final project will be, how you evaluate, etc.. and a comfy place for students to tap into ...
- Laura imagines students can help plan field trips and advisory/morning meeting projects (by class and collaboratively)
- Students feel they get to take control of their learning and are more engaged
- How can we ensure that kids who are less likely to share are still included? Teachers maybe doing extra one on one.

4. Student SLT Report by Luka

- Respect for all Week is happening; homerooms are working on bring more encouraging
- Dance is happening and they raised enough funds - happening on Friday

5. [Parent facing diversity document](#)

- We reviewed the document in the link and approved it
- The document will be put on the website

6. I ready Review

- In groups we reviewed the collective I ready data
 - Group 1: [ELA](#) Leanne, Laura, Maria, Alisha
 - Group 2: [Math](#), Alejandra, Fiona, Dragos, Yvette, Sonita
- In groups, based on the data, we discussed what topics we'd like to focus on for next year's goals and put them in this [Note catcher](#)

6. Reports

- See Appendix for Principal Report
- See Appendix for UFT Report
- See Appendix for PTA Report
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7. Parking Lot: Remaining Questions & Concerns

- Web-facing Diversity Proposal will be shared over email
- Chapter 4 of book for next month

Appendix 1: Principal Report

Staffing updates:

- Michelle Lin is back from her maternity leave and has rejoined class 102.
- In April, one of our 8th grade teachers Ms. Anna H. will be going on maternity leave for the rest of the school year.
- In June, one of our 6th/7th grade ELA teachers Ms. Jean will be going on maternity leave.
- I am currently looking for long term substitutes to cover these classes during these leaves.
- The transition of class 201 from Ms. Cynthia to Ms. Stevie has been successful. We are continuing to check in with students on a daily basis.

I-ready Reports:

- All grades K-8 took their i-ready diagnostic assessments in January 2023. I-ready parent reports will be going home on Friday, February 10th. Please check your child's folder for the parent reports.
- Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions. All students took the diagnostic in both Reading and Math.

Mid- Winter Recess: Schools will be closed from February 20-24. School reopens on February 27th.

100th day of school: On February 15th, students will be celebrating the 100th day of school. Students and staff will be engaged in different activities all about the 100th day!

Respect for all week

- Q300 will be celebrating Respect for All week from February 13th- February 17th.
- A special thank you to our SEL team: Christine, Khary, and Rachel for creating a week of activities to support students.
- There will be spirit day (LD: Twin day and UD: PJ day), kindness challenges/shoutouts, presentations for the UD students on being an Upstander from the LGBTQ Network, presentations from Ms. Rachel about kindness, and we will celebrate mix it up day on Friday, February 17th.

UD Lunch clubs (Partnership with Global Kids)

Growing Into Yourself

Join us every Monday and Tuesday during lunch for Growing Into Yourself, a student-led club that unites LGBTQ+ and allied youth to build community, provide a safe space, and organize around issues impacting them in their schools and communities. Our goal is to create a safe, welcoming, and accepting school environment for all youth regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. In this club, we will have social hours, gain awareness of issues people in LGBTQ+ community face in a school setting, and work together to create an action project for the end of the school year. If

The 30th Avenue School (Q300)



Lower Division: 28-37 29th Street, Astoria 11102: 4th Floor
M: (718) 626-8502 F: (718) 626-8508

K-8 Citywide Gifted and Talented School

Upper Division: 31-51 21st Street, LIC 11106: 5th Floor
M: (718) 726-0501 F: (718) 726-0949

Principal | Sonita Ramkishun
Assistant Principal | Anna Milonakis

you're interested in activism and learning more about being a supporter of the community, stop by during lunch!

Arts Club

Want to take your art skills to the next level? Arts Club is open every Thursday during lunch for all Q300 participants! During art club, students will gain artistic freedom and have the opportunity to create various arts and crafts projects such as painting, t-shirt making, candle making, clay models, paper making, cartoon/comic books, soap making and so much more! If you're interested in expanding your knowledge or experimenting with new art mediums, stop by during lunch!

Update on COVID-19 Vaccinations Requirements

The Mayor [has announced](#) that vaccination requirements will be ending for Department of Education employees pending action by the Board of Health at its next meeting on February 9. This means that as of **February 10**, vaccination would be optional for DOE employees and others who work in DOE school settings or DOE buildings. Additionally, visitors entering DOE school buildings would no longer be required to provide proof of vaccination.

At the recommendation of our partners at DOHMH, we continue to encourage students and staff to mask up indoors and will continue to distribute at-home rapid test kits and masks to students and staff.

A letter will be shared with all families on Friday, February 10th.

Question about class size reduction - PTA pushing the DOE to form a task force to have input on how that is going to happen due to limitations w/ physical space. Sonita's understanding is that it will happen one grade at a time per year, with Q300 starting w/ K, which is already at 25 kids per class; still waiting for more guidance.

Appendix 2: UFT Report

Ali was not present but sent the following:

As you know, Success Academy is pushing to co-locate with schools in Queens. With your help we successfully managed to keep them out of D27, D28 and D29. We were warned that District 30 is next on their list to target for space. Last night, the DOE held a meeting to "hear from the community" but the community wasn't informed about the meeting. At this meeting, they shared that Success Academy wants to "expand" an existing Brooklyn school into a District 30 school. This is a very sneaky way of taking over space in one of our buildings while being able to claim they haven't started a new school. The current mayor and his administration support charter schools.

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Ashley Rzonca (D30's district representative) and the District 30 Chapter Leaders are asking all community members in District 30 to respond to this devious attempt to move into a District 30 school without community input by flooding the email addresses below with messages regarding the fact that a meeting was held about this matter but the community was not informed that it was taking place.

charter.legal@suny.edu
charters@suny.edu

Please let me know when you send a message. I'm keeping a tally so Ashley knows how many messages were sent from each D30 school. Also, if you're willing to forward me the email you wrote, that would be wonderful. She's looking for examples as well.

Additionally, District 30 schools will be wearing black on Friday (2/10/23) to show our disdain for this situation.

We must fight charter co-location together. Please share this message with anyone who also is a part of D30 and let me know if you have any questions.

Appendix 3: PTA Report

Awaiting Yvette's notes.