

School Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 24, 2023
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Members in Attendance:

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting opened at 6:04 pm for all on zoom.

2. Review and approval of last month's minutes

Motion to approve May 3rd minutes were made and seconded at 6:09.

3. Students at the Center- Chapter 7

How might the framework, described on page 139, help us in creating your CEP Goals and Action Plan?

- Fiona: It relates to how we build the CEP and the action plan. It might help us think about whether the goals still make sense given the new SLT in the fall. Another challenge is that our school is K-8 and our CEP reflects those bands, despite the diversity of grades.
- Sonita asks: What pieces of data should we use to align to these pillars? Sonita will be discussing this with Dr. C and others.
- Leanne: We were also struggling with that last time "What are we going to use now for data to align with the pillars and also what we care about as a school?" We will now modify and reflect on that too.
- Dragos: I have a question and suggestion. Can we devise our own surveys so that it aligns to our goals and the pillars? A suggestion is that one of the goals is to collect data. Sonita confirmed we can devise these.
- Alejandra: I feel like we are already doing this in some ways, since students have to reflect
- Maria: Perhaps we change some of the data that we have been using too if hasn't been useful in terms of our goals (i.e. I-ready data might help in some areas, but not in others)

- Sonita: 8th grade team has been selected to share with other schools in D30 (on zoom). They will be doing this next week.
- Sonita: Goal for next year to incorporate the 16 habits of mind into the curriculum for next year and by January '24, teachers connect to lessons

4. Student Report

- Light the Night Fundraiser is going on until May 26th (raising funds for blood cancer). Class that raises the most gets a pizza party.
- Science fair was successful, but we need participation, particularly for older students. They were not motivated to take part. Luka suggests that we could have homeroom teachers to go into the fair and spread more awareness, and it could be more inclusive. In response, the following conversation ensued:
 - Maria: Perhaps numbers were down in the UD, because Ali is based in LD. I know some kids in the UD but wanted to participate but struggled to find time to connect with classmates to work with and go to teacher office hours.
 - Ali: Perhaps there should be a person at each campus to be the point person.
 - Alejandra: For next year, we can implement this in a unit we are already covering in school to build excitement and start sooner (for more inclusivity and getting ahead).
 - Fiona: Both kids were included in her case but it was a bit rushed, while it will be smoother next year, starting sooner might help kids who want to participate but might not have the support at home to learn about what constitutes a science fair project.

5. CEP Goals for Next Year

- The DOE has created a new template reflecting their 5 priority goals for the coming year.
- The SLT got into groups (see chart) to discuss the priorities set by DOE.
- **Additional Documents we worked on in the past:**
 - [NYC School Survey](#)
 - [Mid year iReady Note catcher](#)
 - [School survey action steps](#)
 - [student perception data](#)
 - [student perception note catcher](#)

Groups:

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

Priority 1 All students learn to read well	Alejandra, Ali, Alisha
Priority 2 All students are physically and emotionally safe	
Priority 3 All students have a high-quality academic experience	Fiona, Leanne, Dragos
Priority 4 All students graduate college and career ready and have a strong plan and pathway to economic security	
Priority 5 Redesign the system to be more inclusive and responsive for parents and families, including having more families choose NYC Public School	Yvette, Maria, Laura

- Notes were collected and the CEP will be shared when approved.

7. Reports

- Principal Report
 - UD and LD Book Fairs happening and have happened. Thanks to parents who brought up every box!
 - Shakespeare Festival in-house performance was today!
 - 4th graders came to the UD today. Thanks to Alejandra and Jessica for leading and preparing
 - Ms Laura will host butterfly storytelling on May 26
 - Field Day
 - June 2: 8th grade
 - June 5: LD: K-4
 - June 6: UD 5-7

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

- HMH curriculum - District 30 collectively will be using HMH Reading. As we learn more about the curriculum, We will be using some components of HMH and supplementing using Foundations, Heggerty, and Acadeience as needed, we will supplement to make it fit with ours; there is an inquiry component (this is for K-5). While the curriculum comes with excerpted books, Sonita will buy supplemental whole books for our students.
- Hiring: Sonita will give an update at the next meeting (after preference sheets are submitted so she will have a better idea of preferences).
- PTA Report (See Appendix 1)
- UFT Report
 - **Continued Fight for a Fair Contract:** The UFT is still in negotiations with the DOE to ensure a fair contract. We are asking for a fair wage increase to educators; allow more time to support students with less time spent on unnecessary tasks; ensure a safe school environment; and grant educators adequate prep time, among other important working-condition improvements. Today (Wednesday, May 24) UFT rallies were held in all five boroughs to call for a fair contract for New York City educators.
 - SBO Process: Still closed and waiting for the calendar.

8. Parking Lot: Remaining Questions & Concerns

Alisha: Do you have info on the one school committee? Sonita will connect with the groups

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:09

Appendix 1

PTA Report

Happy Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Jewish American Heritage Month!

Thank you to all our families, UD students and teachers for submitting **PTA Enrichment and Budget Surveys** this month. All your feedback was collected and compiled by Maria, TY! And Sonita is in the process of working with the Enrichment Committee to plan out next year's programming!

Tomorrow the **PTA General Meeting** will take place on Zoom at 6:30pm. We will be holding elections for Executive Board positions for next school year. And also for two SLT positions for a two year term. Alisha &

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

Dragos are stepping down. It's not too late to nominate a parent/guardian (no teachers, sorry!). Just email nominations@q300pta.org. Or you can attend the PTA meeting and nominate someone then. You can also nominate yourself. ***SLT's are usually in-person and in an accessible space. The Governor has permitted remote meetings this year so far, but next year may be back to in-person meetings.**

We co-hosted a **Zumbathon** with PS17 and Alejandra (not the teacher). The fun and energetic fundraiser raised over \$1200 for the Q300 PTA, PS 17 PTA and earthquake relief in Turkey & Syria. Thank you to those who made donations!

We just closed the **Q300 Onward & Upward Tshirt** Webstore and production will begin this week. We expect to receive over 600 new school T Shirts in 2-3 weeks. Every student and staff member at Q300 will receive their complimentary shirt with Sorana Sakaguchi's original design on it, courtesy of the PTA. We'll be hosting a sorting party when the shirts arrive and will need lots of help to do that.

The **Scholastic Book Fair** was in the house at Q300 UD a couple weeks ago. And LD this week. So far we've been hearing that the kids who get to attend are really enjoying it. **Thank you to Christina Lee, Lisa Christopher and Jenny Lando for all your work preparing to make this Book Fair a reality. Also thank you to all the volunteer parents who are helping to run the Fair every day.** If there are any families who are facing financial hardship, the PTA does have a Financial Assistance Fund available for the Book Fair. Families should contact their student's teacher or email Rachel@q300.org. Tomorrow is the last day of the Book Fair.

The **Stepping Into Summer Auction & Party** is coming up on June 3!

It is taking place at a restaurant called Katch Astoria. And you must buy a ticket in advance in order to attend.

Please visit q300pta.org for the details on how to buy a ticket.

The event will include food, beverages, a silent auction and a live DJ!

The event *will* sell out. Get tickets now.