

**School Leadership Team Meeting  
Agenda  
Monday, December 11th, 2023  
5:30PM-7:30PM**

**SLT Notetakers: Maria Hantzopoulos**

**Members in Attendance:**

- Sonita Ramkishun (Principal)
- Emily McNally (Teacher)
- Maria Panagiotakis (Teacher)
- Edwin Mora (Teacher)
- Fiona Young (parent)
- Heather Clarke (parent)
- Mauricio Lopez (Parent + PTA President)
- Ali Lisberger (Teacher + UFT Rep)
- Jarvis Mccarthy (Student Council)
- Maria Hantzopoulos (Parent)

**Absent: Ellen Chu**

**1. Meeting called to order at 5:38 and Agenda reviewed**

**2. Review SLT Norms (1 minute)**

- Uphold a collaborative Spirit
- Be Present, Stay on task and be on time
- One mic/one voice
- Ask Questions
- Speak your truth with kindness and without judgment.
- Be solution-oriented

**3. Review previous meetings' minutes (4 minutes)**

[November Minutes](#)

Edwin called a motion, seconded by Ali, approved.

**4. Student Report by Jarvis (5 minutes)**

Discussed the time to get food (Average is 13.5 minutes to eat)

Trying to record this because students want more time to eat

Discussion about whether 5-8 should eat together or continue as splitting 7-8

Discussion of allowing students to come in earlier to eat (from recess) and vice versa - providing one table for that

**5. Survey Comparison Led by Maurico (10 minutes)**

- a. Maurico compared the results of this year's survey with others in district and CityWide G and T, as well as will previous year
- b. [Summary Test Results](#)

**6. Diversity Committee/G&T Kindergarten Admission Process 2023-2024 (30 minutes)**

- a. Sonita explained the purpose of the committee and explained that we will devote time to it in the SLT (30 minutes each meeting) since we are limited with staff.
- b. Sonita presented an overview
- c. Review [Diversity Proposal](#)
- d. Review [Flyer](#) / [Spanish](#)

We discussed for about 10 minutes how to improve the flier. Sonita will incorporate suggestions and share with the SLT for final review. We then work on translations. We will then discuss talking points to be distributed.

**7. District 30 [Capital Projects](#) (10 minutes)**

**We reviewed the list put together by both schools.**

Lower Division:

**Auditorium Renovation.** New seats and other updates could make student seating more safe and comfortable, rather than using broken chairs. This is important as students use the auditorium not only for performance events and awards ceremonies, but for twice daily bussing lineups and more.

**Classroom Air Conditioners.** While we are fortunate to have ACs in certain areas, many classrooms are incredibly hot in the warmer months. For safety reasons, not all windows can even expand for added breeze. As a result, teaching and learning can be quite challenging in sweaty environments.

**Shared Library materials and furnishings.** Transforming the library to include new flooring, furniture, books, technology equipment, and a cozy environment would be incredible. Currently we have an empty room due to lack of funds, so this would be a game-changer for so many families.

**Renovation of Two Courtyards.** Our schools share a cement entrance and an inner playground area. The inner play yard has small, outdated equipment on cement, and the outer

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# The 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue School (Q300)



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

K-8 Citywide Gifted and Talented School

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

Principal | Sonita Ramkishun  
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entrance is flat cement. Receiving funding to add padded flooring and updated, challenging equipment to both areas would be a thoughtful and transformative budget allotment.

Upper Division:

**Auditorium Refurbishing and Air Conditioning.** New seats, air conditioning installation, and other updates could make student seating more safe and comfortable, rather than students using broken chairs. This is important as students use the auditorium not only for performance events and awards ceremonies, but for twice daily bussing lineups and more.

**Classroom Air Conditioners.** While we are fortunate to have ACs in some classrooms, but many classroom ACs have stopped working, and are incredibly hot in the warmer months. For safety reasons, not all windows can even expand for added breeze. As a result, teaching and learning can be quite challenging in sweaty environments.

**Enhancing the Patio.** Our two schools share a patio that contains basketball hoops, which need updating. The area needs improvements to its greenery and functionality. Receiving funding to add updated equipment and beautification that students would be proud of, would be a thoughtful and transformative budget allotment.

## 8. Reports (15 minutes)

-Principal Report

- Enrollment
- Book Fair
- Smencil sales
- Climate Action Day
- December 8 - last marking period
- Report Card by December 20
- December 11: Soap Box Assembly UD
- LD Book Fair
- December 13: Soap Box Assembly LD

## December SLT Principal Report

### Update with Writing Curriculum:

We will be transiting to HMH Writing Units of Study by January 2024. Teachers will be receiving Professional Development in December and time to plan.

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## Kindergarten Admissions

Beginning December 5<sup>th</sup>, families with children born in 2019 can apply to attend kindergarten for the 2024–25 school year; the application deadline is January 19. Please encourage all families with children born in 2019 to participate in kindergarten admissions, including families with children currently attending pre-K, students with disabilities, English language learners, and students with accessibility needs. Also note the following:

- All families who apply by the deadline will receive a kindergarten offer in late March. As a reminder, families can now use the kindergarten application to apply to all kindergarten programs including kindergarten Gifted & Talented.
- Families can apply to kindergarten in two ways:
  - Online at [MySchools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc.gov); or
  - Over the phone by calling 718-935-2009.
- [Myschools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc.gov) includes an online directory that allows families to explore program choices, save programs of interest, and submit their application, all on the same site.
- Q300 will be holding an open house in January. [Sign up here](#) to receive information.
- Q300 will have 50 Kindergarten seats available for the 2024-2025 school year
- Q300 applicants will have sibling priority applied to applicants eligible for G&T programming.
- Q300 will apply our Diversity in Admissions initiative to incoming Kindergarten students who are eligible for G&T programming and qualify for free and reduced lunch and/or currently reside in:

- citywide section 8 housing
- citywide NYCHA
- citywide temporary housing

For questions, email [EsEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:EsEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov).

Date	Event
December 5 <sup>th</sup> & December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Upper Division Book Fair
December 6 <sup>th</sup> & December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lower Division 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Smencil and Sticker sale

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December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Climate Action Day- Staff participated throughout the building by turning the light off.
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lower Division Computer Science Event lead by Ali.
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of the first marking period
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	First Day of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> marking period
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Upper Division SoapBox Assembly (period 1)
December 12 <sup>th</sup> & December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Lower Division Book Fair
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Lower Division Soapbox Assembly (K-4)
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Families Received report card
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Upper Division Winter dance 2:50pm-5:30pm
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wellness Day before the Holidays & Culture Day  This is a day where teachers can plan special activities with students!  Students and staff are also encouraged to come dressed in something that represents their culture!
December 23 <sup>rd</sup> - January 1 <sup>st</sup>	School is closed of Winter break  School reopens on Tuesday, January 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2024

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## -PTA Report

- Pie Event was successful
- Youth Card Fundraiser: Potential PTA Marketplace

## -UFT Report

**Fight the Mayor's Budget Cuts:** Mayor Adams announced a plan to slash 5% of the DOE's overall budget, which could take effect as early as mid-December. The mayor's unacceptable cuts to school funding include:

- **\$120 million** in cuts to 3K/pre-K programs
- **\$286 million** in cuts to funded DOE positions
- **\$96 million** in cuts to after-school, substitutes, per-session pay and Summer Rising
- Cuts to **hours, days and ages** for Summer Rising
- **\$109 million** from 653 schools due to enrollment

Then he announced he's moving forward with ***an additional 5% cut*** and asked city agencies to submit plans for those cuts by Dec. 8. He has threatened to make ***a third round of cuts of equal size*** before June.

The UFT won't stand for this. No mayor has tried to slash the city budget when the city's finances are in such good shape. It's just plain unacceptable. These cuts to school funding are driven by City Hall's false political narrative that New York City is about to fall off a fiscal cliff. City revenues are, in fact, higher than expected, the city's reserves are at a near-record high, and state aid has increased. The influx of asylum seekers has cost the city money, but the mayor has exploited that issue to vastly inflate city expenses for the next four years. All these cuts to school funding will set us back at a time when we are finally addressing a decades-long inequity by lowering New York City class sizes.

We will not allow the mayor to perpetrate this fraud on our city. We must mobilize to fight these damaging cuts and expose their harm to our students. **Take action** by telling your City Council representative to stand up for our kids.

The City Council has the ability to intervene, but so far they have failed to act. We also need to let the public know about the real damage that the mayor's budget cuts will do to our schools and our school communities. You can also [send a letter](#) and spread the word to friends and family.

## 9. Parking Lot: Remaining Questions & Concerns

Q300 Survey (45 minutes)

Create school culture surveys (5-10 questions) for students, staff members, and parents

- i. Work in groups of teachers, parents, and students (with Sonita)
- ii. Input ideas into [chart](#)
- iii. Put finalized questions into Google Form