

SLT Minutes  
September 17, 2010

Present: Barbara Martin, Martha Mayorga, Michelle Montaquiza, Elizabeth Schneider, Amy Weiss, Lois Olshan, Reva Schneider, Liz Morrow, Kathryn Thome, Tricia Kampton, Jeanne Kwok, Lisa Brody, Stefanie Ameres

Not Present: Eric Bergerson

Agenda: 1. Residencies; 2. Truncation Update/Next Steps; 3. Common Core Standards – Overview of the differences from last year’s standards to this year’s standards; 4. Cluster Schedules – What grades have what and how many times a week? 5. What are the numbers on the registers? 6. How will the lower state test scores affect our school’s grade? 7. Upcoming Meetings – Dates and Times.

Meeting began at 7:05 a.m.

Discussion of Tornado – The custodians did a good job cleaning up around the school but there is still much damage in the neighborhood from last night’s severe storm.

Martha Mayorga will run the meetings this year and Lisa Brody will take minutes.

Residencies – Tricia Kampton, Jeanne Kwok and Lois Olshan met over the summer to discuss residencies for each grade. The school received a grant of \$25,000 from NYSPA. Ms. Schneider is able to contribute \$14,000 from the school’s budget. The PA will be voting to fund residencies at the General PA meeting on 9/20. Queens Museum of Art will be providing residencies to each grade. 6<sup>th</sup> grade will do Encore residency. 5<sup>th</sup> grade will do Ballroom Dancing with American Ballroom Theater. Ballroom dancing will be done earlier this year, than last. They will meet for 10 weeks, twice a week from October to December. The students can use the playground for space when the weather is good. 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be doing a residency with Making Books Sing. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will do the Guggenheim residency. It will be 2 periods a week for 20 weeks and include 3 trips. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will do the Gala Puppetry residency in the fall. 1<sup>st</sup> grade will do a residency with Young Audiences. It is a theater and movement program. Kindergarten will do Together in Dance.

Truncation – Reva Schneider will be talking with Ms. Kahn at the Division of Portfolio Planning about the next steps in truncating at PS 144. The Division of Portfolio Planning will write an impact statement and have a public hearing about the proposal to have PS 144 be a pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade school beginning next year (2011-2012 academic year).

Core Standards – Reva Schneider, Jen Lucadamo and Lois Olshan spent several days at conferences this summer about the new core standards. An overview of the standards was distributed to the SLT. It is the same handout that the teachers received. The new standards emphasize critical thinking. The teachers are receiving training from a specialist within our network about the new standards and how to implement them in the classroom. Given the magnitude of the information, it was decided to have a special SLT meeting devoted to the new Common Core Standards. The meeting will be scheduled at a later date. A Workshop

for Parents will also be scheduled to discuss the new Common Core Standards and what parents can do to help their children.

Cluster Schedules – K, 1, 4, 5 have Library. Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4 and the self-contained classes have Art. Pre-K and 4 have art for half a year each. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 have Computer. 2 has computer twice a week. All grades have Gym. K and 1 have Computer once a week. Grades 2 to 6 have Music.

Register – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has 2 classes and each class is one student over the UFT guidelines. Each class has 33 students. Unfortunately there are not enough students to form a third class. There would need to be 15 more students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to be able to get extra funding for another class. In the ICT classes in K and 1, there are still openings for students with Individual Education Plans (IEP). Those seats are likely to be filled during the years, as students are still being evaluated and may be given IEPs that mandate ICT placement.

There are 5 student teachers from Queens College placed at PS 144 in various classrooms. There is one ATR teacher who is providing coverage in several classes. The school is not paying her salary. She will cover the ICT classes during the cluster periods, to allow the ICT teachers to collaborate during their prep period. The school is down one paraprofessional and may be losing a second.

State Test Scores – Scores dropped 15-20 % across the board. It is likely our school's grade did not drop as our school's score was "50 something" and the mean across the city was "40 something". Students' scaled scores from one year will be compared with their scaled scores the following year. The state is working towards having the exams online by 2012 fewer multiple-choice questions. The tests will involve more critical thinking.

This led to a brief discussion about the \$200,000 grant received by the school to upgrade the technology center. Technology equipment in the computer room and library will be upgraded. If the state is moving towards having the state tests done online, then this should be considered in the technology upgrade.

Meeting Schedule - Future SLT meetings will be held in the Library at 7:00 am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month. Dates will be: 10/15, 11/19, 12/17, 1/21, 2/18, 3/18, 4/15, 5/20, 6/17.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

Submitted by Lisa Brody