

**School Leadership Team PS 144Q
Minutes for December 17, 2010**

Meeting was cancelled. Next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2011.

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Minutes for January 21, 2011**

Meeting was cancelled due to weather. Meeting rescheduled for January 31 at 7:00 am.

**School Leadership Team PS 144Q
Minutes for January 31, 2011**

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

Not Present: Kathryn Thome

Agenda: New Superintendent, Budget for 2001-2012, Halls of Science, Volunteers to help Science programs, Trout science residency, Magazine development with QMA, Recap of departmentalization in 4th grade, Update on G&T and pre-K

Meeting called to order at 7:15 am.

New Superintendent – Dr. Bryant is the new interim superintendent, replacing Ms. Reed, who is retiring. Dr. Bryant was a principal at a school that promoted the Arts and was in charge of quality review. Ms. Schneider will be meeting Dr. Bryant today.

There is a CEC meeting on February 3, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Budget for 2011-2012 – No specific news yet. Everyone has read about reports about the last five years of new hires being fired – last in, first fired. The union has agreed with the city to do teacher revaluations as a step towards looking at tenure and assignments.

At PS 144, several teachers are up for tenure. Ms. Schneider had to fill out additional paperwork to support these teachers getting tenure.

The implementations of Special Education reforms are being delayed for one year. The reforms will mean that every child has a right to stay in their school and have the school meet his or her needs instead of being sent to another school in the district.

All the IEPs (Individualized Education Plans) of students at PS 144 are being computerized so that they will be more easily available for teachers and administrators. There will be a 6th grade self-contained class at Halsey JHS next year, so our current 5th grade students will have a seat there. The ICT (Integrative Collaborative Teaching) Kindergarten class will continue next year at PS 144. 5 kindergarten classes are being predicted for next year. This may mean that some children from outside of our zone will be accepted into the ICT class, if needed. Schools are not allowed to “roll over” money from this budget year into next year. This means that budget planning is even more complex without this cushion to rely on.

Two grants were received from *Move to Improve* to increase physical activity in the classrooms. One grant is for grades K-3 and the other is for grades 4-5. Twelve teachers agreed to do the training on April 7, 2011. The twelve teachers will then train other teachers in the building.

Halls of Science – Discussed various dates for this event. Via email, after the meeting and in consultation with the teachers and parents members on SLT, it was decided to do the Halls of Science on June 13, 2011. This date will not interfere with preparation for the statewide tests, graduation rehearsals or vacations. The date will also allow parents to view the Halls of Science during the day or in the evening.

Volunteers to help with the science programs – In one teacher’s classroom, parents have assisted in setting up the materials for science experiments. The question was raised if more teachers would like such support. Ms. Weiss will have teachers contact her if interested.

Trout Residency – The trout are doing very well. The program is under the umbrella of the watershed project at QMA (Queens Museum of Art). Department of Environmental Protection is also involved since trout are an “indicator species”. Ms. Olshan is applying for a \$5000 grant to purchase a tank and materials for another classroom. The Parents’ Association funded this year’s materials. The residency involves other grades besides 2nd grade. 4th grade has visited the trout and is integrating the trout into their art residency. Kindergarten and 1st grade classes have also visited the trout.

Magazine with QMA – QMA is interested in putting together a magazine on their watershed project. Any parents interested in assisting with helping turn the children’s writings into a magazine that will be distributed at the museum should contact Ms. Olshan.

Recap of departmentalization in 4th grade – While there have been some positive aspects to departmentalization in 4th grade, there are also some concerns. For next year, there will be 4 5th grade classes. Rather than switch among the 4 teachers, there may be co-teachers – with students switching between 2 teachers, one who teaches Math and Science and one who teaches English and Social Studies. The current 3rd grade is not likely to be departmentalized next year in 4th grade; with a G & T class, an ICT class and the General Ed. classes, it would be too difficult.

Update about G&T and Pre-K – As of last Friday, the city will not be opening any more Pre-K programs in the city. There is no funding available for them. In general, the city does not open new 3rd grade G&T classes. There has been no commitment made yet about a new kindergarten G&T class either. In terms of staffing, several teachers have begun or expressed interest in completing the 12 credits needed for G&T teaching that are in addition to the 30 credits for an M.A. degree. Unfortunately these teachers, as recent hires, are most vulnerable for firing.

Other news - There is a Parents Association Meeting at Russell Sage JHS on February 9th that is open to all parents. There will be presentation on the influence of media and advertising on children.

Several student teachers are beginning today in various classrooms.

5th grade will be receiving a special program about trees and how to care for them. They will be involved in planting trees.

Representatives from the Parents' Association sat in on the new 4th grade science residency (funded by the PA). The assessment from the parents and teachers was that is was a lot of experiments, but not very deep in terms of learning.

Liz Schneider, Amy Weiss, Barbara Martin and Lisa Brody volunteered to update the SLT bylaws.

Next SLT meeting – February 18, 2011 at 7:00 am

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 am.

Submitted by Lisa Brody