

School Leadership Team PS 144Q
Minutes for February 18, 2011

Agenda: New Superintendent, Residencies, Budget, Professional Development

Present: Stefanie Ameres, Michelle Montaquiza, Liz Morrow, Lois Olshan, Reva Schneider, Jeanne Kwok, Martha Mayorga, Amy Weiss, Barbara Martin, Lisa Brody, Liz Schneider.

Not Present: Kathryn Thome, Eric Bergerson, and Tricia Kampton

Meeting called to order at 7:00 am.

There was a discussion of a recent mugging of a junior high student. It occurred on Juno and 68th in the afternoon and was youth on youth mugging. No one was hurt although the student was robbed of cell phone and wallet. Police are involved.

New Superintendent –

The new superintendent, Beverly Ffolkes-Bryant visited the school on 2/15 and “loved us” according to Ms. Schneider. She shared that PS 144 did well on the quality review, being ranked as “well-developed” which means that the DOE will not impose any changes on the school. Ms. Schneider’s Principal Performance Review also went well. The school will be filmed in a “Best Practice” video as an example for other schools.

Budget –

No news about cuts. Issue tabled until next meeting. Ms. Schneider did put in request for 12:1:1 kindergarten class, an ICT kindergarten class, and G&T 3rd grade class and pre-K class for 2011-2012 year. Funding for the school is based per child, not per class. She was told there would not be funding citywide for new pre-K classes. Ms. Schneider’s goal is keeping her staff and avoiding overcrowding when possible.

Parents can go to UFT.org for ways to protest budget cuts. Also send letters to the mayor and elected representatives.

Residencies –

Ballroom dancing was the best one ever according to several people.

PS 144 is an “Arts Achiever” school and has been invited to participate in a preliminary “Arts Counts” survey. There is a new initiative with the Arts and Special Project to develop assessment for Core Curriculum in the arts. PS 144 will probably be a pilot school for the program. Decisions will be made in June 2011 as to which schools will participate.

The Trout Residency is going very well and is including students in grades other than 2nd.

The Movement residency in Kindergarten is very successful. Teachers have been very impressed with the person leading the residency. Ms. Olshan and Ms. Schneider are looking into where the person was trained and developing a professional development workshop for the other teachers based on the residency.

Professional Development –

Grades K and 1 – teachers are receiving professional development through Teachers College on how to assess a child in a small group and help him or her move up in levels, rather than always having to assess the child in an individual conference.

Ms. Olshan will be coaching a group on applying the new Core Curriculum in the upper grades on 3/4/11.

There is money in the budget to provide coverage to send teachers to professional development on Common Core training in ELA and Math. On the Quality Review, teachers were able to identify other colleagues in the building they could go to for help.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 am.

Next meeting – March 18th at 7:00 am in the library.