

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

Agenda: Backpack News, Extended Day, Test Prep for ELA and Math, Contingency Plans for worst case budget scenario for next year.

Present: Stefanie Ameres, Michelle Montaquiza, Lois Olshan, Reva Schneider, Jeanne Kwok, Martha Mayorga, Amy Weiss, Barbara Martin, Lisa Brody, Liz Schneider, Eric Bergerson and Tricia Kampton.
Not Present: Kathryn Thome and Liz Morrow

Meeting called to order at 7:00 am.

Ms. Schneider went to 3 trainings on technology and received an iPad for the school.

Backpack News –

Sue Louie is leaving this year and there will need to be a new parent in charge of Backpack News. The new format is a success but there were some concerns raised about the content and whom the paper is geared towards. Some people expressed a preference for more articles about the residencies, curriculum and classroom updates. It was discussed having a teacher to help coordinate articles for the paper. There was a suggestion for an after school “Publishing Class” in the after school program. While some people expressed concern that the advertising is distracting, it does raise \$6000 for the PA and pays for the printing costs as well as other PA budget items. More volunteers, parent and teacher, will be sought for the Backpack News.

Extended Day –

Extended day is designed as mini lessons for students who need additional academic assistance. Material covered is in sync with the testing and curriculum demands. Parents receive a letter as to why their child is involved in the extended day period. There are very few students who miss the period on Wednesday, when many children are dismissed early for religious instruction. The extended period is used to academic assistance Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Thursdays, teachers use the time to meet by grade and look at student work. The Cluster teachers are involved in this as well. It is not possible to offer the academic assistance in the morning due to conflicts with busing and breakfast.

Test Prep for ELA and Math –

Several parents have requested that the school offer additional test prep for the state exams. PS 144 will not offer additional test prep outside of school hours. Parents are directed to ask the teacher for guidance and ideas for test prep. Test prep goes on all year, not just prior to the state tests.

Contingency Plans -

It is very unlikely that there will be a new pre-K class. There will be upper and lower grade self contained classes. Ms. Schneider has told the DOE that she would take a 12:1:1 Kindergarten class, a 3rd grade and a 5th grade G&T class. Special education teachers are not going to be laid off. Several teachers in the building have gone for G&T training. The UFT has organized several events to protest layoffs and budget cuts: 3/22 – all UFT members will wear red; 3/29 – town Hall meeting at PS 117 with Cathie Black; 3/31 – leafleting at Queens Boulevard and 71st Ave.; 4/14 - Union Rally at Queensboro Hall at 4:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 am.

Next meeting – April 15 at 7:00 am in the library.