

**School Leadership Team PS 144Q**  
**Minutes for October 15, 2010**

Agenda: Truncation Update, Bylaws, Maria Cognata – Re: 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Departmentalization, Class size, School Aides, Grading, Common Core Standards

Meeting called to order at 7:00 am.

Truncation Update –

On November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, in the Auditorium at PS 144, there will be a public hearing of the proposal for truncation at PS 144. As discussed and approved by the SLT last year, PS 144 is requesting truncation to a pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade school. The impact statement written by the DOE was reviewed. In order to replace some of the lost enrollment of not having a 6<sup>th</sup> grade, it was discussed to request a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade G&T class, an additional pre-K class and an ICT kindergarten class for 2011-2012.

Bylaws –

The bylaws are in need of review and updating.

4<sup>th</sup> grade –

Maria Cognata was not able to attend the meeting. She had requested that the issue of departmentalization in 4<sup>th</sup> grade be reviewed. Some parents have already met with Ms. Schneider. Concerns had been raised about the impact of changing classes had on the organization/disorganization of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders, the tightness of the schedule, students having to carry their lunches and backpacks up and down the stairs as they switched classes. Some adjustments have been made in the schedule and where the students can leave their lunches and backpacks. The issue will be revisited if these changes are not sufficient. It is undecided at this point in time if there will be departmentalization of 4<sup>th</sup> grade next year.

Class size –

Parents have been asking why some classes are larger than others. Why some classes have student teachers? And how the ATR teacher is being utilized. The grades with the largest class sizes do not have enough students to create an additional class. Need 15 additional students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to receive funding for an additional teacher. The student teachers are placed based on their training needs. The ATR is being used in a number of classrooms to assist with testing.

School Aides –

The small playground is not being routinely used during recess. It is available for individual classes to use at the teacher's request. There are not sufficient numbers of aides outside at recess to adequately supervise the large yard and the small playground. Parents are welcome to volunteer during lunch and recess time to provide more adults with the students.

Grading –

Concerns were raised about consistency of grades from one class to another. This can be an issue particularly in grades where there is departmentalization. This issue will be discussed further in the teacher grade meetings.

Common Core Standards –

A subcommittee will begin to look at the Common Core Standards and how they will implement at PS 144.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 am.

Next meeting – November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 am in the library.