

Leadership Minutes
October 9th, 2014

- Members Present:
 - Donna Neglia, Principal
 - Joanne Allotta, Teacher/Chairperson
 - Yvette Abreu, UFT Chapter Chair/Teacher
 - Rosanna LaFroschia, Teacher/Recording Secretary
 - Marni Hagel, Teacher
 - Merrie Levine, Teacher
 - Suzanne Olney, PA President/Parent
 - Gina Dellolio, Parent
 - Ann Marie Stabile, Parent
 - Karen Ercole, Parent
 - Danielle Minetti, Parent
 - Alicia Mohammed, Parent

- Ms. Allotta opened the meeting officially welcoming Mrs. Donna Neglia, our new Interim Acting Principal, Marni Hagel to our School Leadership Team, and Suzanne Olney as our new PA President. We also took the time to thank and say goodbye to Lori Accovelli, who stepped down from the SLT. Ms. Allotta also introduced the team and the constituencies that each will represent.

1. Review and Approve the Minutes from the September 2014 meeting.
 - Yvette Abreu and Gina Dellolio approved the minutes.

2. School Leadership Team

- Proposed Meeting Dates:
 - November 6th, 2014
 - December 11th, 2014
 - January 8th, 2015
 - February 12th, 2015
 - March 19th, 2015
 - April 16th, 2015
 - May 14th, 2015
 - June 11th, 2015
- Review of the By-Laws 2014-2015

The SLT took some time to review the By-Laws. Amendments to be made include:

* Page 3, Section 2- The principal and UFT chapter leader or designee are automatic members of the School Leadership Team.

*Page 4, Section 4- All team members will represent an individual group within a school. There will be **6 parent members and 6 Staff/Administration members**.

With the exception of a few changes to be made, everyone unanimously accepts the By-Laws.

3. School Goals 2014-2015- Instructional Focus

- Mrs. Neglia informed us that the mandated IPCs have started, when the principal meets with the teachers one-on-one. She will meet with other members of the staff after the mandated meetings are complete.
- Mrs. Neglia explained that we will be taking PS 216's goals, discussed at the September SLT meeting, and further develop them. SLT meetings will be a think-tank, where members collaborate to make action plans for these goals. We will think about what has been done and what we would like to see school-wide.

- **School Goal #1:** By June 2015, students in grades K-5 (including ELLs and SWD), will demonstrate an increased understanding of ELA strategies as evidenced by units of study work, ReadyGen Assessments and School Net results.
 - Ms. Allotta explained that ReadyGen, our current literacy program, focuses well on close reading to understand the text at a standards-based level. However, the program doesn't focus well on reading strategies and skills that develop proficient-reading habits. In addition, the writing curriculum is based on writing from sources, from the reading selections, but doesn't delve into writing as a genre study.
 - Mrs. Neglia explained that we want a balanced approach to literacy, where students are working with standards-level text and curriculum, with scaffolds and supports in place, but also a balance of exposure to on-level texts as well. Therefore, we will work to build the program the best we can to have that balance of what we want our students to have experience with.
 - Wonders is the literacy program that grades K and 1 are currently working with. Professional development will be available for teachers. The concern with Wonders is the gaps between that program and the ReadyGen as children go through the grades, because they are two different programs with unique approaches to teaching literacy. Ms. Allotta explained that some teachers have given insight as to the Wonders. According to the teachers, it is teaching students to read, with time allowing for eyes on print. Therefore, may make the transition to ReadyGen that much easier, as students will have those foundational skills. Parent members added that they have seen their children's progress with Wonders compared to ReadyGen.
 - Mrs. Neglia explained that when the city worked in conjunction with ReadyGen, it was guaranteed that students will be sitting with CCSS aligned work. We will be looking at the shortcomings of the program and fill in the gaps as we see necessary on a school-wide basis.
 - In relation, Mrs. LaFroschia brought up a program for ELL teachers/students. Mrs. Neglia suggested that maybe we meet with the ELL teachers and decide upon available resources that can be used.

- **School Goal #2:** By June 2015, students in grades K-5 (including ELLs and SWD), will show an increase in understanding math strategies as evidenced by units of study work, GO Math assessments and School Net results.
 - Mrs. Neglia explained that as far as the Go Math, PS 216 has made some nice gains. The program teaches students multiple paths to find an answer. The

Common Core Mathematics Standards are more about process and explaining thinking than the final answer.

- Ms. Abreu added a reminder that we don't have to use everything that a program give us, but rather use the programs as resources. Ms. Allotta explained that the LEAD teachers have done a very good job at making that clear to the staff, but that maybe they need to hear it from the principal. Teachers are to use the standards and student data as a rationale to what students need.
 - Mrs. Neglia added that something important to look at would be the trends across the grades, the material that repeats in the following grades, and the prerequisite skills needed to achieve the standard.
- **School Goal #3:** By June 2015, there will be an overall increase in teacher effectiveness as evidenced by formal and informal observations, student work and teacher goals.
- Mrs. Neglia explained that teachers will be evaluated based on formal and informal observations based on teacher choice. Teachers will be rated on the 8 components of Danielson as teachers develop their own professional goals.

4. School Leadership Team Vote

- Wellness in the Schools (healthy snack) - Members discussed the pros and cons of the school snack. We voted on having students bring in a healthy snack.
- Social/Emotional Program- The Leader in Me is based on The Seven Habits of Highly Successful People. It teaches kindness, responsibility, leadership, etc. It's a cohesive program, but may also be more work for the teachers. Marni Hagel was trained in the program when she was a teacher at her previous school and explained that there are book selections that come with the program. Students are encouraged to focus on themselves and the seven habits taught in the program. It does begin in the earlier grades and there will be more information to follow. Ms. Abreu did express some concern with time and when this program was going to be implemented. Ms. Allotta suggested that maybe the program's book selections be done as the Book of the Month, this way the language of the program will be school-wide. This program seems like a cohesive approach to tackling social and emotional growth. Ms. Abreu even suggested maybe this program branch into parent engagement and can somehow be incorporated into our Tuesdays after school. Ms. Allotta requested a sales representative. The SLT members unanimously voted in favor of the program.

5. October is Bullying Prevention Month

- Suzanne Olney, our PA President, informed us that bracelets will be distributed to students, as well as saying, certificates, and booklets.
- Wear the color BLUE on 10/17/2014.
- Mrs. Neglia would like to have a School Spirit Day, where everyone wears the PS 216 School Shirt/Sweatshirt. She will get back to us with more information as she sees if we have the money to purchase a school shirt for the staff.

6. School Safety

- School Construction is underway. Scaffolding went up and the SCA representative informed Mrs. Neglia that it will probably be up throughout the school year. Hopefully scaffolding will be down by September of 2015. The SCA will be working on the roof and brickwork on the fifth floor. Inside construction will probably be next. There will also be some waterproofing on East 1st street. Construction is to take place after school hours.

7. Garden/Kitchen Update

- Olivia Parker sends her regrets as she is unable to make today's SLT meeting. She sent an email with information to Ms. Allotta.
- 10/12/14- 10/13/14 the garden/kitchen will be hosting additional volunteer hours in the garden from 10am-12pm. They need more assistance in the garden, since they are having a special guest touring next week.
- Farm Stand will continue to be help at 2pm on Thursdays. All are welcome.
- On November 1st, 2014, they are having their big fall event from 10am – 1pm in the garden. They are partnering with KingsbayY, Earth Matter, and NYC Compost Project. There will be garden and kitchen activities, arts & crafts projects, pumpkin smashing and composting, popcorn, music, and more! Please mark on your calendars. Flyers/Invitations will be distributed soon!
- Recipe of the Month: Kale
- The Chancellor will be visiting PS 216 on 10/16/14 at 2:30pm to see the garden.
- The PA is asking for there to be a more open line of communication with the garden staff. The Pumpkin Patch will be for students on 10/30/14 and then two days later the pumpkins will be composted. Mrs. Neglia suggested that there be a monthly meeting with the PA and garden staff.

8. New Business

- 10/21/14 PA Meeting 8:30pm
- 10/23/14 Picture Day
- 10/24/14 Halloween Bake Sale
- 10/27/14 Pumpkin Decorating Contest (grades 3-5)
- 10/30/14 Pumpkin Patch
- There will be a Food Drive at the beginning of November for Our Lady of Grace.
- 11/3/14 Chocolate Sale begins
- 11/7/14 Snack Sale
- 11/21/14 Snack Sale
- 11/25/14 PA Meeting in the morning

- Gina Dellolio brought up that some students may not have recess at lunchtime. Mrs. Neglia explained that she has been observing the lunch periods to see how it works and does see that students are instructed to eat for about 20 minutes and then get about 20 minutes at recess in some grades. The goal is for the children to have recess.

- Mrs. Levine brought up that PreK should have recess daily but does not. Mrs. Neglia suggested a meeting with the grade to discuss more recess time.

The next meeting will be held on November 6th, 2013.

*Mrs. Neglia and Ms. Allotta closed the meeting.