

Meeting Summary PS 261 SLT
Wednesday October 17, 2007

Attendees: Alice Peck, Malissa Smith, Deanna Logan, Melissa Farran, Pamela Potishman, Kenya McCall, Emilie Williams, Ramona Fluker, and Lena Barbera

The meeting was called to order and September minutes were approved. The election of SLT officers was postponed until elections could be held for the open parent seat on the SLT.

It was agreed that the nomination process would be redone due to loss of submitted nomination forms in order to ensure opportunity for all in the election process.

The SLT discussed the mission for the SLT this year.

One of the suggestions for our mission was to bring back conflict resolution. The prior program at the school was Resolving Conflict Creatively Program (“RCCP”). The program trained teachers and developed a program of peer mediation. The problem was the retention of trained teachers. Once teachers are trained and can train others the program is self sustaining. However, the individuals trained at P.S.261 went on to other position and the program ended. It was mentioned the Kim Tulloch was interested in reinstating the program. She is the content area coach for social studies and science. Lena agreed to get Kim in touch with Pam in order to see how we could reinstitute the program.

In addition to conflict resolution we discussed the issue of Aids or parent volunteers for recess and lunch time. Lena explained that the lunch clubs were coming back for the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade. The subjects would include dance, tennis, band and chorus. Lena explained that they will be able to accommodate 50-60 children. Ramona explained that the extremely mild winter last year made it hard to get children who wanted to commit to the program. Once committed children must spend their recess time in the activity, since the weather was so mild last year the children were able to go outside more during the winter. As a result fewer children want to commit if it means missing an opportunity to play outside.

In addition to lunch clubs, Lena explained that the school has a power reading lunch program where the court officers come in and read with children. This activity is open to the lower grades.

Lena further informed the team that Ms. Mills attended a program at the University at Connecticut Conceptual and Educational Models: The Three-Ring Concept of Giftedness and The Enrichment Triad Model. The school anticipates that Enrichment will begin in November. The program will be more academically based. Students will be challenged to explore a concept and take it to another level. Historically the grades were mixed. This year it is anticipated that we will group 2nd and 3rd grade students together and 4th and 5th grade students together.

The Saturday Test prep will not be on Saturday because the school was unable to secure adequate staffing. The school needs at least teachers required for ELA &Math to offer

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test prep. P.S.261 is in the process of evaluating which children will benefit from the added assistance. The school wants no more than 12 children in a class. The classes are not mandatory but strongly suggested. The classes focus on test taking strategies for struggling students and works on getting them to the next level. P.S. 261 uses the Kaplan method and materials. We already have all the teacher's guides.

The team discussed issues of nutrition and creating a nutrition committee to review designated vendors issues. Members of the team pointed out that P.S. 29 has a salad bar. The goal is to discuss with Dennis the research conducted by last year's fifth grade class.

The group agreed to review the assessments of the school and compare what information is no longer relevant for the current school year. We will also review relevant DOE assessments of our school.