



ADOPTED Minutes OF ZOOM MEETING on 1/6/2020
NYC Museum School
School Leadership Team Meeting
Wednesday 1/6/2021, 5pm

Team Attendance on 1/6/2021:

Mandatory Members

- √ Daisy Fontanez, Principal Assigned Laura Hindelong (invited)
- √ Ramona Abraham, UFT Chapter Leader
- √ Julia Haselmayer, PTA Co-President

Elected Members:

- Keyon Armstead
- √ Stacy Bess
- √ David Cardenas
- √ John LaLena
- √ Jamie Markovitz
- √ Alison Overholser
- Angela Skirianos

Student Members:

- √ Jefferson Lantigua
- √ Jonathan Rosario

Other Attendees:

- √ Vivian Orlen
- √ Mark Rush
- √ Joel Lowy
- √ Laura Hindelong
- √ Gillian Sowell



Call to Order

Daisy Fontanez called the meeting to order at 5:00

Adoption of minutes from December Meeting:

Minutes were adopted without correction.

High School Admissions Update

- ***Introduction by Principal Daisy Fontanez:*** there has been concerns about the current diversity level at school compared to the past. Principal Fontanez previously presented collected data to the SLT Team and Superintendent Vivian Orlen. There was a strong desire for Museum School to become part of the diversity and admissions process. Today, the latest developments and changes will be discussed
- ***Diversity in Admissions (DIA) at Museum School- historic perspective,*** presented by Joel Lowy: Since the beginning of the school its concept has always been one of equity, access and inclusion. There are educational and cultural resources in the city that most students across the city don't have access to. The NYC Museum School has been founded on the principle to be a vehicle to give access to these resources to all. In recent years, the diversity, both cultural and ethnic as well as the economic and academic, had been impacted and the school has become more uniform in its population. Therefore active steps are needed to ensure that school can maintain diversity, while keeping its reputation of academic excellence. The removal of District 2 priority allows the school to keep academic standards high while remaining true to its mission of connecting kids across New York City with resources. Further, with the background of the Pandemic affecting the academic performance of many students it has become important to be more active in reaching out to students across the city to give students from less privileged backgrounds the same opportunities as the kids of district 2. This commitment remains also for students with IEP, for which the school equally has the highest standards.
- ***New Admission Process - presented by Laura Hindelong:*** The DOE has given schools access to 6th grade and 7 grade (until mid term) grades as well as 6th grade test scores.



Museum School is planning to use 6th grade and 7th grade mid year grades as evaluation criteria. Both years will be weighted equally. The school feels that this describes scholars better than 6th grade ELA and Math test scores. Ranking will no longer be done in school, but centrally by DOE.

- **Update by Vivian Orlen:** The decision just before Christmas has been a whirlwind for District 2 schools (Museum, Lab, Elenoer Roosevelt (ER), Baruch). All Schools are now collaborating, ER and Museum are talking to Baruch and Lab to learn from their experience, as they had started with the process of opening up admissions a year earlier. Lab and Baruch are now in year 2 and are asking central to set aside a much higher % of free lunch students, than ER and Museum, who are only starting the process. Lower % of seats set aside still restores the diversity whilst maintaining high quality of education. Currently there is still very little information for all. Some of the screened schools will get rid of academic screening for admission. The 4 schools talked about that (Museum, Lab, Elenoer Roosevelt, Baruch) and there was consensus that they do not want to go down this route.
- **Discussion:** School is aware that 6th grade is often a transition year, which why it tends to equal weight of 6th and 7th grade. If there are no 7th grade midterm grades, the school will use the highest grades they have. All schools have been asked to use 2 parts in their rubric. Schools are not allowed to add additional assessments (i.e. essays) to their rubric, if they were not part of the admission process before. The changes in admission to increase diversity were perceived positively by all the SLT members.
- **Open Houses:** NYC Museum School will have 4 additional open houses
 - January 12th at 6pm;
 - January 13th at 9am;
 - January 26th at 9am;
 - January 28th at 6pm

NX progress update: Progress is slow. There were 130 scholars that had 1 NX or more. More teachers are partnering with scholars to give them additional support to get them back on track.



College Application Update & College Night at 6 pm:

- 11th graders: January 21
- 9th & 10th graders: January 27

More students are getting accepted into colleges. We have a few early admission results for NYU, Wesleyan College, Posse Foundation and others.

Adjournment:

It was agreed that this meeting counted as the January meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6 pm.

Next meeting:

**Wednesday, February 10th @5pm