

ADOPTED 6/19/20
NYC Museum School
School Leadership Team Meeting
Wednesday, April 29, 2020, 4:00pm
Via Zoom



Team Attendance on 4/29/20

Mandatory Members:

- ✓ D. H. Miller, Principal (Staff)
- ✓ Ramona Abraham, UFT Chapter Leader (Staff)
- ✓ Gillian Sowell, PTA Co-President (Parent)

Elected Members:

- Mauro Antognelli, Parent
- ✓ David Cardenas, Staff
- ✓ Beth Davies, Parent
- ✓ John LaLena, Staff
- Jamie Markovitz, Parent
- Anthony Singh, Student
- ✓ Paula Singh, Parent
- Angela Skirianos, Staff
- ✓ Alexander Theodorakos, Student

Observers:

Joel Lowy, Dechen Wangno, Julia Haselmayer, Jaclyn Kesler, Nery Uceta, Che Chisolm, Caryn ?, Amy King, Trace Murphy

Call to Order:

Meeting was conducted by Zoom. Called to order at 4pm. (Recording started after meeting had started.)

Approval of the Minutes:

SLTs await instruction from DOE on how to have voting. Draft February minutes have been circulated and will be adopted at a future meeting. The SLT meeting originally scheduled for March 27 was cancelled.

CEC Goals

The school goal of improving **attendance** was brought up as a goal that is still relevant in Remote Learning. Mr. Lowy reported that students are engaging at a high rate, which has been captured by our PupilPath system. Ms. Miller reported that attendance has been very strong. Question about devices and access and disparity among students: When it became clear that remote learning was a possibility, school began to address need for devices and access for students. After school closed, devices were distributed. In addition, Mr. Lowy and Ms. Skirianos delivered eight devices to students.

Ms. Miller reported that she is teaching three Senior English classes, which she has really enjoyed. Recent wifi problems have been an issue, but resolving soon.

Discussion about Tutoring Support:

Ms. Davies asked a question about tutoring and direct connection to students: Teachers are the front line. Is there a need to connect students with tutors? Cost was raised. School budget spending is now closed.

Mr. LaLena reported that he has heard about a free tutoring for students. He will follow up. If it is an option, it will be promoted to families and students.

The NYPL offers homework help. Question about Peer-to-Peer tutoring.

Need to be mindful of student needs and availability when we think of options for students. Students are managing their time in different ways either by choice or necessity. Ms. Miller as a teacher is happy to see when students are committed to completing the work and then she can be flexible with deadlines.

Ms. Davies suggested that if online learning becomes something that continues into the fall, planning ahead for an investment in tutoring support might be valuable.

Ms. Singh raised value of Peer-to-Peer tutoring for school, both for students getting help, and for students to have for their college applications.

Discussion ensued on how students could be connected.

Mr. LaLena found information on the free tutoring option. 30 minutes sessions with volunteer graduate degree holders in English and Spanish. Mr. LaLena will research further and share via Mr. Lowy.

Question on volume of work (From an observer): Issue of remote learning responsibility of students to teach themselves the material paired with large volume of work.

Ms. Miller responded that most teachers are directly engaging with students either live or with recorded lessons a few times a week. If there are specific issues, they should be sent directly to Ms. Miller and Mr. Lowy. Also parents should be in touch with Ms. Williams, the guidance counselor.

Question about penalties for lateness with regards to levels of stress. (From an observer):

Ms. Miller will share with teachers her idea of “clearance sale” to help kids meet their responsibilities, fill in the blanks. Teachers have been aiming to AP exams and Regents all year. Respect for deadlines is an important lesson, but at this time, a philosophy of encouraging kids

to engage and complete work would be a good shift. Chancellor's letter on grading conveys this philosophy of going forward in a non penalty way.

Social-emotional health concern (from an observer): The academic rigor is stressful even for very strong students. The workload is intense and taking many hours a day. Social-emotional health is a concern.

Ms. Davies: reiterated the feeling that the workload is very heavy. There is work to learn and then additionally work to reflect the learning. Can volume be addressed?

Ms. Miller will communicate with teachers, but she reiterated that it important for families to connect with teachers directly. Each student is having a different experience. And there are some families asking for additional work.

Mr. Theodorakos added from the perspective of student experience that the workload is heavy. He sees how if students fall behind it could become overwhelming.

Ms. Abraham said that in her communication with teachers, she feels that they are being understanding about late work or work completed at different times. Teachers are focused on making sure that students move through the work and are prepare for the next year.

Observer reiterated idea that workload is heavy and suggested that overall work could be reduced with optional extra work offered for students who want more.

Last day of school/ last weeks of school: Ms. Sowell asked about the last day of school and how the next two months will unfold. Knowing more about this might alleviate some student stress. Ms. Miller said that Chancellor determines the last day of classes. Teachers are individually assessing how students are moving through the material in terms of how they are teaching, with the important goal of covering their curriculum and making sure students are prepared for next year.

Ms. Miller reminds families to connect directly with teachers and Ms. Williams. The toll on everyone, both families and teachers, is profound. School is working to ensure the success of all students.

Ms. Miller is happy to schedule an additional meeting to continue this discussion. A meeting can be scheduled at anyone's request directly to Ms. Miller.

Ms. Miller thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 5:10pm.