

ADOPTED 6/19/20
NYC Museum School
School Leadership Team Meeting
Friday, February 14, 2020, 7:30am



Team Attendance on 2/14/20

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:

Laura Hindelong

Call to Order:

Mr. Antognelli opened the meeting at 7:35am.

Approval of the Minutes:

Mr. Antognelli asked for any changes to the minutes. Minutes were adopted as presented.

Announcement:

Ms. Miller reported that Ms. Skirianos was not able to attend the meeting but that she wished to propose two procedural policies for the team:

1. If the Galaxy TOO is presented to the SLT, it should have all salaries redacted
2. All school documents distributed to the team should be collected at the end of the meeting.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Sowell said that policies should be adopted by the team by consensus. She said that she had no objection to the redaction of salaries, but questioned the broadness of point two. Ms. Miller said that the policy was in keeping with directives of Damaris Frias and the Office of Family Engagement. Mr. Mauro suggested that the proposal could be that on a case-by-case basis school documents would be collected. This was amenable to the group.

Committee Updates:

Mr. Antognelli asked for a reminder of which team members were on which committees. List with sign-up will be circulated before the next meeting.

Diversity:

Mr. LaLena said he was interested in this issue. From middle school advocacy sources, Ms. Sowell is keeping up to date with changes in admissions across the city, including the status of proposed changes to admissions to the eight Specialized high schools and will share any news with the team. It will be interesting to see the impact if any on racial diversity of the new admissions methods being used by two of the four D2 high schools. Committee to follow up on how NYC Museum diversity is evolving with class of 2024 when it is available. Mr. Antognelli requested a timeline from the committee.

Mr. Antognelli brought up a USA Today article, “Teens Take Charge” and Ms. Miller read from the article. The team was not happy with the reporter’s descriptions of our school, in particular with reporting that pitted the differences between NYC Lab School and NYC Museum school in terms of diversity and resources. There was interest from the team in following up with the reporter. Mr. Antognelli requested that suggestions and comments be emailed to him so we could draft a response.

New Partnerships

Ms. Davis and Ms. Markovitz were absent, so this item was skipped.

Financial Literacy Program

Ms. Miller reported that she and Ms. Ortiz were meeting to plan how to implement the Hands On Banking financial literacy program from Wells Fargo into the Wednesday Early College Institute spring semester class for Seniors.

College Success

Mr. Antognelli reported that he had been doing a lot of research on how support over the summer after graduation and into the freshman year of college can have on the rates of students completing college. Findings show that the summer after high school and first year of college are pivotal areas of vulnerability. He would like to explore if/how school could support our graduating seniors through the first year. Ms. Miller shared that NYC Museum does a great job of getting kids to college (98% graduation rate) and agreed with the value of that summer/first year support. Ms. Sowell clarified that Mr. Antognelli is talking about a support that would come from the school rather than an outside agency. Ms. Singh said that support over the summer after graduation and into the freshman year of college was a great idea, and she also raised the value of graduates returning to school to share models of success with current students. Ms. Hindelong said that NYC Museum graduates did come back this year. Ms. Miller said that Ms. Ortiz now has relationships with all the current seniors and that this type of connection could be fostered going forward.

CEP Goals:

The CEP goals were reviewed to ascertain what metrics are available now.

Graduation: Increase Advanced Regents Diploma recipients

Degree of success of this goal will be clearer when students take mock regents exams in May. It is difficult to predict Regents exam scores from course grades because our classes can be more rigorous than the Regent standards.

More AP classes – also for IEPs – AP for All

There are 10 AP classes and two of those have 2 sections, for a total of 12 classes of AP study.

Collaborative and Trusting Relationships with PTA (diversity)

Ms. Sowell clarified that the CEP category of the goal is “Collaborative and Trusting Relationships” and that goal in the CEP is for both the PTA and the SLT to engage parents in a way that reflect the diversity of the school. She reported the PTA efforts toward communication (newsletter) and meeting topics as well as efforts to support the school with presence and refreshments at meetings including school-sponsored meetings like Junior College night. Ms. Miller said that part of the goal is for elected positions on the SLT and PTA to reflect the diversity of the school. Mr. Antognelli pointed out the lack of male members and of Hispanic members on the executive board and asked if translation of PTA meetings into Spanish would be valuable for recruiting parents to meetings and then to the executive board. Ms. Miller said that there is funding in her budget to cover the cost of translation for PTA meetings.

Attendance – kinvolved, Rate of arrival = n/a – PTA presentation = n/a

Ms. Miller said that data will be available later in the year.

Developing & Implementing less restrictive IEPs (95% completion on time) = n/a

Ms. Miller said that data will be available later in the year.

Section 8 – Title 1 (no longer relevant)

While school will not receive Title 1 funding going forward, Ms. Singh updated the team on this year’s Title 1 PAC recent work. A group poll showed the most interested in Homework Help for students, but the \$1747 of family engagement funds must be spent on parents, not students. She reported that the group was considering that part of the money be used to purchase two-ride MetroCards that could be distributed to meeting attendees. Ms. Miller questioned distribution and Ms. Singh explained that they would be offered to all attendees of meetings.

Homework Policy

Ms. Miller reported that a discussion of homework policy with staff ended up focusing on make-up tests. Students allowed to take make-up tests can have an unfair advantage. Being on time to class and being present is an important part of handing homework in on time. She said that school aims to prepare students for college, where a late paper might not be accepted at all. Mr. Antognelli raised the fact that several but not all teachers post homework on line, and that it would be helpful for students if all teachers did. Also, sometimes homework is first posted in the evening and due the next day. He also asked if it would be possible for all teachers to share more details of the syllabus and planned course homework at the beginning of the school year to mirror the college experience. This topic discussion will continue at the next meeting, which is Friday, March 20.

Close: Meeting was adjourned at 8:15am. Attachments: Sign-in sheet, agenda. Minutes submitted by Mr. Singh and Ms. Sowell