

**SLT Meeting**

**2.8.22**

**3:00 - 4:00**

**Attendance:**

**Principal:**

Bob Bender, PS 11 Principal

**Teachers:**

Emma Balmuth-loris

Emily Colbert

Marketa Kawa

Kim Olson

Holli Weiss (UFT Chapter Chair)

**Community Representative:**

Debbie Osborne, PS 11 Programs and Community Based Organization (CBO) representative

**Parents:**

Inbar Aricha-Metzer

Rebecca Berkebile (Secretary)

Courtney Lewis

Reshma Saujani

Edward So

Jordan Wright (Chair)

**Minutes:**

**I. Standing agenda items for SLT**

A. Family Engagement/Communication

The school is easing into a return to normal. The school is planning 4th and 5th grade trips (camping and Washington D.C.), hoping for an audience for the 5th grade show, hoping for a live graduation program, and hoping for an outdoor end-of-year event. There are opportunities for parents to volunteer in the school in certain ways – through the library, lost-and-found, and within certain classroom events (for example, for Lunar New Year events).

After serious consideration, the school is requiring students to be vaccinated to attend the 4th and 5th grade trips.

B. Health & Safety (including mental health)

There is newly increased DOE COVID-19 testing of students, and recently 65 children were tested on one day.

Test kits are being sent home over February break, with a recommendation to test students before returning to school. Mr. Bender is going to urge caregivers to e-mail him if their child’s test is positive.

There is concern that NYS will soon remove its mask mandate in schools, and some children will stop wearing masks to school while others will continue wearing masks. This may be psychologically/emotionally difficult for students, parents and teachers. If/when this occurs, teachers will work on age appropriate programming for students to help them make sense of some students wearing/not-wearing masks without there being an us/them mentality. The school will also work on providing parents with language through which they can talk to their children about the family choice of whether to continue masking. Teachers/families can engage in discussion about how families make different choices regarding all sorts of things: when to walk to school by yourself, whether to wear a helmet while ice skating, etc. This is a personal/family choice, and there is not a right/wrong answer.

Mr. Bender updated the group about crime in the neighborhood. The school and PTA regularly meet with the local precinct about any issues.

C. Academic Achievement

The DOE appears to be considering what to do with the G&T program next year. Mr. Bender has provided feedback to the DOE about how the G&T program is working this year.

Middle school applications are due March 1st. The school is organizing a family forum to hear from PS11 alumni who attend various middle schools.

D. Social Engagement & Gratitude

The school is gearing up for Valentine’s Day. There will still be K&G valentines, but they will be within the classroom this year. There will also be 100th day of school celebrations, but it will not be school-wide.

**II. Comprehensive Education Plan**

Tabled.

**III. New Business**

1. Name Change Committee

Four students will present on the name change at the CEC meeting on 2/8/22. The CEC needs to post its minutes saying that the name change is being requested. The CEC will take a non-binding vote on the name change. These minutes will become part of the package that goes to the School Chancellor. Mr. Bender discussed the name change with the District Superintendent, who is supportive. William T. Harris and Sarah J. Garnet’s next of kin have been notified. The school where Ms. Garnet was the principal is located in Chelsea, and there is work being done to obtain landmark status for the school building. If the request is put in to the Chancellor by March 2022, the name change will go into effect in September 2023.

**IV. Adjourn**

**Next meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 3-4:30pm**