

School 17 SBPT Minutes

Minutes from monthly School Based Planning Team meetings.

Date *

MM DD YYYY

12 / 15 / 2020

Facilitator *

Eleanor Coonce

Minutes *

Hezir Aguero

Present *

- Hezir Aguero
- Kyra Bradley
- Roberto Chavez
- Nancy Coddington
- Eleanor Coonce
- Bill Cronmiller
- Caterina Leone-Mannino
- Elaine Martinez
- Katherine Prest
- Nyla Saunders
- Audrey Sowell
- Kat Wing

Other:

Previous Minutes Approved? *

Yes

No

Other:

Agenda Approved? *

Yes

No

Other:

PD Approvals *

No further PDs approval. Ms. Coddington sent information this Monday on how to sign up for our school-based PD: Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Instruction and Anti-Racist Teaching. The PD announcement will also be done today during the staff meeting. Staff needs to register asap so books can be ordered and they need to register for each session.

Staff Updates *

Ms. Renner is returning next week; Ms. Laguer will stay on board as a sub as needed.

ILT Updates *

Foundational Literacy Skills - Ms. Leone and the First Grade team will be meeting with Karen Fahy, Director of ELA; Heather Donnelly from SAVVAS to take a look at both the English and Spanish MyView/MiVision materials. The First Grade team raised some concerns with the approach to teaching reading in Spanish and have prepared talking points. They will be using the FIVE points we normally use for Community Based Asset mapping: What do you like? What don't you like? What needs to be changed? What are you willing to do to improve the situation? And, anything else?

John Curry, our State Monitor will be part of the meeting. The idea is to guide the State recommendations to help us move things forward. We want to work on those recommendations jointly.

The goal of this effort is to supplement literacy instruction where is needed. There is a gap in foundational skills and cohesiveness. We are asking Donnelly what is the rationale for the phonics, phonemic awareness, and skills progression that is being implemented in English AND Spanish in the program. Is the program tested for sound results or are we testing it with our kids?

Some of our kids are SIFE (Students with Interrupted Formal Education) and though they are in 2nd grade, they are just working on letter recognition. So we need to build a strong foundation or we'll never be able to fill the gap.

Parent Engagement

We have the Winter Holidays Around the World event this evening. We have about 25 families that represent more than 25 people because those families have more than one child. There are supplies in the main office. Ms. Leone is encouraging staff to join in.

We continue to offer the opportunity for parents to join our PTO. There are two empty seats in the PTO. The upcoming event includes videos on Kwanzaa, Christmas, and Three Kings. Families will get to engage in painting one of those holidays' images, Spero will lead the painting time.

The next event will be in January and it will focus on Meditation and Relaxation techniques that will be taught to parents as well. They will also learn how to make stress-relieving balls and other similar items.

Community Support/Student Engagement *

The Student Support Team is no longer a current item since we are remote and things have changed.

Safety Update: We have to go back into our submitted Building Level Emergency Response Plan and add Pandemic Planning in addition to an emergency plan. Our current Safety team, RTA Reps, Building Committee, and SBPT have been invited to come in and discuss a plan for reopening. The goal is to devise a building-level plan to submit it to the District for approval.

Hot Topics/Current Issues *

Reopening: Breaking news as of today's Principals' huddle at 4 pm, the goal is to have kids back in school on 2/8/20 with staff coming back on 2/1/20. One of the main discussions at the District's level is staff leaves. We, at School 17, have a locked-in number of students planning to return to in-person learning; what we don't still have is how many teachers will be taking time/leave. The question now is how do we staff both sides of remote and in-person in the DL program. So we are going to look at the collaboration in the teacher teams to see what makes the most sense. Ms. Leone has invited the Registrar for that discussion as well. As of today, Ms. Leone had not received any notice of staff leaves.

Ms. Leone explained the 3 phases for return the District is putting out: specialized programs are starting in January. It is a small number of students. Ms. Leone has asked for the District's stance on allowing our 7th and 8th-grade student/staff to return with K-6, but she was turned down. We have 28% of our students interested in returning, including the middle schoolers interested in returning. She is working on keeping the 28% here all at once, for those two days, instead of 14% each day and 3 days remote/Asynch. Nothing is finalized at this point and there is no guarantee as to which teachers will be with which kids. still the phrase that there is no guarantee that the students will have their own teachers. Several of the SBPT teachers protested that parents chose without knowing the long-term effect of their decision; many parents chose one option vs the other one trying to keep the same teacher or because they had the impression that their kids will get more consistent instruction. Ms. Leone reminded us that: We are bound by the District's rules, but understanding parents' concerns and our current reality of student learning through remote learning, we need to document and voice parents' concerns on kids who are not benefiting of online instruction.

Regarding staff's quarantine: The State's law changed and they are requiring staff to be tested before and after traveling and quarantine for a certain amount of days. Ms. Leone reported on the numbers she has regarding how many of the kids responded, etc. Concerns were raised by Mr. Cronmiller, Ms. Coonce, and Ms. Martinez regarding the reliability of the re-opening process and the way the District handled parental information. Ms. Leon reported that about 7,300 students District-wide chose hybrid while 12,000 students chose remote; the concern is that parents who were undecided or who didn't report, were defaulted to remote learning.

Given the gross misinformation, Ms. Bradley asked, what resources are available to our parents to help them advocate for their children. Ms. Leone shared some of the options for parents' advocacy voice - There is a program called PLTI that teaches parents how to advocate. Several members of the SBPT further remarked that there has been a lack of transparency: "things went from a survey to a locked-in decision. We also called parents during the peak of the contagion numbers when the biggest sense of fear was present in the community."

Ms. Leone explained that we're moving forward with the plan that is shared. We are going to try to run on a staff rotation of some sort, we'll share collaborative teaching staff that doesn't require to have to teach both online and in-person at the same time. Ms. Coonce asked whether this was applicable to middle school or if she and the other Middle School teachers who teach by themselves, will be teaching remotely while having students in front of them. The response is that the protocols for middle school have not been determined, because middle school is part of phase 3, those discussions are yet to occur.

Looking ahead, Ms. Leone asked to be given the Ok to purchase motion webcams that would allow those teachers who would need to teach both groups of students to do so without needing to be seated at their desks in front of their computers while managing a classroom. Her request is also waiting for a determination. Details on the technicalities of how to return continue to evolve, including whether the students will be bringing back and forth their Chromebook. There are lots of questions and very few answers right now. The newly formed task force will prepare a plan of how we want things to look like during Re-Opening in hopes that the District will honor it.

Teacher Transfer: Ms. Leone presented to the SBPT the application for an Exemption on Teacher Transfer process so that we can have some say on which teachers transfer in. That way, we attract people who want to join by choice (who align with the work that has been done such as restorative practices, etc.) and not by default. The exemption makes our school need to interview and rank our first choice by tenure area and the rest is open to everybody. It's a request, it is not a guarantee, but it is a way to ensure that we are bringing people who are a good fit for our school. Who decides this? RTA jointly with HCI?? Ms. Leone asked the RTA reps who were present to ask the Union for some clarity on the process.

Common Assessments: Ms. Aguero explained that Middle school teachers would like to use the District's Common Formative Assessments even if the elementary teachers don't. Ms. Leone agreed to that differentiation. Ms. Saunders voiced that the younger grade levels might also like to have access to those assessments, particularly the Math in Spanish, because of the differences in the vocabulary and the format of the problems between the different language versions. Ms. Saunders highlighted that the State exam is very wordy and if the kids could have access to a similar test in their native language ahead of the actual test, this may be helpful. Ms. Leone will contact the Bilingual Department to request having the Math Assessment be available fully in Spanish. Ms. Leone will request again that the District provides samples of the tests so that our teachers can see them and make decisions more clearly. These common assessments would be in addition to the District's quarterly NWEA.

Ms. Martinez asked for clarification on whether the 6th-grade students will be considered under the Elementary or the Middle School Re-Opening plan since that grade keeps being tossed back and forth. Ms. Bradley added the fact that 6th grade is departmentalized and runs consonant with the 7th and 8th grade. Ms. Leone clarified that for the District's reopening plan, 6th grade is clustered with Elementary.

Final announcement: When school reopens, the bell schedule will go back to 7:30 am.

Follow up Topics for Next Meeting *

Updated SBPT Agenda / outline

Reopening Plan and Common Assessment from the District

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