



The James J. Ambrose School
 80-51 261st Street
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DANIELLE LAPORTE
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School Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 29th, 2020

Members in Attendance: Danielle LaPorte, Alex DeCanio, Kristina Silvagni, Rachel Fritz, Jessica Russo, Marc Ciprut, Shernette Walters, Sonia Mohan, Melissa- Ann Phillip, Denise Bucaoto, Concetta Ceriello, Samar Shamsi, Suchi Behl,

1. Meeting Called to Order- Ms. LaPorte welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded all visitors of their role as observers during the meeting and if they had questions or concerns they could add them in the chat to be addressed at a future SLT meeting based on relevance.
2. Introductions- New members as well as alternates were introduced to the team.
3. Review CR A-655 & the SLT requirements- Ms. LaPorte read through parts of the CR A-655 document to ensure all members had an understanding of the function, structure, roles and responsibilities, and focus/priority of the School Leadership Team
4. Assign SLT Roles & Responsibilities- Roles of Chairperson and Secretary were assigned by the Team (Chairperson- Ms. LaPorte; Secretaries- Kristina Silvagni until January; Sonia Mohan January until TBD)
5. Review School Leadership Team Bylaws- Ms. LaPorte read through parts of the SLT Bylaws and the team focused on making sure the Bylaws were aligned to the CR A-655 policy. Parts discussed were the Mission Statement which includes the purpose of the School Leadership Team, the expectations of team members, the role of the general public, core responsibilities, as well as what does not get discussed at SLT meetings including the mentioning of specific students, staff or parent names.
6. Set SLT Meeting Dates for the Year- Dates were set for SLT Meetings for the Year

SLT Calendar for the 2020-2021 School Year

- Nov. 12th, 2020
- Dec. 17th, 2020
- Jan. 21st, 2021
- Feb. 25th, 2021
- Mar. 18th, 2021
- Apr. 15th, 2021
- May 20th, 2021
- June 17th, 2021

7. News and Updates Committee Reports
 - UFT News and Updates- Mr. Ciprut indicated that there was no news/updates to be shared
 - PTA News and Updates
 PTA President Shernette Walters welcomed newly elected SLT Parent Representatives
 The Scholastic Digital Libraries for the students were published and shared with students, staff, and families.
 Some concerns were raised around Savvas Math online assessments/program ** Ms.LaPorte will



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contact Savvas to check it out** (Note: Check Answer means to save the answer. Ms. LaPorte will also speak with staff to make them aware.)

PTA enrichment programs will begin in two weeks. (Beginning 11/9) The PTA is working on registering students for these programs.

A question was asked around other teachers' names in the google classrooms- Ms. LaPorte stated that teachers are collaborating with grade level teachers and sharing the workload for assignments and creating materials. This has been helping to maintain grade-level coherency and consistency especially in the event that students switch from blended to remote and vice versa.

An idea was raised around providing grade 5 students with an opportunity to experience departmentalization- Ms. LaPorte and staff will revisit the idea of departmentalization as we get into the Spring.

- **Principal Report**

Ms. LaPorte thanked the teachers and staff for the successful reopening of school. Many of the teachers and staff are doing double the work- teaching in-person students and managing and meeting with the blended remote students as well. To help provide support, the first and second grade teams now have a blended remote teacher to help support and service blended remote students. We are looking toward growing this for the rest of the grades.

We currently have 1 ENL teacher in person- Ms. Keller. We now have hired a remote ENL teacher to help support and service ENL students.

Ms. LaPorte thanked the students and families with all of their hard work both virtually and in person.

Random Covid Testing took place this past week. This will continue to take place once a month. We will send home a notice to make families aware that testing will take place the following week however the exact day is not given. This past testing day went very smoothly and the students did great.

Opt-In Window ****UPDATE****: There will only be ONE opt-in the window from Nov. 2nd-Nov. 15th for families of students participating remotely to opt in for blended learning. This change was made by the DOE in hopes to build consistency for our children and families. This is guidance from the DOE, not the school. We will be keeping our program model and currently have many seats open for in-person learning.

Marking Period 1 will end on Dec. 7th and report cards will be sent home on Dec. 21st.

Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Nov. 5th and will be a dialogue between families and teachers to share information about students. Families are encouraged to share how it is going at home.

Nov. 3rd is Election Day. All staff members will be working remotely this day and it will be a full instructional day for students.

8. Discussion of New Business Agenda Items

- **Cellphone Policy-** The Cellphone policy from the 2019-2020 school year was reviewed and a discussion was held around revising the section on bringing personal laptops/iPads, etc. to school to include this as part of the policy to support student's working in the blended learning model. A revision was made to the policy to allow students to bring in personal laptops, iPads, kindles, etc. to work on school-related assignments only. These devices are to only be used during the instructional time of the school day and should be placed in backpacks when not in use.

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- Homework Policy- a discussion was held around our homework policy as well as being flexible with due dates of assignments, activities, and tasks. A consensus was made around not giving homework assignments this year due to the fact that students already don't have enough time to complete the work from the day and could use the time to work on trying to complete any work from the school day.

- 2020-2021 Grading Policy- Ms. LaPorte discussed the new grading policy guidelines and reviewed important parts from the Chancellor's letter that was shared with families.
Pre-K will not be given grades.
Grades will still reflect the students' understanding and growth in subject areas.
Each school will select their own grading scale from several options such as 1-4, numerical scale, A-D, etc.
Students will not receive failing grades this year if they have not yet met the learning outcomes for their courses. (Level 1 or 2). Instead students will receive a mark of N for "Needs Improvement"
Families will have an option to request for passing grades to reflect Meets Standards (MT) rather than their score of 3, 3+, or 4 numerical grades on report cards ONLY for the Final grade in the final marking period. Parents will need to request this by writing a letter after final report cards have been distributed in June. This can be a request for MT in one subject area and doesn't have to be in all content areas.
Attendance will NOT be a factor in a student's grades. However, grades will reflect participation, demonstration of all components of student learning, and engagement in their work.
Grade of NL means there is not enough work to assess or provide a grade. It is also used for newly admitted students who have not attended school for at least 75% of the days in the marking period.
The team will review and add these new components to our grading policy.
Grade level teams will work to revise their grading policy based on the discussion of weight of formal assessments in this learning environment.

- Review of CEP Goals in Iplan Portal- Ms. LaPorte reviewed the process the SLT went through to determine our goals for the 2020-2021 school year. The team reviewed NYS Data for ELA & Math, ESSA (School accountability reports). As part of CEP we need a goal for All students, a goal for English Language Learners, and a goal for Students with Disabilities. We need goals in ELA and Math and Chronic Absenteeism if we received a level 1 in this area which we did for our English Language Learners sub-group. Our goals have already been approved by the superintendent over the summer. The team is always reviewing and analyzing the action plan and the data to see if we are on track for meeting our June goals. We are always able to revise our action plan but NOT the goals. At our next meeting we will think about school data we can use to progress monitor whether we are on track for meeting our benchmarks and June goal since NYS state exam results don't come in until the summer.

- Walkthrough of iplan Portal- we reviewed a power-point which discussed the action plan of a CEP and Progress Monitoring. As a next step prior to our November meeting the team will work on adding their thoughts and ideas to a Padlet to create an action plan for each goal.

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9. Questions/Concerns

10. Meeting Adjourned

Comments from the chat:

- If a child is shy perhaps or if a child is uncomfortable with this new way of learning or if a child is embarrassed about the appearance of the home they are in those could be reasons for not turning video on. If family has TV blaring in the next room or talks loudly on the telephone or family members curse in the background that could be a reason why their screen is muted. This is a new way of learning that not all families are comfortable with and not all teachers are comfortable with.
- The teachers do not truly have a grasp on the students abilities so grading is going to be inaccurate as it was last year too. Please consider this thought for next meeting