

SLT MINUTES
SLT Minutes: Monday April 29, 2019

Attendance: Elizabeth Garraway, Victoria Morey, Teresa Bazzi, Heidi Sauberg, Ronni Horowitz, Colleen Cruz, Kim Landman, Kass Minor, Maria Heredia, (Visitors: Jessica Arnold, Susan Ciccotti, Kelly Kolodny)

1) Committee Reports:

- The Diversity Committee is currently working on their District 15 Diversity Conference presentation. The conference will be held on May 23rd at PS 118, is by invitation only and not an open event.
- The PS 118 Step Team will perform at the conference!

2) Abilities Awareness Update:

- Did not hold a meeting in April. No new information to report.

3) School Yard:

- will remain open until 3pm but families will be reminded to watch their children. Thursdays will remain the same (yard available.) Notice will be sent by Teresa.

4) Departmentalization: A discussion was held around the positives and negatives of 5th grade departmentalization. Both 5th grade teachers voiced their experiences teaching in this format (Ronni read a written statement by Simone Fraser) as well as parents Maria Heredia and Susan Ciccotti. Some of the “Pros” that were voiced included being able to work with students in the entire grade and students’ experiencing different teaching styles each day. Some of the “Con’s” voiced included time constraints because the teachers are on a very set schedule with the need to switch which makes the flexibility of extending a lesson impossible. The feeling that bonding with students isn’t as strong as it would be if teachers stayed with their own class all day. Maria said that her son likes the format and that she feels it improves instruction since both teachers are passionate about teaching their subjects. (Simone: Reading and Writing, Jessica: Math) There was a question about what measurable gains have been made by teaching in a departmentalized format. The possibility of an anonymous student survey was raised.

Principal Garraway stated that within the next few weeks we’ll decide about continuing the 5th grade departmentalization format and whether we’ll be extending departmentalization to next year’s 4th grade classes. However, we probably won’t extend it to 4th grade.

5) ICT (Integrated Co Teaching): A discussion was held around why PS118 does not have an ICT program as other schools in our neighborhood do. We have a SETSS program (Special Education Teacher Support Services) with a dedicated teacher. Principal Garraway explained the following...

- There needs to be a certain number of kids per class (40% with IEP recommendations for ICT) otherwise we would need to open seats to students with this recommendation who reside outside our zone.
- SETSS and ICT are considered equivalent on the Least Restrictive Environment scale
- Having just 2 classes per grade means that if there are conflicts between kids who are mandated to have ICT then those kids may not be separated by class. Kids might feel segregated by their IEP. Thus, it could be difficult to make ICT work well in our small school.
- If we must have one ICT class on each grade, we would have to figure out funding the 2nd teacher in each ICT class.
- Our school currently has 19 students with IEPs that recommend SETSS. It takes 12-13 ICT IEPs per grade to pay for an ICT class.

- If we don't have enough ICT IEPs, we would have to change student IEPs to ICT to pay for teacher which is not based on students' specific needs.
- ICT belongs to D15, children can be placed here who we don't know and who may not be accurately assessed
- Hard to find Special Ed Teachers and no additional funding is being provided for second teacher so we're looking into different models to deliver Special Ed services such as SETSS push-in, or possibly forming an ICT class part time with the 5 Special Ed teachers we currently have. Special Ed Teacher training enrollment is declining overall
- ICT is not a cure-all, a strong SETSS program can be comparable
- Can be good for attentional difficulties, but if there are multiple students with attentional difficulties it can negate the benefit
- Overall, we strive to meet the needs of all students.

6) CEP Review: We reviewed and edited/updated the following

- Section 4: CEP Overview
- Section 5: Needs Assessment, Annual Goals, and Action Plans