

Draft

PS 118 SLT Minutes 12/17/19

Attendees: Annie Giovino, Victoria Morey, Teresa Bazzi, Ronni Horowitz, Regina Rodgers, Meredith Hackett, Maria Heredia, Kim Landman, Travis Rew Porter, Cassandra Minor, Elizabeth Garraway, Colleen Cruz

- Call to order/sign in/timekeeper
- Reading/approval of November minutes
- Committee reports:
 - **Diversity:** 2nd meeting occurred. Goal of shared facilitation and ownership. Read an article about talking to your kids about race through literature. We need more participation from the community. A call for more members went out because it's important to understand the community's needs going forward.
 - The negative press from previous years has possibly affected the process of gathering new members. People may feel intimidated and we're trying to dispel those fears.
 - **CEP:** SLT CEP Committee will be working on the goal of equity and voice for CEP.
- Unfinished Business
 - **Executive Function Workshop:** Sarah Kowal will be coming to present a free workshop before the January PTA meeting.
- New Business
 - **School Birthday Celebrations:** There is a growing number of students who have allergies. It has been difficult coordinating across the school what the policies are. For snack, some teachers have kids bring in snacks and some have common snacks. There are issues with both. Looking at policies is something we need to revisit. There are pictures in classrooms and in cafeteria of kids with allergies so teachers and subs know. A parent has asked for us to look at our policies to brainstorm ideas to implement in the classroom for doing foodless birthday celebrations.
 - For this year, we'll send out information to increase allergy awareness and limit what's sent in. We'll make a menu of food-free experiences for birthdays for kids to choose from. Looking to move towards food-free birthdays for next year.
 - Need to discuss further in the future
 - **Having a cluster position next year which is a combo Spanish/arts teacher:** A feeling that there isn't enough arts in the school, especially in the lower grades. Pre-k gets a full year of art (Studio in a School) and a half year of music, plus Ms. Harney is co-director of an arts program. Class is very music based. K&1 get half year art and half year dance. 2nd grade gets half year art, half year swim. Third grade gets half year art half year chorus. Fourth and Fifth get half year art half year musical theater. K-2 also does Playshop, which is creative.
 - Discussion of a sub-committee to increase arts opportunities in the classroom