

PS118 SLT Minutes – April 13, 2021

Attendees: Elizabeth Garraway, MariaTeresa Bazzi, Meredith Hackett, Ronni Horowitz, Victoria Morey, Regina Rodgers, Chris Shott, Deirdre Curry, Tara Hayward, Amanda Huttenlocher, Charlotta Koehler, Sivia Weintraub, and additional interested parents.

- The meeting began with a review of the March SLT minutes, which were previously approved by email.
- Committee Reports:
 - PTA President Report: Chris Shott reported that the next PTA meeting will be on Wednesday, April 21 at 6:30pm. Key items for discussion include:
 - PTA Executive Board Elections: Executive Board members serve one year terms, and elections are typically held each spring, though the most recent took place in October 2020 due to Covid. The Executive Board planned to hold elections this spring in order to revert to prior years' cadence, but are now considering postponing the election due to lack of interest from the parent community in serving on either the Executive Board or Nominating Committee. Additionally, all current members of the Executive Board are willing to remain in their roles and are considering running again. Principal Garraway recommended moving forward with spring elections as well as considering two-year terms with two people in each role;
 - Update from the 5th Grade Graduation Committee; and
 - Update regarding the upcoming talent show, tentatively scheduled for June 10.
 - Equity & Diversity Committee: Principal Garraway and Ms. Horowitz provided an update regarding the Equity & Diversity Committee, which will meet next on Thursday, April 29 at 8pm. Key updates included discussion of inclusion as it relates to special education services, including but not limited to dyslexia, and the possibility of bolstering such services during the next school year (budget dependent).
- Unfinished Business:
 - Garden update: Chris Shott provided an update on the garden, based on his discussion with parent Jamie Hewitt, former co-chair of the Garden Committee and Parks Department employee. Jamie suggested convening a small group to clean and make space for students by pushing planters and milk crates to the side, potentially on Saturday, April 24. Others expressed support for this activity and advised that Ms. Amber has offered to help with the space, given her background in hydroponics and farming.
- New Business:
 - Development of the Comprehensive Education Plan ("CEP"):

- Principal Garraway advised that an important function of the SLT is the development of the CEP, the format of which has undergone several revamps in recent years.
- The SLT was given a short break to review the current CEP, which had been circulated to the SLT on March 16, and then to discuss.
- An SLT member commented that the CEP is heavily reliant on testing as a key performance indicator and observed that testing will not be meaningful this year given the pandemic and the small number of students opting into testing.
- Another SLT member inquired as to why data on absenteeism was broken out into “All Students” and “Hispanic”. Principal Garraway explained the underlying data that resulted in that breakdown.
- Another SLT member inquired as to whether there are repercussions for failing to meet targets identified in the CEP, and Principal Garraway advised that there would be no repercussions this year.
- The SLT decided to resume discussion of the CEP during its May meeting.
- Enrollment / budget:
 - Regarding the school’s budget, Principal Garraway confirmed that the school will be held harmless for the \$285k previously owed due to a decline in enrollment in 2020-21. As a result, the school can consider returning to a normal school year with enrichment programs in 2021-22.
 - Regarding enrollment, there were significantly fewer kindergarten offers extended than in prior years (approx. 35 offers for 50 seats). The deadline to accept kindergarten offers is April 30.
- Opt in updates/changes to hybrid schedules:
 - Principal Garraway advised that, regarding the recent opt-in window, between 2 and 6 children per grade opted-in to in-person from fully-remote instruction. All will join the in-person cohorts on April 26.
 - Principal Garraway also advised that grades that are currently in a hybrid model (1st, 2nd, 3rd) will likely continue in that model at this time.
- Standardized testing:
 - Principal Garraway advised that a limited number of students have opted into standardized tests and that there will be staggered delivery of the testing, such that there will be minimal disruption to the school day.
- Update on the 2021-22 school year:

- Principal Garraway advised that it is unlikely that there will be an on-site after-school program next year in light of budgetary constraints and requirements relating to cleaning of the building during after-school hours.
- Topics for May SLT Meeting:
 - Addressing learning loss;
 - Updates on enrollment (both kindergarten and upper grades); and
 - Continued discussion of the CEP.