

## **SLT MEETING NOTES**

October 25, 2013

OUR NEW ZONE: Lisa says new zone lines are not clear from what is posted online. We discussed how incoming families for next year are uncertain what school they are zoned for. Lisa says in order to confirm lines/map we need to go to the DOE's Portfolio Department (a branch of the Enrollment Dept). Contact there is Jennifer Peng, [jenniferpeng2@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:jenniferpeng2@schools.nyc.gov). Lisa suggests forming a small committee to investigate. Dana and Denise to start by getting in touch with Portfolio, our Community Liason etc.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION HAPPENS ON-LINE FOR NEXT YEAR: How will this work? Can out-of-zone families still apply/get on waiting lists?

REACHING OUT TO NEW FAMILIES FOR NEXT YEAR: PTA is spearheading preschool outreach (but we need to be able to tell parents if they are zoned for PS 3)

POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR: Lisa just got word that there might be additional funding – late for us in terms of getting (much needed) additional upper grade teacher.

PLANNING FOR NOVEMBER 22 SLT MEETING WITH COREY JOHNSON: SLT working with PAC to identify key points we'd like to discuss with CJ. We will try and focus on five or so issues that we feel are the most important. We will be communicating on this over the next few weeks so that we have a handout for meeting and can go point by point.

TEACHER EVALUATIONS: These are taking up a great deal of time for Lisa and staff, there is growing concern about their effectiveness (or lack thereof) in our community. As this is a state vs. city issue, we will not spend too much time on this with Corey Johnson.

POTENTIAL NEW SYSTEM FOR SCHOOLS FROM INBLOOM

**January 24, 2014**

Meeting with Councilman Corey Johnson

**BUDGET ISSUES**

Class size has been increasing, the caps that are placed on class size keep creeping up. We currently have 34 students in our 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Even just in terms of physical space, it's hard. The funding issues are hard to entangle, we need more transparency and communication with the DOE on what the funding will be each year and when it will arrive. For example, Lisa was not told until December she had

funds to open another class this year. That is not feasible, she needs to hear over the summer how many teachers she can hire.

Corey very hopeful that this is going to be a “tectonic” shift with new chancellor and mayor. The fiscal year ends in June so we are still living with the previous administration’s plan until then -- but we have the opportunity going forward to make changes that will help principals make these decisions in a timely fashion etc.

Corey urges us to educate him so he can fight for us.

#### SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY

There are so many systems, Lisa named the many. There are now 2 new systems, one from state and one from city. They don’t work well. The only one that works is a DOS system. They don’t communicate with one another well either. Example: Looking at one student’s IEP recently and systems don’t interface. Incredible waste of staff time. Teachers need to spend their time thinking about their students’ needs.

There are no point persons to go to about the systems. You can’t offer feedback or get help.

Corey promises to investigate.

#### COMMON CORE & HIGH STAKES TESTING

Lisa gave Corey a great overview of the challenges we’ve been facing with the increase in high stakes testing. The standardized testing is not the issue, it’s the high stakes attached to them that is the problem.

She said they used to have to fight for a kid to repeat a grade, now they have to fight for kids they don’t think need to repeat to go on.

Middle Schools using the test scores to determine acceptance means kids aren’t going where they should go – kids who don’t do well on the test aren’t getting into the schools that would actually benefit them. This is a city issue/can be changed on city level.

Using the tests to determine teacher effectiveness is a state strategy that is subject to negotiation with the UFT. It’s a contract negotiation. Jackie hopes we’ll have a new contract by end of year.

#### IN BLOOM

This is a new system being promoted by the Gates Foundation. The idea is that massive amounts of student data are easily accessed by educators so that they can better serve our kids but the way the system is designed would allow for random, purely subjective observation from one person to be with a

child for life. It's questionable how helpful this tool will be to educators. Currently, a hold has been placed in the introduction of In Bloom in New York State.

#### RESO A GRANT

PS 3 is waiting for the City Council to release \$400,000, a RESO A grant. We need to pay for sound issue in cafeteria, adjusting space in cafeteria to be an art space for kids etc. etc. This week Lisa is still chasing, not getting answers.

Appropriated in last year's budget and we were told would come by Sept or Oct at the latest. Corey to call today about it.

Corey is on finance committee will be working on budget, would like our list of any needs – he asks us to please list everything.

Jackie mentions that we are a partially air conditioned school. When we get the brutal hot temps it is hard for children to focus.

We will meet to compile a list of "wants" for Corey.

#### **March 2014**

We applied for full-day pre-k. Lisa guesses that we won't get as so many K/city needs K slots

Testing and promotion – waiting to hear from city (up to districts to decide). Chancellor sent out e-mail. She says you can't opt-out of test. Looks like if don't take test will be portfolio/one-on-one assessment that schools are given. So portfolio – what it would be – is unclear. Assuming same as last year.

Discussion of Mission Statement for school SLT is drafting

#### **October 17, 2014**

There is just one K/1 class this year. Are we phasing out K/1 classes or will we have more than one next year? Not the plan but we are listening to feedback from teachers and parents on what's working/what isn't

What can we as an SLT do about reducing class sizes. There was a great e-mail sent to the DOE by a District 2 parent (see below). Write a letter from our SLT? Other actions we can take to put pressure on the city and/or state level?

To: "[ContractsForExcellence@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ContractsForExcellence@schools.nyc.gov)"

My name is Debra Freeman, and I'm the parent of a daughter in public school in District 2 in Manhattan and a member of the Executive Board of her high school, Eleanor Roosevelt High School in District 2.

The Contracts for Excellence are far from excellent, and are in breach of contract by failing to provide the court mandated funds for class size reduction, and failing to mandate use of existing funds solely for class size reduction. New York City public schools have been waiting far too long for court-mandated funds for class size reduction. With class sizes citywide at an unacceptably high level and growing, New York city schools can't wait for these long overdue funds or for class size reduction. The court did not say that funds for class size reduction were discretionary or could be allocated for other matters at the discretion of Albany, New York City, or the schools. It said that monies were mandated expressly for class size reduction in order to provide for a sound education.

This breach in the contract must be remedied in order to comply with the court mandated allocation and use of funds for class size reduction. Accordingly, I am asking the DOE and the De Blasio administration as well as the CECs in New York city to take the following actions to do this:

1. Press Albany for the mandated \$2.5 billion dollars in funding that is owed to New York City for class size reaction
2. Increase city funding to all schools and build more schools in order to reduce class size and overcrowding in our public schools
3. Revise the NYC DOE budget so that sufficient monies are spent on class size reduction and building new schools to do this
4. Require revision of the Blue Book to properly recognize overcrowding in our schools
5. Utilize industry best practice analytics and techniques for predicting and projecting many years down the line the number of school seats needed
6. Put a moratorium on co-location of any schools (including without limitation any charter schools) in existing or new public school buildings until the overcrowding situation is resolved
7. Make class size a top priority recognizing that this has consistently been the number one priority for public school parents in every parent survey in recent years.

While the city and state have to date tolerated this breach of contract and violation of a court mandate, this should no longer be tolerated since our public schools can't wait any longer for enforcement of the Contracts for Excellence. So I urge the De Blasio administration and the DOE to enforce the original contract by taking real action to get the monies promised with use of the monies as intended for class size reduction.

The research shows and the teacher testimony confirms that class size reduction is the most effective way to improve student performance and reduce the achievement gap. So this provides further reason to insist on enforcement of this contract for the good of our children.

Please do whatever is necessary to enforce this contract and stop the breach of this contract for the good of the children and education in New York City.

Thank you.

Debra Freeman

*Senior Partner/Associate General Counsel*

JWT New York

466 Lexington Ave, New York, NY, 10017, United States

T + 212 210 6957

## **November 21, 2014**

Discussed planning for the SCHOOL COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PLAN

Discussed which kinds of major PTA-supported instructional extras are most valuable, review teacher feedback

Denise to discuss with us:

The Blue Book Working Group is soliciting ideas and suggestions to improve the NYC Department of Education's (DOE) Enrollment, Capacity and Utilization Report, also known as the "Blue Book." The Working Group has been meeting monthly since March 2014, and at this time is seeking input from members of the public on specific ways they think the Blue Book can be revised to provide a more accurate reflection of space in NYC DOE school buildings, and the learning environment in which City public school students are educated every day. Please send your ideas to [BlueBookWG@gmail.com](mailto:BlueBookWG@gmail.com) by November 26th, 2014 so that we can consider your input prior to presenting draft preliminary BBWG recommendations at a Town Hall in December.

January 15, 2015

Lisa's update on number of students we can anticipate next year, impact of zoning, funding questions

Discussion topic "How Do We See Our School " – in relation to neighboring schools, our mix of students and how best to serve them, etc. etc.?

Big Question: HOW CAN WE MAINTAIN OUR DUAL FOCUS ON ACADEMICS AND ARTS WITHOUT BURNING OUT?

February 2015

Discussed letter sent from PS 3 SLT to Senator Lamar Alexander stating our position on NCLB (he is leading Senate hearings on No Child Left Behind)

Discussed SLT and PAC plans for raising awareness in community about Cuomo's Budget Proposal and the educational items therein (tests go to 50% of teacher evaluations; principal role in evaluation goes from 35% to 15%, Charter School cap raised to 250, etc. etc.) Lisa to write a letter to community, PAC to write a one-sheet with actions one can take to voice opposition, i.e. how to contact Governor's office and State Assembly members.

March 13, 2015

Lisa's update on status of measures outlined in CEP (Comprehensive Educational Plan schools are required to submit each year in discussion with SLT)

Discuss new DOE policy with regard to cell phones