



4862 Broadway, New York, NY 10034
212 544 0614 fax: 212 544 2678
www.muscota.org

Muscota New School
School Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2010

Call to Order

Minutes for March 24, 2010

Read and approved

Principal's Report

Standardized tests

Pretty prepared, but dates pushed to end of the year?

Promotional criteria more stringent – Score under 2 means mandated summer school.

SLT member asked about follow-up regarding children with IEP children who may not pass the test, but who can demonstrate proficiency in other ways, such as portfolios. Member wants to know if Principal will support teacher and students. Camacho, UFT rep will be here in June to discuss the matter. This matter was brought up in November as well. Member states she was not aware that there was a deadline for Alternative Assessment.

Principal stated all children will be held to same criteria. Only children who have submitted portfolios (Alternative Assessment) to the CSE . Takes 3-4 weeks; SBST reviewed IEPs, as these children had this explicitly written on their IEPs. IEPs are written annually. There are specific qualifications for those who receive the modifications.

Historically, if a child has an IEP and modified standards, there is a portfolio that can be put together for those students as is true for all students. Is this still true for IEP students? IEP is federal law, tests are city and state. Federal law supercedes city/state.

Action Plan:

Principal will find out what the possibilities are for those children with IEPs who are not eligible for Alternate Assessment and are meeting their IEP goals and give an update Wednesday, April 28, 2010.

Opted out of Muscota site for summer school as would have to open doors to other schools and use of classrooms; staff not happy about it

Basketball Camp

School would be open for summer basketball camp. Phillipe will charge a fee from the new budget.

July 6 – July 27 or 28

Phillipe is to get a vendor number so that he can become a legit provider. Kids would eat breakfast and lunch and go home afterward.

Inquiry into Referrals for Special Ed – Alli or Becky

Every two years the #s double. What is the reason for all the referrals? What can we do to make the referral process smoother? What do the number of referrals mean to our community?

Goldie Anna Grant – folded into the grant -revisiting the Special Ed rubric created by Muscota teachers.

Salvadori

Krystal in Lauren's class has been selected for a grant
Lauren selected as a teacher of the year

Basketball

Phillipe Lopez has offered basketball equipment at discount at sports store; 24 basketballs and jerseys; adding silk-screen print with Muscota logo. Asked Chair to help design the print. Every kid would have his own basketball and jersey.

Discussion

This was a first come first serve. The whole school was not invited to try out. Did not include all of school, but only 4/5's. Wonder if having jerseys and basketballs would cause some friction between those selected and others. Where is this money coming from when there are other programs, such as Drama, that are not funded?

Principal – There was an application process. Began process very quickly before Phillipe lost interest in our school as he works with PS 52. Talking about an all-girls team with female coach and younger kids team with kids as young as 8. Stated girls are doing very well, and paying attention so much better than the boys.

SLT member – families should pay for jerseys, and we could spend the money on other things. Send home an order form and offer some subsidy for those who need it.

SLT member – Where will the basketballs be stored?

The basketballs will be stored in the basement in crates or sacks.

SLT member –

One group for the girls while the boys get two does not seem fair.

Phillipe is talking about the girls as great, why not integrate them? Making age level co-ed groups in which the kids support each other.

As some girls are developing, there might be an issue among older girls as this game is a bit touchy.

Phillipe is trying to teach sportsmanship, although not all are listening. Boys and girls are showboating for each other.

Action Plan/Proposal:

4/5s to talk to the kids about the possibility of coed teams.

Emmy and Tomasz will talk to class 2/3 class reps who will survey their constituents. The data will be collected in the classrooms and given to Tomasz and Emmy.

Adolescent sexuality workshops for parents Saturday, May 8th from 10-12. 30 people can be accommodated in the library – no kids. Not sure if there will be activities that involve getting up and moving.

SLT member reminded that this is Mother's Day weekend.

Cornell workshop around nutrition Amistad, to be held in the auditorium. If our workshops are held in the auditorium, we can invite Amistad, another PS and ask that we be invited to theirs. Amistad said they were not interested in inviting Muscota to their events. Amistad claims Muscota overusing them as a resource.

Safety Workshops – Sergeant Perez from 34th precinct who was to present was moved to a different precinct.

PA Report

- Testing requests – no visiting, feed children breakfast, send child to school well rested, on time, comfortable and non-distracting clothing.
- Academic Music Seminars – Teachers had suggested not a good fit. Parents were receptive; maybe giving it another shot or offering it to lower grades. Teacher support for new teachers – Maggie and Toby.

Discussion:

- Dayna is Maggie's mentor, but she is not able to find the time to mentor her. Tomasz was Maggie's mentor earlier in the year, but her lunch time is the only time she is available to mentor her.

Action Plan:

Dayna needs to see Maggie at every grade level. Teachers will, upon Dayna's request, and Tomasz' written permission, switch preps to allow her to mentor Maggie.

Maggie will visit other classrooms to learn management techniques.

- Parents are noticing low morale among teachers; cannot get on the yard in the mornings to touch base with their children's teachers. Unanimous vote to form PTA where they can talk to the teachers. We want our school back.
- Parents complain that no one answers the office phone at dismissal to say she would be late.
- 1/2 day notice change did not include arrangements made for Y students and others. Emails to Tomasz are not answered. Denise's voicemail is full. Green ID cards – parents want to talk to principal about temporary passes and ID cards. One parent stated the green card person came in to pick up her daughter when the child was sick, could not pick up child as she was not on the emergency card list. Exits are not always covered at regular or extended day dismissal. Green cards not checked on 1/2 day.

May 19th Take Your Parent to Lunch Day.

- Real roasted potatoes, fresh penne pesto (need food processor), one of Trader Joe's olive oil has been okayed by DOE, and homemade barbecue sauce. \$5 per lunch. \$4 to

school foods and \$1 to PA. Will parents be welcomed to come to classrooms to escort children down to cafeteria?

Family Breakfast

- 1st graders and their families to visit 2/3 classrooms so that families will put names to faces and understand the curriculum.

Mini-Mall

- May 21st

Teacher Appreciation Day

- Will include paras, on Wednesday, May 26th; PA would like to provide lunch as it is a 1/2 day.

Discussion:

Teachers stated what they need for parents to provide and PA pres took notes
Principal will supply a case of paper for each classroom teacher.

Music Seminars:

1st grade teacher felt that it worked well in her classroom.

They are really professional musicians with so much to offer. Some kids have never had the chance to play instruments.

They are hoping to have a dialogue with the musicians so that a decision can be made about their part in Muscota's program.

Green Cards

UFT states this is not a union issue, Principal agreed that it is an administrative issue.
There is no correspondence from the school regarding additional green cards.

Meet the Teachers

Action Plan:

Tuesdays the cafeteria is free, we need to work on having teachers freed to meet with teachers and families. Optimally, this Tuesday date would be the First Grade family breakfast morning. Following the family breakfast, the 2/3 teachers would meet parents. Same for 4/5 teachers—maybe same day as 2/3 family breakfast.

The morning structure would be more conducive to "Here are the 2/3 teachers, and the 4/5 teachers".

Old Business

Acceptance of bylaws – passed by quorum.