



Central Park East I Elementary School

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**SLT Meeting Agenda
September 21, 2023**

Present in person: Gabriel (Staff/Principal), Kent (Parent), Najah (Staff), Laura (Parent/Chair), Andy (Parent), Adriana (Parent/PA), Cecilia (Staff), Anika (Staff), Kaliris (Parent), Jess (Parent), Patricia (Staff)

Present online: Jackie (Parent)

A. Participation in meetings

1. Agreed by consensus that parents and/or staff who are not members of SLT may attend SLT meetings online as well as in person.

B. SLT Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2023

1. Approved the minutes.

C. Committee Updates

1. PA goals for school year 2023-2024 (Adriana)
 - a. Opening more opportunities for connection outside of school for families
 - b. More volunteering and parent engagement in PA events
2. Friends of CPE1 (Anika)
 - a. Recently reimbursed a staff member for rental of lights in the auditorium. But believe that the lights should be repaired/replaced by the school.
 - b. Gabriel: replacement of lights is approx. \$10,000. Hope is that grants (\$260K) for replacing auditorium seats will allow for replacing the lights as well. Additionally, hope that the work will take place and be completed during the summer so that the school does not lose access to use of the auditorium.
 - c. Kaliris: as a member of the PEP she can possibly assist in expediting, pricing, and coordinating the process.
 - d. Allotment to teachers has increased from \$600 to \$650 based on increasing costs.
 - e. No staff liaison for Friends at this time.
3. Faculty Council
 - a. This is continuing in spite of time requirement changes.
 - b. Gabriel: under latest UFT contract, professional learning time has shifted from 80 to 60 minutes; there is now a family engagement time that can be remote, not at a specifically required time; also an "other professional work time" period that CPE1 previously gave up for a longer school day. This year giving up that period was not approved, meaning a shorter school day. But there is additional family engagement time.
 - c. Staff committed to bringing students downstairs at 2:40 and concluding dismissal by 2:50.
 - d. Cecilia: [UFT contractually obligated] shorter school day requires cleaner and swifter transitions. Anika: I've cut some rest time, waking up students earlier.

- e. Also there were elections for SLT members: Cecilia reelected; Anika and Najah elected.
- 4. Teaching and Learning (Gabriel)
 - a. Has not met and is not constituted at the moment.

D. Finances (Gabriel)

1. In June, projection was ability to maintain level of staff based on enrollment of 148 K-5 students. Enrollment is much lower, 10-12 students below projections. Enrollment is low everywhere, and schools have the same number of seats. Backfilling the upper grades has not been as successful as in the past. Gabriel is making calls but parents are not responding.
2. So financially we will have to give back money.
3. Kaliris: there are many incoming students. Other District 4 schools have accepted hundreds of new students. Gabriel: has asked superintendent about this; many of the students who arrived in the spring have moved to different locations by now, and the schools with bilingual programs have spots again.
4. There are spaces for 1 or 2 students in K, many spaces for 4th grade. First grade has full complement and there are no spots in the 2/3's.
5. No plan to cut staff positions.
6. Kaliris: over the next few years class sizes will be reduced.
7. Gabriel: currently all Contract For Excellence money is dedicated to salary. It's not enough for a full position. Per-student funding has gone up 3% and salaries (appropriately) have gone up 20%.
8. Kaliris: there are engagement meetings coming up September 26 and 27, and October 2.

E. Curriculum

1. Adriana: parents generally have good understanding of work time but may know less about reading and math instruction. Maybe the additional family workshops that Marilyn proposed last year?
2. Gabriel: Some families have felt that as their children have entered the upper grades, and encountered difficulty academically,
3. Plan is to change progress reporting:
 - a. Teachers spend hours on each student's progress report, focusing on individual narratives, sometimes that go unread by families. Also sometimes narratives are worded indirectly.
 - b. Working on a progress report of our own design, with cohesion across the grades, aspects of work time, socialization, with scales of student progress.
 - c. Also shorter narrative and suggestions.
4. Kaliris: teacher workshops are crucial for CEP and parent understanding; parents often do not realize that students are constantly assessed.
5. Anika: changes to progress reports very much still in progress. There will be aspects of the reports that are lost in the rethinking, some things will not be captured as in the progress reports, but hope is that the gains of direct conveyance of information to parents will outweigh what is lost. Progress reports are based on NY State standards; curriculum is based on those standards.
6. Kent: new progress reports may result in common shared language between school and parents.

F. Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP)

1. Curriculum (see above)

2. Attendance. Gabriel plans to speak at curriculum night about the importance of attendance.
 - a. Two years ago 45% chronically absent. In part due to sickness.
 - b. Last year 28%. Still a very large number of children chronically absent.
 - c. Days with the most absences are during vacation weeks.
 - d. Andy: important for parents to know that even in elementary school their children's attendance impacts the class, their own learning, and their classmates'.
 - e. Kaliris: many children experience absence because of their family circumstances; we need to share information about resources for these families. Laura: SLT discussed this last year and there's shared understanding of the many reasons children may be chronically absent.
 - f. Maybe the parent community can provide community-based resources, walking the same routes, etc.
 - g. Adriana: PA has been a place where people are expected to *give*, and role can change to a place where people can come with needs. Interested in outreach committee, but hard even to fill executive committee.
3. Goals
4. Staff

G. Miscellaneous

1. Next meeting: October 26 at 3:45.