



Central Park East I Elementary School

1573 Madison Avenue ♦ New York, NY ♦ 10029 ♦ 212.860.5821 ♦ www.cpe1.nyc

**SLT Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2023**

Present in person: Gabriel (Staff/Principal), Atiyya (Parent), Kent (Parent), Stephanie (Staff), Laura (Parent/Chair), Andy (Parent), Adriana (Parent/PA), Cecilia (Staff), Marilyn (Staff), Alveda (Staff), Anika (Staff), Patricia (Staff), Kaliris (Parent)

Present online: Michael Quinones (Parent), Julie Sussman (Parent), Jeff Magness (Parent), Felix Diaz (Parent)

A. SLT Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2023

1. Approved the minutes.

B. Bylaws

1. Review bylaws, noting the addendum made regarding hybrid meetings.
2. Changes made based on citywide template; there must be an in-person quorum, but schools have the option to add virtual availability.
3. Gabriel has contacted Nancy P at the district to learn whether CPE-1's SLT must adopt all aspects of the template made available by the DOE.
- 4.
5. Value of CEP is that it is an outward-facing document that has a statement of our values and goals. The CEP could serve as a foundation for our conversations in SLT.
6. Consolidated plan, safety, crisis, non-academic aspects of the school, read with great seriousness by district officials.

C. Committee Updates

1. PA (Adriana)
 - a. Fall Festival was PA's focus since the past meeting. PA plans to have a Fall Fest debrief to set up for next year, with plan to appoint a chair during the spring. Earned approx. net \$5000, which is comparable to pre-pandemic years.
 - b. Elected a full board at the past meeting.
 - c. Streamed first meeting.
 - d. Started grade WhatsApp groups for connecting.
 - e. PA wants to build on the ideas shared at the community coffee for outreach to the community.
2. Friends of CPE1 (Anika)
 - a. Nothing to report.
3. Faculty Council
 - a. Nothing to report.
4. Teaching and Learning
 - a. Nothing to report.

D. Finances (Gabriel)

1. As expected, Chancellor announced that schools “will no longer be held harmless for their register loss.” I.e., if fewer students register than projected, the school must return money.
2. Teacher salaries are rising, keeping up with the cost of living, but schools’ budgets are being cut. Takes 21 students for one teacher’s salary.
3. Gabriel had anticipated a loss of 10 students, and had put aside \$50,000 that he expected the school might need to return. Expectation now is that there will be 8 fewer students as of Tuesday (October 31).
4. That will impact the school’s ability to hire staff. Not expected to have to excess anyone.
5. Enrollment is rising in our district overall. Last year there were eight schools in the district with enrollment under 200, this year CPE-1 is the only one. Schools with 200 students get a funded IEP teacher. And a full salary parent coordinator.
6. Why is our enrollment low? Laura: In this neighborhood, charter schools have an impact. Gabriel: But, most districts in NYC have fewer children. From 2010 to 2020, the number of children 0-5 dropped by 16 percent. Stephanie: pandemic has an impact, more families moved and/or have chosen to keep their children at home. Approx six students did not register because they moved or are homeschooling, another four to six who chose to attend other schools.
7. Ideas:
 - a. Laura: Make the website appealing in terms of photos of students and staff reflecting diversity.
 - b. Atiyya: Inviting the public to Fall Festival
 - c. Gabriel:
 - i. Tours are posted, and we do more than most schools.
 - ii. There is going to be space in Kindergarten, for the first time in Gabriel’s tenure. Plan is to invite all families whose children are in pre-K across the street.
 - d. Anika: a deterrent is that in past years pre-K students were not guaranteed a place in Kindergarten. There’s a message to that effect (from years ago) on InsideSchools.
 - e. Gabriel: ideally enrollment would be established in pre-K and work its way up, especially since pre-K children are doing very well (thanks to the pre-K teachers!).
 - f. Andy: do we have a list of places we want to do outreach?
 - i. Laura: spoke with a group called Friends of Children
 - ii. Marilyn: Alveda has been the one to establish those connections to many places in the area.
 - iii. Gabriel: we have a flyer that needs a new image.
 - iv. Stephanie: as a parent I went to the district back-to-school event at PS 7, Gabriel was there on his own. Gabriel and Anika: but, that event is not the ideal event for recruitment.
 - v. Laura: Dwight athletic facility? Supermarkets?
 - vi. Stephanie: flyers could be important for home schooling families looking to place their children back in public school
 - vii. Atiyya: let’s put flyers in public places, maybe the word of mouth from families that previously drove enrollment have moved on.
 - viii. Kent: how can we get the work that our kids do in front of more people? It’s one of the best selling points. Atiyya: And cooking! Laura: and schoolyard!

- ix. Marilyn: we take children's work to showcase, lots of conversation about children as makers. Also, classes intentionally spend time at neighborhood playgrounds and in the community. That's useful for enrollment.
 - x. Atiyya: our school in Brooklyn now has 6 pre-K classes and a 3-K class. Kids who don't get into G&T for Kindergarten leave. But more spaces for younger children has helped enrollment. And moving toward ICT rather than 12:1:1.
 - xi. Kaliris: we have no social media presence. Twitter, Instagram. This administration is very much behind social media. We need to create invitation opportunities for senior administrators so they can put it on social media. Gabriel: I am not the best person for this role.
 - xii. Adriana: write reviews on GreatSchools and InsideSchools. The blurbs and reviews are old.
 - xiii. Laura: Neighborhood-related fora like Upper East Side parents etc. Do we need a secondary Facebook page that is not private?
 - xiv. Kent: is one of our goals to open additional classrooms? Do we really want a large waiting list? Gabriel: matriculation is very unstable. We had 60 children receive offers for pre-K and only 15 actual pre-K students. Goal is to have enough children that classes are full. And also that people consider CPE-1 their first choice. Overall, get more kids in pre-K, and keep them through fifth grade.
 - xv. Anika: maybe this year is a one-year outlier for pre-K enrollment. Gabriel: concerned that this is a trend and not a one-year outlier, because of low enrollment everywhere. There are fewer kids in this neighborhood in general, and we will need a larger share of those children.
 - xvi. Kent: can we increase the percentage of children who receive offers who actually enroll? Connect with families? Gabriel: five families were concerned about after school. Marilyn: there's Miss Millie (although we likely can't promote her), and also a program at the Locke School. And PS 108 now accepts pre-K.
 - xvii. Kaliris: perhaps we should consider becoming a Community School. The model might also provide funding.
8. Kaliris: in a couple of years there will be a class-size cap of 20 for K-2; 23 for 3-8; HS 25. Gabriel: there will need to be a reconciliation since that doesn't align with the budget.
 9. Gabriel and Cecilia: the standard number of children in the classroom used to be 28-30, now it's closer to 22-23. (Pre-K does not count toward class size, because they are already capped.)

E. Governance

1. Not discussed except for the bylaws, above.

F. Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP)

1. (Not discussed)

G. Miscellaneous

1. Next meeting: November 9 at 3:45. Community Superintendent may attend. (PA meeting to follow, on Zoom.)