



**SLT Minutes**

*October 16, 2008*

- |                       |                         |                              |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| ✓ R. Asher, Principal | ✓ D. Baldwin, UFT Chair | ✓ J. Ewing, PTA Co-President |
| ✓ D. Fanning, APO     | ✓ D. Belmont, UFT       | ✓ A. Grundman-Cooper, PTA    |
| x M. Mandery, BTAF    | ✓ J. Ludwig, UFT        | ✓ J. Hertzberg, SLT Chair    |
| ✓ A. Ahmed, Student   | x S. Bendit, Student    | ✓ L. Morano, PTA             |
|                       |                         | ✓ M. Tang, PTA               |

**1. CALL TO ORDER – 4:38 p.m.**

**2. MINUTES OF 9/18/08 AMENDED AND ACCEPTED.**

**3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER, LIZ MORANO, PARENT.**

**4. ELECTION OF FINANCIAL LIAISON OFFICER FOR 2008-09**

- Description of Duties
- Ms. Grundman-Cooper elected Financial Liaison Officer.

**5. FOOD SERVICE ISSUES AND CONDITION OF RESTROOMS**

- In response to a letter from parent raising the issue of long lines in cafeteria, Mr. Fanning noted that DOE food service has made some improvements in the past, including salad bars.
- Restrooms are cleaned regularly and can be cleaned again after a specific complaint. When some bathrooms are dirty, follow up on these issues can be addressed directly to Mr. Fanning. Teacher bathrooms are unlocked when parents hold an event in the school. Mr. Fanning noted Custodial staff has done a good job cleaning bathrooms.
- There are a number of SCA projects in the works to make building improvements.
- Mr. Fanning noted more students taking school lunch might allow for increased staff, and noted approximately less than half the student population takes school lunch. There is currently a student cafeteria representative on the food committee. Hot lunch must be provided according to School Service and Nutrition. Cold lunches have sold well.
- Quality of life such as cleanliness and food are important.
- Student representative and UFT Chapter will investigate food issues further and report back.

**6. SUBCOMMITTEE ON COLLEGE OFFICE PRACTICES**

- Mr. Asher recommends we reconvene the subcommittee. Use of parent volunteers can best be used by providing a list of duties. Parent volunteers should be recruited with an eye towards meeting the first week of November. The committee should look at how the office will be organized and how parents can be utilized.
- Mr. Asher will meet with the college office and report back to the parents on possible parents roles.

**7. REVIEW OF LOTE OFFERINGS**

- Programming office has provided information on student language requests including homes with Italian as a primary language – two households.
- Chinese is expanding. Spanish and French is stable. The question is should we be offering a fourth language, and might it be Italian. Mr. Arias of LOTE should be part of this discussion. There are numerous other language choices. Programming options, demographic trends in Brooklyn and demand are all considerations. Another concern is the opportunity to learn something new, not just what is spoken in the home. If they take the proficiency exam, they will be accelerated.
- The current sub committee on the languages consists of Angelica, Andrea, Randy and David Belmont and external participants from the Language Department. There may also be funding options depending on the choice of language.
- The sub committee should look at how many languages should be taught and what any future language choice should be.



## 8. SCANNING OF STUDENTS

- Principal is notified 12 hours in advance. Scanning went well, delays occurred in confiscation of electronic devices. Miscellaneous items were found outside the school including knives. Confiscation of electronic devices is a Chancellor's Regulation. 1200 phones were confiscated and 1192 were returned to students at the end of the day. Days prior to the scanning a knife had been found in a bathroom and one found on a student. The school is now better prepared for scanning in the future.
- Mr. Baldwin noted the Chancellors policy on cell phones is a "bad policy." Mr. Asher noted many reasons for the policy including some phones have cameras and phones make our students potential robbery victims.
- Some members agree with the ban on cell phones.

## 9. OTHER MATTERS

- Academic Accreditation Committee met and future agenda items were discussed, including exam schedules, grading policies, and setting work between meetings. Criteria for selecting committee members was discussed by SLT members.

## 10. BUDGET REVIEW

- Most of the budget is done on a per capita basis, weighted for all high schools and specific line items for specialized high schools. Ability to move around funding on the budget is limited. Also, we should where we can supplement external funds for school funds for example, some OTPS funding such as "supplies-general." Whenever possible, use tax levy to pay personnel costs.
- Some budget items can be partially offset by PTA contributions, but moving any funding will result in a trade off by reducing funding some budget items.
- Mr. Asher anticipates future budget cuts, and most current funding goes to instruction. Various constituencies in the building will be impacted by budget cuts. It is unclear when we will be notified about cuts.
- Mr. Asher would like recommendations from the PTA on future budget allocations that can then start the conversation in the school community. Future excessing is possible. We are pretty much maximum on class size.
- Grant writing is an option for filling budget holes.

Adjourned: 6:34 p.m. – next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2008