MINUTES

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM – BROOKLYN TECHNICAL HS

October 21, 2010 4:30 – 6:00 PM

1. Call to order – 4:41pm. Review of previous minutes.
2. Mr. Cera invited all members to be active in participating at the meetings. He invites members to submit agenda items. Motion to adopt the previous minutes was approved.
3. The idea to have a secretary take minutes at future meetings was brought up by Ms. Parizman. Some members at the meeting suggested that they could give up their stipend and that the forfeit could pay for the hired secretary (as a per session activity). The SLT voted to approve this idea. The idea as adopted and approved.
4. J. Azrilyant had a concern about the weighting of AP courses. Mr. Asher made it clear that there was a difference between the number of credits and the weight for the course. Honors courses can be one credit and weigh in at a 1.05, giving a student a chance to have a grade of 105 weighted into their transcript. AP American History is a one period course as set by the College Board. Just because we provide a double period for this course, we cannot weigh it any greater than a 1.1 because the second period of the double period is another course which is “blended” together with the AP American History course. We are now examining this situation for longer classes such as organic chemistry. Also, the grade that appears on a report card is not the weighted grade. The weighted grade is figured into the cumulative average. The next item for discussion was having a set schedule in which subject areas can give an exam. Mr. Asher reminded the SLT that in the past, a committee was together by the students to generate a proposal. Various ideas were discussed regarding the pitfalls of having a set schedule for giving exams. This could impact health education because not all health classes meet each day of the week.
5. Academic standards for club involvement were discussed by Ms. Parizman. There are students who are failing classes and still have privileges which are less important than academics. Mr. Asher mentioned that he can hold faculty members who are paid per session to a rated standard. This is not the case for volunteer faculty involved with clubs. The next question to arise was just how many students fall into this category. Sometimes we need to wonder why these students want to stay late and NOT go home. Are these activities the only things attracting these kids to the school? Sometimes athletes get preferential treatments from teachers as to keep them on their PSAL teams. We have to have faith that all teachers are giving the students fair and equal treatment. We need to have a committee to follow this through and develop a method for club advisors to check on which students should be allowed to participate in clubs. Maybe each club needs to come up with their own policy and submit it to make it known what it takes to maintain membership in the club. Each club/team needs to have depth in order to fill in for key club members who become ineligible. Mr. Williams and Mr. Kaelin will need to intervene.
6. The library has serious problems. We require assignments typed but not all students have access. This issue was discussed previously. Some problems are cosmetic while others are technology and supervision related. There is dedicated alumni money for the library remaining and we can use it to replace the furniture. The floor can also be replaced depending upon the state of the sub-flooring. The technology cannot serve every student with a need because there are just too many students in the building. There is 3W14 available to sit at a desk and to study quietly. The technology is not old. Instead, it is under-supervised. The computers are being desecrated. If we eliminate the stacks, we could put in two tiers of computers for student use. 1W5 could be used as a copy room that students can pay to use. This might create a line of students which could disrupt the activities on the first floor. There are many options which need to be discussed with Mr. Fanning and the Technology committee.

7. The C-30 process for Social Studies will be on October 25, 2010. There are five candidates, just one internal. The committee will meet at 4:00pm on that day.

8. On senior night there were a few issues which were misconstrued. It was an official school day for the seniors. Only half of the seniors attended. By not showing they took themselves out of the senior events. The ability to attend these events is a privilege and not a right. Seniors need to follow the rules and meet the criteria to be eligible. Perhaps a makeup meeting will be held. Some students did not come because they had a test the next day. However, this schedule was posted long before and students needed to adjust their day as appropriate. The activities at the meeting also need to be meaningful. Parents failed to come as well. There might not be a make up meeting before the Masquerade Ball. Some students did not come back to the school after the senior photo (on senior day) were robbed in the park during that day. All students were instructed by the adults who were present that they needed to return to the building. The adults from Tech do their best to monitor the outside grounds but there are too many kids to supervise in the outdoors.

9. The CEP, in the past, has been written via an all day retreat. The goals do need adjustment and fine tuning. We should continue with goal number one regarding curricula. English and Science gave the most curricula and they were not posted on line. The cabinet members need to take this task on from here. The data and “TBD”s have been updated as best as possible to date. In the spring we will need to craft future CEP goals. Maybe we need to focus on the changes that we can make by November 1, 2010 and worry about next year’s CEP in the spring. Making a three year model is best and modifying it over time works well. Potential dates need to be surveyed by Ms. Scoza on behalf of the Principal.
   a. Goal number one was addressed as to where the documents will be posted. “By the end of each term” is also language which needs to appear in the goal.
   b. Goal number two needs to be addressed because the student handbook needs to be addressed. The current planner is nice, but it does not cover policies and protocols. The rubrics mentioned in goal number two were also addressed. There are expectations that need to be made clear to students, parents, teachers and, supervisors. This item needs to be moved to the 2010-11 school year. It should also include the absentee form.
   c. Goal number three – we should not worry about how to define differentiated instruction but how to implement it.
   d. Goal number four – we need to continue to make contact with parents. Freshman parents will be targeted so that they can obtain Daedalus materials for their children.
   e. We are still working on goal number five and obtaining college credit for high school students. Saint John’s University can be mentioned in the goal. On line courses are not an option right now. CLEP exams are not an option now either.
   f. Sustainability should be a future goal. Cardboard is being recycled along with paper. Let’s look at this having LED lights in the showcases.
   g. The needs assessment section was reviewed. Item number three was clarified.
The progress report is an issue. We have held neutral or improved in everything (except one category).

We also need to see how our peers did progress-wise as well. We can continue to improve internally such as a Saturday Academy.

11. The next meeting is November 18, 2010.
12. Meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.