SLT MINUTES

OCTOBER 20, 2011

R. Asher, Principal  R. Barclay, Provost & AP Physics  M. Mandery, BTAF
D. Baldwin, UFT Chair  A. Braithwaite, PTA  M. Morgan, PTA
K. Cera, PTA, SLT Chairman  J. DiBenedetto, UFT  K. Prasannan, Student
M. Gorbonosov, SGO President  E. Greene, PTA  C. Ying, PTA
J. Ludwig, UFT

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:35 p.m. Mr. Cera informed committee that Mr. Asher contacted him to say he would not be attending. Ms. Prasannan and Ms. Morgan were noted absent. Michelle Soso will record minutes of the SLT meetings.

Approval of 09-22-11 Minutes

- Minutes were amended to include 4 changes:
  - Mr. Ludwig stated that the section under “New Business” regarding the elevator should be changed to reflect that the discussion resulted in a passed motion to seek Parent volunteers to supervise the elevators. The new wording should read:
    - In the end, a motion was proposed, seconded and passed that the parents might examine if parent volunteers could be sought to supervise the elevators during the peak load period from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
  - Dr. Mandery wanted changes to the points in the Alumni Report section to reflect the following:
    - A new annual celebration of Brooklyn Tech... [not “mini-gala”]
    - ... Foundation hoped to give out $60,000 in grants this year. [not $50,000]
    - The Long Island Chapter breakfast... [not brunch]
    - ... honoring Alice and Paul Kauffman and as a tribute to Vincent DiSanti Class of ’42. [Mr. DiSanti was omitted]

- All other portions of the minutes were accepted.

Quality Review results

- Mr. Barclay introduced the topic in Mr. Asher’s absence with a brief outline of what took place during the Quality Review and gave some of his view of the experience. A discussion took place on the various aspects of the Quality Review. Ms. Braithwaite and Ms. Ying spoke of their parent group interview with the Superintendent and Reviewer. They shared some of the types of questions that were asked, both feeling that the review team “was looking for something”. Ms. Gorbonosov spoke of her experience as part of the student representative group and she too felt that the reviewers were looking for something as they “grilled the students” they met with.
• Mr. Barclay suggested the discussion be adjourned for the next meeting when Mr. Asher would have more information to give to the group and possibly the results from the Superintendent as well.

Quality Review Teacher Issues
• Mr. Baldwin introduced the latest grievance issue by discussing his understanding of Inquiry Teams and the DOE and Principal’s views of the “policies” surrounding them. Mr. Baldwin believes that there is an inconsistency between what is being presented as policy. He stated that a grievance has been filed because “the Principal has mandated 1- All teachers must be on an Inquiry Group and 2- Anyone who didn’t serve would get a ‘U’ rating for the year which is a big deal... I am offended that we are being threatened to do something that is not DOE policy.” Mr. Baldwin then added that there was also some confusion about the C6 duties and Inquiry work and that there was possibly a need for SBO vote to clarify the position of the faculty.
• Discussion about the matters took place however nothing could be determined without the Principal’s input. It was generally agreed that further information was needed to clarify the policies and mandates that were being grieved. It was also agreed that it would be better for all to attempt to resolve the matters without UFT arbitration.
• Mr. Barclay suggested that the matters surrounding these issues be discussed at the next meeting as Mr. Asher was not present to speak to the matter.

Elevator Issues
• Mr. DiBenedetto spoke to the matter that the elevator issue needs immediate addressing. He was adamant that students be allowed to use the elevators and that parents should be complaining about the matter as students were unnecessarily being taken off the elevators. He wanted to know why Deans were being used to “police” the elevators if it was decided that there was no money to pay people to monitor them and could they be used to monitor use instead of kicking students off.
• It was pointed out that the motion passed at the last meeting was clarified today and that parent volunteers would be sought to assist with the problem. It was also pointed out that the Principal was open to any suggestions to solve the issue.

CEP Issues
• Mr. Ludwig wanted some clarification on issues pertaining to last year’s CEP section 4 and a statement about the DOE not being as supportive to larger schools, getting rid of teachers who showed deficiencies, what were these deficiencies and how was it signed off by the SLT in that format? He admitted that discussion at this meeting might not be conclusive without input from Mr. Asher, however he would appreciate any clarification that the present group could give to him.
• Mr. Baldwin spoke to the issue stating that he was a member of all committees and groups and was aware of the wording in question and does take some responsibility for the existence of it in the CEP as he “found it to be a naked attack on senior teachers and was very surprised at the language”. Mr. Baldwin said he was there when it was discussed but certainly did not sign off on it with that wording.
• Discussion about the submission process of the CEP and the signing off of the document and the wording about that section in question.
• Mr. Baldwin suggested that they vote to reword the section at a later meeting after a review of the CEP documents.
• Mr. Cera asked Mr. Ludwig to email the section in question to him for circulation to the SLT membership and everyone would discuss the rewording and put it on the next meeting’s agenda.

Skedula
• Skedula was up and visible and running.
• Mr. Baldwin felt that communication about the program and the rollout was not done properly and most teachers were having problems.
• Mr. Barclay felt that the program was not that difficult to use but did require some trial to get use to. He felt confident that there was enough assistance for everyone who needed it and that the focus would need to be assisting to get grades into the system for first marking period and report cards.
• The next meeting would have update on how the process went for first marking period.

PTA and Alumni Report
• PTA met and have submitted reports.
• Plans for the Gala were moving forward.

Principal’s Report
• Mr. Barclay brought the Progress Report unofficial report to the meeting for Mr. Asher. He distributed them and all members read them. He stressed that the report was not released as yet but the version in front of them was approved for release to the SLT only and could not be discussed outside the meeting.
• Discussion about the report was brief as Mr. Asher was not present to give supporting information.
• The report showed that the school will receive a “B”.
• All agreed that they would put forward the best effort to make the few extra points required to make an “A” grade.
• Mr. Barclay collected all the documents to return to Principal.

Meeting date for next meeting was confirmed as Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 4:30pm. Dr. Mandery mentioned that the students were putting on a production of “The Wall” in the auditorium and he would not be in attendance as he was supporting the production. Ms. Braithwaite asked if the meeting should be put to another time but it was mentioned that members could attend the show on Friday.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.