



SLT Minutes

December 20, 2007

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| ✓ R. Asher, Principal | ✓ D. Baldwin, UFT Chair | ✓ J. Ewing, PTA Co-President |
| ✓ D. Fanning, APO | ✓ D. Belmont, UFT | ✓ S. Goltser, PTA |
| ✗ M. Mandery, BTHS Foundation | ✓ J. Ludwig, SLT Chair | ✓ A. Grundman-Cooper, PTA |
| ✓ A. Ahmed | ✓ I. Yu, Student | ✓ J. Hertzberg, PTA |
| | | ✓ G. Hines, PTA |

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Mr. Ludwig called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of the November 29, 2007 approved as corrected. Agenda item "TEST PREP PROPOSALS FOR SAT/SATII CLASSES" corrected. "above companies" replaced by "companies noted below."

3. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW COLLEGE OFFICE PRACTICES (SRCOP)

- Mr. Ludwig reported that SRCOP was staffed and that Mr. Baldwin has kindly agreed to chair the subcommittee. Ms. Grundman-Cooper and Mrs. Hertzberg will represent the parents, Irene Yu and Awad Sayeed, seniors, will represent the students, and Mr. Stein will be an additional teacher serving. Members of the SLT agreed that no College Office personnel should sit on SRCOP in order to assure a more objective review of college application procedures, college advisement, information dissemination, scholarship advisement and communications, and comparison of Tech's College Office with those of other academic high schools. Mr. Ewing stressed the interest of parents in learning from College Office personnel where new resources are needed in order to further strengthen the College Office.

4. OLD BUSINESS – MATTERS CARRIED OVER FROM THE NOV. 29, 2007 MEETING

- Mr. Ewing requested that the administration look into renovation of the Tech school sign at Fort Greene & DeKalb. Mr. Fanning agreed to do so.
- Work orders: Elevators were discussed. Centennial Elevators are not performing satisfactorily. SCA does not want to switch vendors. Mr. Fanning noted that the bid process is controlled by SCA, and that Tech cannot independently terminate a contract that has been vetted through the SCA. Mrs. Hertzberg distinguished between Refurbish Contracts and Maintenance Contracts, and inquired as to which Centennial was operating under. Mr. Fanning explained that Centennial's repairs or lack of same were under a Warranty. Mrs. Joachim asked how many cars were not working, and the Team was told it varied from day-to-day. Ms. Yu said students are about to explode about the non-availability of elevators. Mrs. Joachim expressed an interest in picketing the SCA. Mr. Belmont noted that the elevator problem is bigger than just a Tech issue. He said, "We can't just overthrow 80 years of the way the city does business." Why don't reputable companies bid? Mrs. Hertzberg has contacts in the elevator industry, and will try to answer that question.
- Capital Plan: \$20 million has been allocated to re-do the roof(s) of the building, over 40 levels in all. Mr. Asher indicated that he was optimistic about funds coming to Tech for renovating the cafeteria, ceiling refurbishing of the auditorium, and renovations of all bathrooms. Mrs. Hertzberg asked "What are the long-term prospects for the building?" Mr. Asher said that he will not go to a new building.

[Mr. Ludwig stressed the importance of sticking as closely to the agenda as possible insofar as the agenda had been reviewed and confirmed by the core members of the Team. Mrs. Joachim expressed the view that additional items might have to come up because of parent concerns about items that come up after the agenda is set.]

5. BATHROOMS

- Mr. Asher related that there had been an incident of a trash can and commode fire in a 5th floor bathroom, and then another on the 4th floor. Mr. Asher indicated that only bathrooms on the 1st and 7th floors were accessible to students. Mrs. Joachim complained that students were not allowed to go to any except the 1st floor bathrooms, and that some teachers did not permit students to go at all. Also, Ms. Yu noted there were long lines at the bathrooms being used so that students going there would lose too much time from their classes, especially physics.

[Mr. Ludwig read aloud from a section on “Order of Business” found on pages 261-263 in Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised stressing the importance of keeping to the meeting agenda as written. Though common sense might dictate some points of deviation, the overall emphasis of the tried and true methodology of Robert’s (understood as guidelines for a successful meeting) emphasizes the importance of the agenda.]

The subject of the evacuation of the building when the fires occurred was briefly discussed. Mr. Asher told the Team that the protocols for when and when not to evacuate are included in the School Safety Plan. He said that in most cases you try not to evacuate the building. Mr. Belmont requested that a copy of the protocols related to evacuation – guidelines of when to evacuate and when not to evacuate be distributed to the teachers. Mr. Fanning said that they had already been distributed to the teachers, but should be distributed again.

Mr. Ludwig, referring to his years at Erasmus Hall, noted that in that school there were many incidents of fires, stabbings, slashings, and robberies in the bathrooms, but not one step was taken to take control over the bathrooms. Mr. Ludwig added, “Mr. Asher and his team should be congratulated for their intelligence and guts in getting control over the bathrooms, instead of being criticized, notwithstanding the inconvenience to some students.”

Mr. Ewing asked about how the administration communicates with the students. Mr. Asher indicated that students who are connected with the more unruly elements in the school sometimes have strong personal relations with the Deans and tell them what they know about wrongdoers.

Mr. Asher then reported on the unannounced scanning at Tech owing to the fact that a student had been caught selling knives to other students. Mr. Asher expressed concern about how the scanning was conducted, not with having the scanning. He noted that School Safety was disrespectful of Tech’s administration, rules, and the principal himself, and that appropriate complaints had been lodged with School Safety, higher authorities at the DOE, and with CSA.

6. ELECTION OF AN SLT SECRETARY AND EXPLANATION OF THE FINANCIAL LIAISON OFFICER

Mr. Ludwig and Mr. Asher explained to the Team the new rules about reimbursement of SLT members, and possible areas of controversy in the new Chancellor Regs. issued Dec. 3, 2007. The Financial Liaison Officer would take care of tracking members present and absent from SLT meetings and other hours committed to SLT work. The issue of training for SLT members was briefly alluded to.

Mr. Asher noted that digital recorders have been purchased, and that a clerical person will be assigned to type the transcript. Mr. Ludwig questioned whether it was too time consuming for a secretary to actually write a word-by-word transcription, but was informed the new recorder comes with software that will automatically transliterate from sound to the printed word like closed captioning on TV.

Mr. Ludwig indicated that a Secretary from among the members of the Team is needed to edit and finalize the minutes for distribution. Mr. Belmont volunteered, and was elected unanimously by the Team.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 31, 2008 @ 4:30 PM, Room 1W26