



THE ANDERSON SCHOOL (P.S. 334)

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

January 15, 2014
Minutes

In Attendance:

Rob Schliessman - Assistant Principal,
Leni Cohen - K-2 teacher rep,
Dianne Kirksey-Floyd - 3-5 teacher rep,
Stefanie Wolf - 6-8 teacher rep,
Nicole Chandonnet - 6-8 at large teacher rep,
Robert Moy - UFT rep,
Joy Heinze - PTA Co-Pres,
Diane Heith - K-2 parent rep,
Laura Mount - 6-8 parent rep,
Rina Cohen Schwarz - K-4 at large parent rep,
Deborah Lopez - 5-8 at large parent rep,
Mindy Wigutow - PTA parent rep

1. SLT procedures/minutes approval – the December minutes were approved by email.
2. Parent Teacher reports 6-8
 - a. Cafeteria – discussion about the amount of food being prepared and whether there was enough food for the oldest students who arrived last at the lunchroom. Mr. Schliessman reported that there was one occasion where the food did run out, but it was at the beginning of the year and before the new Manager Sterling was in place. He also reported that the transition to our new kitchen staff has been successful, and that Sterling and his staff are extremely organized. He will bring up the concerns at the next WITS meeting which was scheduled for January 16th.
 - b. Homework in 7th grade – Questions about rigor and the need for review. Review is necessary as our students who are working at a level above the exams that they are taking this year, must also be prepared for the tests they are taking this year. Discussion about the creation of a parent facebook page where parents could see what the homework assignments were. Concern that it was not only unnecessary, but could be used to mislead and convey information and comment. Follow up necessary. In addition to the Anderson website being updated often, the teachers are making great use of the calendar and scheduling of exams, tests and papers has improved.
 - c. Homework policy – teachers reported concerns about the students doing their best work if they know homework grade is not factored in to actual grade. Question about whether homework needs to count in a regents weighted class. Discussion tabled until next meeting of the homework grading committee.
 - d. Gym classes – do they need to remain combined and what type of electives can we offer to allow for more movement in the middle school.

3. Parent/Teacher Rep Reports; K-2
 - a. Food Allergy Policy – Discussion about the students who have nut allergies and the policy that requires them to sit at a table separated from their class. Currently the kids are only allowed to bring one friend and must sit with combined grades. This has caused conflict as the students get older and the policy should be looked at to make sure we are doing our best to make the allergic students feel safe and comfortable. Further discussion is needed and a subcommittee was created with parents Mindy Wigutow, Diane Heith and Deborah Lopez and teacher Nicole Chandonnet.
 - b. Thinking Hats – Discussion about the use of the Black Hat and whether its use perpetuates the color black as negative. The curriculum handbook addresses this issue and options for dealing with it. Whether the thinking hat concept should be used and how is a discussion for the Teachers Cabinet, rather than the SLT, but the SLT fully supports whatever changes administration chooses to make. A subcommittee was formed to deal multicultural issues. Dianne Kirskey-Floyd and Rob Schliessman will spearhead the committee.
4. Parent/Teacher Rep Reports : 3-5
 - a. After –school sports clinics. Intramural sports have been very successful and there is not enough space for the many students who would like to participate. The students were selected randomly but the amount of applicants showed the need for more sports after school. PTA is putting together an RFP for an after-school sports program provider.
 - b. Teacher copying policy – The PTA has purchased a new copy machine for the lower floor to alleviate the stress on the one copy machine. A good result from the new policy tracking copies is the heightened awareness of what copies are essential, and the effort to make Anderson greener.
 - c. Family Fun nights – we will offer more fun nights paid for by PTA this spring
5. CEP – still under review at Superintendent level
6. SLT subcommittee reports
 - a. Edutainment – circus lined up, astronomy, student council game show
 - b. Organizer willing to teach classes to 5th grade, 8th grade and parents. Proposals currently under review.
7. Budget Update – Computer purchasing – Need more information on teacher needs to determine what laptops/tablets the PTA should be purchasing.
8. Data – Nothing new to report
9. Safety Report
 - a. There will be a second lock down drill after February 14th.
 - b. Fire safety compliance is being reviewed at all schools after the fire at a local high school.

Adjourned at approximately 5:30pm.