

Teaneck Public Schools District Advisory Team

District Advisory Team Minutes for March 30, 2016

School	Representative	Present	Absent
Bryant School	Amy Yepez	X	
Hawthorne School	Rebecca Alston		X
Hawthorne School	Blene Mekbebe-Keshi		X
Lowell School & TJMS	Connie Le	X	
Whittier School	Kara Brady	X	
Benjamin Franklin M.S.	Tamika Francis	X	
Thomas Jefferson M.S.	Florence Mitchell-Brown		X
Thomas Jefferson M.S.	Carol Ramirez		X
Teaneck High School	Kesha Rodriguez	X	
Teaneck High School	Michelle O'Reilly	X	

Ms. Pinsak opened the meeting at 7:10 pm with the Superintendent's Report:

Digital Magazines

Ms. Pinsak introduced the newly created Digital Art Magazine, available to be viewed on the high school and district websites. The Art Magazine is interactive and includes student art work and writing. On the high school website it is on the right-hand side under Announcements. The APP for the online magazine is accessible from all major mobile platforms desktop and mobile phones including iOS, Android and Win8. She continued that three young ladies downloaded the art publication and worked diligently with Ms. Stack, Media Specialist, on the creative process of the magazine. Ms. Pinsak continued that for the future, the Looking Glass literary publication and the district school calendar would be available online as the district continues to become paperless. Ms. Pinsak concluded that the high school Course Guide has been uploaded to the website.

Budget 2016-17 Recommendations

Ms. Pinsak reported the Budget 2016-17 Recommendations. Ms. Pinsak stated that the final proposed budget would be presented at Budget Sunday with the Superintendent on April 24th. She continued that we are trying to maintain class size, programs and extracurricular activities and may add some freshmen sports. There are seven paraprofessional positions of which four are media center paraprofessionals and three are in-school suspension paraprofessionals. There is a discussion to outsource the three in-school suspension paraprofessionals. In Ms. Pinsak's opinion, the library paraprofessionals are needed for the education of the students. Parents inquired about the day time custodians? Ms Pinsak responded that currently the day time custodians would be maintained in the budget. She continued that we continue to look for cost savings that would affect students least.

Busing to 2 miles

Proposed cut is busing to increase in policy to two (2) miles. Parents inquired about Bryant students' busing? Ms. Pinsak responded that Pre-K and Kindergarten and the Kindergarten students in the elementary schools would not be affected by the two mile policy change. On May 4, 2016 the budget would be finalized. Parents inquired about whether subscription busing could be considered for parents to pay for busing? Ms. Pinsak responded that we usually have to wait until October 15th before subscription busing can be offered and where we have busing already it would be applied. Ms. Pinsak continued that for parents to pay for their child it would require 50 students on one bus. Parents responded that the big concern is Whittier Elementary School students because fifty (50) percent of the students ride the bus to school. Parent concerns are the increase in traffic, lateness and congestion

Teaneck Public Schools District Advisory Team

during drop-off and pick-up is an issue. Parents continued that there are areas in town where no crossing guards are assigned.

Ms. Pinsak responded that she understood the concerns and would bring them to the Board with the suggestion for parents to pay for the bus. Ms. Pinsak reported that the Board is considering a demographics study.

SGPs (Student Growth Percentiles)

Ms. Pinsak reported that the SGPs were received by the Administration. The NJDOE used state testing information from 13-14 and 14-15 to arrive at the score for each teacher (3-8) who teaches language arts or mathematics. Ms. Pinsak continued that to receive an SGP, there must be at least 20 students in the class. If there are not 20, the SGP would be given when the cumulative number reaches 20. Teacher overall evaluation is determined through a combination of SGP (if applicable), the SGO (Student Growth Objective) (teachers create themselves and is approved by the Supervisor and Principal), and evaluation scores.

If the overall rating is below 2.6, the staff member has to prepare, with their administrator, an improvement plan. Any principal with tested grades has an SGP, based on student scores, included as a part of their evaluation along with an SGO score. Bryant School teachers do SGOs (Student Growth Objectives) which becomes a part of the principal's evaluation.

Water Testing

Ms. Pinsak reported that the district has issued a bid for vendors to test the water in the buildings. The current status is that none of the buildings' pipes are lead. For the buildings with water filters which have indicators to change water filters, the district has been proactive to check the filters and replace them according to a schedule before the indicator alert. Parents inquired about whether the cost of the water testing should fall on the State Department and not the taxpayer? Ms. Pinsak responded that yes it should be the NJDOE's responsibility but the cost will be paid by the taxpayer. Parents inquired about when the bids would be received and the water tested? Ms. Pinsak concluded that the district is pushing it forward and hopeful that the testing would be conducted during the summer.

Solar Update

Ms. Pinsak reported that the repairs are getting done. The vendor has been doing a good job and we have our forensic engineer. I spoke to Mr. D'Angelo, Director of Facilities, and we should have an update by April 6th, Workshop Meeting. We are asking again for a timeline for completion. Parents inquired about the cost for the solar? Ms. Pinsak responded that we don't own them but we did incur the expense of security to protect our students and staff. We had the loss of energy savings and we are hoping that the insurance company will retrieve the costs to the district. Hudson Solar was bought by a new company. Parents inquired about any savings when the solar panels were working? Ms. Pinsak responded that we will get the information for the next meeting. Parents inquired if the solar panels were being repaired in order of K-12 schools? Ms. Pinsak concluded that we are being really particular about working when students are in school. We did allow them to work where it was safe for students and staff.

School Calendar Revision

Ms. Pinsak reported that if the Board of Education approves the Resolution to revise the district calendar at the Regular Public Meeting on April 20th. Ms. Pinsak continued that she is recommending to the Board to give staff an additional day (Tuesday, May 31st) after Memorial Day. If approved, we will

Teaneck Public Schools District Advisory Team

push the information out to parents. The parents responded that the extra day for staff and students would be nice.

State Department QSAC Visit [definition: The Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC)] is the Department of Education's monitoring and evaluation system for public school districts. Ms. Pinsak reported that the Executive County Superintendent, Norah Peck and Education Program Development Specialist, Sharon Rosario visited Lowell Elementary, Thomas Jefferson Middle School and the high school. They were complimentary and were impressed by the student work, the great instruction going on in the classrooms and saw that there is a need for more technology. They had many compliments about the district curriculum but test scores are the challenges for the district; we were monitored on last year's test scores. We didn't see the big dip in scores on last year's PARCC and that was promising.

Summaries of BQMT (Building Quality Management Team)

Teaneck High School - Michelle O'Reilly and Kesha Rodriguez reported the High School BQMT Minutes. Ms. O'Reilly reported that the high school play Grease the Musical was a success. She stated that the microphones should be checked because they did not work well when she saw the performance. She continued that the Class of 1959 reserved 50 tickets for the show and took the cast to Bischoff on Sunday after the show. Mrs. O'Reilly reported that the Robotics Team won. Their final presentation is scheduled for April. Ms. Rodriguez reported that the Martz family donated a 3-D laser cutter for engineering and robotics. It is used where the 3-D printer is located in Room 222 which is now designated as a "MakerSpace" that is used in colleges to support STEM projects.

Whittier Elementary School - Kara Brady reported the Whittier BQMT Minutes.

Ms. Brady reported that the common area at Whittier School now have privacy walls and receptacles as a result of a meeting with the residents. The Dr. Martin Luther King performance was well attended and art work was displayed. Captain Tooth from Delta Dental presented to the students on dental hygiene. Mrs. Brady continued that the results of the parent surveys are on the agenda for the next BQMT meeting. She reported that the chairs need to be replaced at Whittier School. Ms. Pinsak responded that Ms. Kaplan should send an email directly to her regarding an order for new chairs.

Lowell Elementary School - Connie Le reported the Lowell BQMT Minutes

Ms. Le reported that the Lowell book fair will be held next week of 4/4. Mrs. Le reported that students dressed in traditional costumes. They had a trifold set up to display the country they had chosen to report. Ms. Pinsak responded that she attended the presentation and she was very impressed by the writing. One student reported to Ms. Pinsak that she chose the Eiffel Tower because it sounded so interesting.

Ms. Le reported that Lowell School is also in need of new chairs. Ms. Pinsak responded that maybe we could get a group rate for Lowell and Whittier. Ms. Le continued that the PTO funded laminating film for the staff. Ms. Le reported that the traffic around the school has improved. Mr. Green is proactive and assisting and supporting the staff when asking parents to please get out of their car and meet their child at the entrance. The PTO funds the Lowell yearbook and this year they will go to Powerhouse studios and interact in the game show after graduation.

Benjamin Franklin Middle School - Tamika Francis reported the BFMS BQMT Minutes

Ms. Francis reported that parent concerns are about transitioning students from middle school to high school. The high school Open House presentation was not clear on the difference between College Prep, Honors and Advanced Placement as to how they would be structured and what they would be learning. Ms. Pinsak responded that if parents would like to meet with me, Mr. Heck and the Supervisor

Teaneck Public Schools District Advisory Team

of Guidance, Mr. Kleinman, and a middle school administrator to talk about the course structure and transitioning to the high school. Ms. O'Reilly suggested that it may help to have high school students speak to the middle school parents as well. Ms. Francis inquired if the course guide was sent to middle school parents? She continued that TEAMS is getting parents to understand the structure. Ms. Brady stated that now the high school also has the Academic Institutes as well. Ms. Francis reported that Women's Day at BFMS was amazing. She continued that they had a STEAM program and a few people from STEAM careers (**Definition:** STEAM education incorporates the "A" for the arts – recognizing that to be successful in technical fields, individuals must also be creative and use critical thinking skills which are best developed through exposure to the arts). Ms. Francis reported that the "Appetite for Success" lunch date program has more people coming in to speak to students about their careers. For grades 5 & grade 6 general career information is presented. For grades 7 & 8 the presentation would be more in-depth.

Bryant School - Amy Yepez reported the Bryant School BQMT Minutes

Ms. Yepez reported that the Dr. Martin Luther King performance went well and Ms. Frane is amazing. She did a great job with the students and the performance was all students' music. Ms. Abrew displayed in the gym the students' work about Dr. Martin Luther King. Ms. Yepez continued that the students created care packages for the needy. Hotels gave donations for the packages and the class brought in wash cloths. The Shelter for Hope and Safety spoke to students about needy families. Ms. Yepez reported that the next F.L.I.P.S. program is scheduled for April 5th. Ms. Yepez concluded that over \$52,000 has been donated for the Bryant School playground. The labor for the playground is costly because the contractor couldn't get machinery through the enclosure and there is a drainage issue. Mr. D'Angelo is working with Ms. Abrew and we hope to start the playground project in July. Ms. Brady inquired about the Whittier courtyard and could students use the area or is it a fire code issue? Ms. Pinsak responded that she would inquire if the Whittier courtyard could be used as an outdoor classroom. Ms. Yepez concluded that Bryant will create a sensory garden and they have a bunny at Bryant School named Sox. Ms. Pinsak stated that she saw the bunny and Sox is in need of a larger cage.

In conclusion, Ms. Pinsak reported that we are having a technology audit. The high school having trouble with the wireless and the teachers were going to the media center to access the wifi. The audit consists of reviewing what technology we currently have in-district and the auditor is going to the schools to speak with students, principals and staff to find out the real issues with technology in the district. We couldn't move forward until we know what we need to do. Ms. Pinsak reported that a technology lease purchase is a possibility. We could have more devices in-hand if we go with chrome books. Ms. Pinsak stated that she has seen teachers using Elmo; teacher or student driven Elmo or Mimeo. She continued that iPads are best for the younger students at Bryant School. Ms. Pinsak concluded that the Board Community Relations Committee stated that there is a need to institute a technology advisory committee. Parents responded that a technology advisory committee would be great.

Next meeting to be determined.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Kuhran