



Minutes - November 6, 2019 - 3:45PM - PS/IS 276 Parent Room

Attendance:

Name	Role	Present	Absent
Terri Ruyter	Principal	x	
Natalie Skeels	Teacher/UFT Chapter Chair	x	
Melinda Orlie Katsiris	Parent/Co-PTA President	x	
Jessica Abraham	Teacher	x	
Audra Benjamin	Teacher		x
Melanie Pavlovich	Teacher	x	
Erika Richardson	Teacher		x
Ashley London Taylor	Parent	x	
Preeti Priya	Parent (Chair)	x	
Matt Schneider	Parent (Secretary)	x	
Marija Stojanovski	Parent	x	
Claire Wladis	Parent	x	

1. Called to Order (Preeti) - 3:50PM
2. Approved October 2 Minutes
3. Committee Updates
 - a. Diversity and Inclusion Committee (Ashley)
 - Committee met and worked on melding various initiatives - SLT, student diversity committee (Committee United for Racial Equity), teacher committee (Professional Learning Community)
 - Looking for potential grants
 - b. Technology Committee (Matt)
 - Meeting with parent committee scheduled for 11/13
 - Terri working with teachers to teach Common Sense Media curriculum
 - 2nd-5th graders - Keyboarding Without Tears, questions for discussion:
 - Is there a dashboard for teacher's to see whether students are using the app? How do we measure whether kids use it?
 - What about kids that don't have access to computers/printers?



4. Work Session - Parent/Teacher Communications

- Original intent of discussion was to brainstorm what would be included in a Parent/Teacher Conference Guide. Teacher members voiced concern that P/T conferences were coming up quickly and that this effort would derail the planning teachers had already put into preparing for conferences. Team agreed that our effort should support teachers, so we agreed that our effort could instead go toward a PTA presentation and a post on Terri's blog.
- Items brainstormed for presentation and blog post included:
 - Test scores and report card grades are tools that measure and communicate how students are performing in terms of New York State learning standards. Teachers work hard on assessments and grading and these scores are an important piece of the puzzle in understanding a child's successes and challenges.
 - In an effort to know each student as a whole child, teachers also consider other characteristics like curiosity, kindness, and confidence that are also essential to success in life
 - Teachers/staff make it a priority to know each student well. Teachers work with students one on one and in small groups, they observe students in different social and academic settings, they assess student work products, they talk to their colleagues to learn how students act in other classes, and they know about cognitive development and diverse learning styles. Teachers use this knowledge to develop an understanding of a child's curiosity, the academic, social and emotional skills they have and need to hone, the confidence that they are developing in different situations, and their compassion and empathy.
 - School to Family Communication happens in a variety of ways:
 - Curriculum Night (PreK-8)
 - Family Fridays and regular emails from teachers (PreK-5)
 - Pre-report card progress reports (6-8)
 - Report Cards (Pre-K-8)
 - Open School Week (PreK-8)
 - Teacher-led Parent/Teacher Conferences (PreK-4)
 - Student-led Parent/Teacher Conferences (5-8)
 - [Terri's Blog](#)
 - [School Website](#) (including curriculum guides)
 - Staff/Teacher Presentations at PTA meetings
 - [Family Handbook](#)



**School Leadership Team
2019-2020**

- Goals for Parent/Teacher Communication
 - Students need to know that parents, staff, and students are one team. A collaborative relationship is essential for student success.
 - Everyone on the team wants the child to be successful in all areas of life and learning.
 - We care about the whole child — academics, social/emotional well-being, and physical safety. We may discuss homework, friendships, in-class participation, and even if they are eating lunch or drinking enough water.
 - We recognize that all participants in the conference are bringing unique and important perspectives and expertise.
 - Conferences are only one snapshot of student learning.

5. Call to Adjourn - 5:00PM

Submitted by Matt Schneider, Secretary

Signature: ___(signed and dated version available in Principal's Office)_____

Date: _____