School Leadership Team Minutes 4/19/18

Call to Order

- Queens Vocational and High School SLT
- Meeting to Discuss
- Attendee Names
  - Melissa Burg Principal, Lisseth Salas-Ocampo AP PPS, Jessica Dimech Teacher, Stavroyla Nicolovienis Parent, Keitha Goodluck PA Secretary, Vanessa Hernandez, Parent, Guillermina Cruz Parent, Kimberly Mena, Noor Aayla Student, Jairo Hormaza Student, Jessica Leon Student, Madeline Hatcher
- Observer Names
  - Katherine Ambia, Guadalupe Paleta, Elizabeth Hultzil Paleta

Remarks

Mental Health Provider: Western Queens

- Welcoming Katherine Ambia the clinical site coordinator for western queens
  - She will be doing individual counseling and family group workshops
  - Tomorrow starts first workshop focusing on self esteem, capacity of 15 students per lunch period
  - We continue to add more and more mental health services as the teenage years are tough and this is the fruition of a grant request from 2 years ago. If you know someone who needs assistance we currently have the ability to serve the community. Room 213 is the location and Katherine is looking to offer workshops for parents as well, she will be attending the next parent meeting. The school is very happy and excited to have Katherine due to the fact that we only have 4-5 guidance counselors. We also have Madeline from Sunnyside Community Services.

- SAT Prep has also been happening at Queens Vocational. A freshman workshop will also be offered to show incoming students the importance of the exam

- Ms. Baez has a May 9th and 10th workshop through creative connections focusing on college readiness and career pathways.

- May is the month where Ms. K has a table outside of the school cafeteria with different colleges being featured. May 3rd is CTE night Career night is coming up this month as well.

- Concern throughout the building the attendance is dropping dramatically, from a 90+ attendance rating has fallen to 82.9% Burg states that the atmosphere with students seems to be better but obviously its not. Students responded with the fact that students believe that once they have their
first and second marking period grades set they feel they have the ability to skip and feel no repercussions. Yet Burg responds with the fact that this is an on-going trend there must be more to it.

- Parent asks what’s the procedure when it snows or when a teacher is out of the building. Burg states that when a teacher is absent students sit in the auditorium. We don’t have the money for substitutes. The subject is quickly switched back to third period attendance and the fact that it is the period where daily attendance is counted.

- Student states it could be due to the weather and the fact that seniors sneak into the auditorium and lunchroom. Student states most seniors now are suffering from extreme senioritis. The ability to track cohort attendance is discussed.

- Ninth grade attendance is doing very well, yet it is still down from last year. Tenth grade has consistently had the worst attendance in the school

- The CBO offers success scholars, a program where adults touch base on a weekly on students that are on the brink of poor attendance. Focusing on students that have an 80-90% attendance rate, this is where we can have the greatest influence. That’s one initiative that going on. Taking kids on trips for students that improve attendance.

- Student asks, “the lack of attendance is it excused or unexcused?” School Trips are supposedly reversed, the reversal doesn’t happen until the following day so parents will still receive a phone call or text stating that their child has missed class. Thus trips will not count against the school or student. If you are absent due to sickness or a family vacation it counts against the school and student.

- Another issue that was brought up was the fact that when teachers receive a bubble sheet verifying attendance, teachers often go back and change a mark of present to a mark of absent. The teacher seems not to want to reconfirm if the student was only marked present for 1 or 2 classes.

- Student states that he had an incident whereas he had to leave early because he was sick, so he asked how it works. He was told that his two teachers would receive that letters that asked if he was actually present. Delaney books are mentioned, Burg asks if legally teachers are supposed to keep their own record of attendance. Skedula is referenced and Burg states that teachers should be using a Delany book or skedula to take attendance. Parent states that Pupilpath is inconsistent.

- Mr. Boyle has retired and a new gym teacher has been hired.

Student Concerns
• Student moved to honors and doesn’t understand the content, student worried about the change. She made the request and now doesn’t understand what’s going on. Principal stated that we will be going to only 2 term algebra 2 next year.
• Ocampo states that students should take initiative and focus on ensuring their schedules are on track when they are first issued in August.
• AP for All, student states that he has applied for the past few years yet he has never received an AP class. Burg asks which classes he signed up for, asking if it was scheduled the same time as his shop, thus his exclusion. Yet when he responded that there was no overlap Ocampo stated he should have taken the initiative to change his schedule with his guidance counselor.

● Teacher Concerns
  • If kids have an 85 or above, they are seated in an honors class as they enter. Supposedly they have access to honors classes. Programming is supposedly only reliant on student performance in the class and teacher recommendations haven’t been prevalent. Administration states that they haven’t received necessary recommendations from teachers.
  • AP classes, problems with programming. Students requested everything via google forms and administration states that’s how students were programmed. Student stated that even though he made a request via the school website he did not receive the opportunity of AP.
  • Teacher requests more support for Advanced Placement teachers. Limiting the different number of classes they need to prepare for or the number of classrooms they teach in would be extremely beneficial. Administration replied we don’t have the student body that would allow more then one AP class in a topic, thus the requests are not feasible.
  • Referencing the minutes from February, one goal from the CEP was to have teachers leaders. Teacher asks is this is an achievable goal if there is no budget for comp time or support from administration. Administration stated it should be done by teachers because they want the school to be better, not because they want any rewards.

● Parent Concerns
  • What is the chance that my student has access to AP courses?
  • We will never offer AP Bio, even though we have students that are have the passion to take it and teachers that are willing to teach it.

Unfinished Business
• None