

Crispus Attucks Elementary School

P.S. 21

180 Chauncey Street
Brooklyn NY 11233

B. Thompson, Principal, IA
C. Arnold, Assistant Principal

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“Excellence without Excuses”

December 14, 2021
5:00pm

SLT AGENDA

WELCOME: Ms. Flowers (SLT Chairperson)

Reviewing and passing of minutes from November meeting

1. Welcome- Mrs. Flowers, SLT Chairperson
2. Principals Update- Principal B. Thompson
 - a. Budget
 - b. Program Updates
3. A.P. Update- C. Arnold
 - a. Attendance
 - b. Assessments
4. UFT Updates- D. Johnson
5. BCS- Y. Olayinka
6. PTA Updates- S. Shaw
7. Open Discussion- SLT Members

PS 21 SLT Meeting

December 14, 2021

5:00 pm

Zoom Conference Call

Meeting called by: M. Flowers
(SLT Chairperson)

Facilitator: M. Flowers

Attendees: *M. Flowers* (SLT Chair); *B. Thompson* (Principal, IA); *C. Arnold* (Assistant Principal); *S. Shaw* (PTA President); *N. Campbell* (Parent SLT member); *C. Morgan* (Parent SLT member); *D. O'Bryant* (Teacher); *K. Welch* (Parent Coordinator); *D. Johnson* (UFT Representative); *Y. Olayinka* (BCS Director); *A. Vivar* (BCS Representative); *L. Durant-Fletcher* (Family Associate, SAT.)

Please read: SLT Meeting Agenda

Minutes

Mrs. Flowers called the meeting to order at 5:09 pm. In reviewing the minutes from the previous meeting, Mrs. Flowers identified an error regarding the Covid Pop-up vaccination time. Ms. Johnson motioned to accept the minutes; Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The SLT passed the minutes, and Mrs. Flowers directed the team to the agenda. Because of a time, conflict, the P.T.A. update was moved to the first item on the agenda.

✓ **PTA Update** (*PTA President, S. Shaw*)

○ **Fundraising-**

- PTA fundraisers have been paused due to the holiday season. Fundraising activities will resume upon the student's return in January 2022.
- *Senior Activities-* the PTA hosting an end-of-the-year trip for graduating seniors. students and designated staff will visit Six Flags of America (New Jersey) and the African American Museum (Washington DC). If tickets are unavailable for the African American museum, a trip to the National Mall (Washington DC) will be scheduled. This is an overnight trip and students must be vaccinated to attend.

- *End of the Year-* the PTA is also planning end-of-the-school-year trips for 3rd and 4th-grade students. The trips will be instruction based such as a visit to the Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania.
The PTA is hosting their annual end-of-the-year trip to Dorney Park on June 11th, 2022.
 - *Clothing Drive/Picture Day-* The school donated 125 bags for the clothing drive and received a check for \$200. The profit from picture day is not yet known- the P.T.A. is waiting for correspondence from Irving Simon photographers.
 - *School Store-* Mrs. Brown-Hall has selected students to run the school store during the second and third lunch periods.
 - **Questions/Comments-**
 - Mrs. Morgan asked if students were going to take another set of pictures. Mrs. Shaw replied that students take pictures twice a year, in the fall and the spring.
- ✓ **Middle School *addendum** (*SLT Chairperson, M. Flowers*)
 - The middle school application process will begin the week of January 10th, 2022, and close the week of February 28. The middle school selection and application submittal process are entirely online. Parents will receive a PIN for their child(ren). Mrs. Flowers will host a morning and evening meeting with parents to create accounts for their child in the computer lab. In preparation for the application process, Mrs. Flowers has begun sending out notices for middle school open houses.
 - **Questions/Comments-**
 - Mrs. Arnold inquired about the middle school materials. Mrs. Flowers informed her that no materials have come to the school, only a booklet which lists middle schools in the entire city.
- ✓ **Principal's Update** (*Principal, IA, B. Thompson*)
 - **Mrs. Welch, Parent Coordinator-** PS21 will hold virtual open house tours for 3K, Pre-K, and Kindergarten. Fully vaccinated parents that pass a health screening are allowed to visit the school for in-person tours on Fridays from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.
The school received letters for distribution from Chantelle Jordan, Director of Early Childhood D16, regarding an *NYC Initiative Kindergarten Savings Plan*. This is a \$100 savings plan for kindergarten students. Students will not qualify for the program if their parent opts out. D16 will hold a meeting with parents to further discuss the program.
 - **Budget/Program Updates-** School programming drives our budget. The school has conducted multiple screeners including *Acadiance*, for students in grades Kindergarten through 2nd grade. The screener is helping the school to identify students that are in need. Many students require intervention-the students need solid instruction. Our strategy for Kindergarten through 2nd grade has a heavy focus on phonics. On December 4th 30 staff members were trained and the *Spire* programming. We will utilize this training to close the gap for students.

- *Academic Recovery*- The school received \$45,000 for 97 students. Academic Recovery began on December 7th and currently, 46 students are participating. The school is working on the option for students to also receive related services during Academic Recovery.
 - *General Education Intervention Programs*- Academic intervention support for general education students will begin the first week of January it will also take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Additionally beginning in the same week Saturday school will be provided for students and grades 3 through 5. The school is thinking of programs for 3K through Kindergarten students that are Arts and STEM-focused. Programs will be offered after school, during school, and/or on weekends. Parents should be aware that the city is mandating vaccine requirements for students for all after-school programs.
 - *Current Programs, C. Arnold*- Enrichment programs are offered to students two times per week-Mondays and Wednesdays. These programs include violin, guitar, piano, performing arts, track, basketball, and *Young Men of Character*. On Tuesdays and Thursday's students are engaged in academic after-school programs. 3K and Pre-K students participate and Spanish lessons with *Bilingual Birdies* during class. In the spring semester, 2nd-grade students will begin Spanish lessons. The school's Wellness team is thinking of creating a food pantry. We will follow up on this program in the next meeting.
- **Facility Challenges**- The gymnasium issue is being repaired after the Christmas break and will require evening work.
- **Questions/Comments**-
 - Mrs. Morgan ask if parents could deposit money into their student's Kindergarten savings account or will the funds grow in the account. Principal Thompson responded that the savings accounts are connected to the NYS 529 and businesses will be asked to donate money to student's accounts.
 - Mrs. Campbell inquired if her child could have multiple or accounts or if the savings accounts are merged. Principal Thompson answer that students can have multiple accounts.
 - Mrs. Flowers asked if all enrichment after-school program slots are filled. Principal Thompson stated that both piano and violin or filled, and there is limited space in guitar. He added that he noticed most of the enrichment programs were skewed toward female students in participation. Principal Thompson would like upcoming programs to move toward a male mindset and body-centered activities. Mrs. Flowers suggested music production classes and robotics. Ms. O'Bryant added that photography would also be a good program.
- ✓ **Assistant Principal's Update** (*Assistant Principal, C. Arnold*)
 - **Attendance**- Currently there are 494 students enrolled at PS21. Our year-to-date average is 90%-we are meeting the bar set by D16. The school attendance average

target is 95%. 2% of our students are identified as chronically absent, the issues are being resolved by the school's attendance team. 162 students (35%) are at risk for chronic absenteeism meaning there they have been absent at least 10% of the school days this year. This average is above the cities. To target specific cases each member of the team has been designated a particular grade level four parent outreach. To encourage student attendance calls to families will be made between 9:00 and 9:30 AM which will allow the student time to come to school even if they are late. The attendance team is working diligently to reduce the percentages. Incentives being offered to increase attendance are daily PA announcements for a classroom with 100% attendance; ribbons for monthly student 100% attendance; and classroom banners for classes with the highest monthly attendance average. Students with more than three lateness will not receive a ribbon for 100% attendance.

- **Assessments-**
 - *B.O.Y.*-This week principal Thompson and his team created Math and ELA benchmark assessments for students in grades 3 through 5. The administration of the benchmarks began today.
 - *M.O.Y.*- Students and kindergarten through 2nd grade will be assessed through *Acadiance*. 3rd through 5th-grade students will take the MAP growth assessment.
 - *E.O.Y.*- Performance tasks will be used for assessment.
- **Questions/Comments-**
 - Ms. Olayinka offers to host a DYCD COVID safe attendance party as an incentive for the school. Mrs. Arnold said that the team had already met and discussed that monthly parties would be too much, the team will host quarterly parties.
 - Mrs. Morgan asked if a student's absence included a doctor's note would be counted against the student's attendance. Mrs. Arnold replied yes however the absence will be coded as excused in ATS.
 - Mrs. Morgan wanted clarification on how the questions were derived for the *B.O.Y.* assessment for 3rd to 5th-grade students. principal Thompson responded that the questions came from a mixture of various sources. He added that he also pulled concepts that teachers say they taught.
- ✓ **UFT Update** (*UFT Representative, D. Johnson*)
 - After speaking with Mrs. Welch, Ms. Johnson investigated the Dial-A-Teacher program for parents. She will host a virtual parent meeting to give more information about the program and how it can benefit students. Mrs. Welch will send notices via *Constant Contact*.
 - There are no recent UFT updates to be reported at this time. The City Council has begun talks to push smaller classroom sizes.
 - **Questions/Comments-**
 - Mrs. Flowers inquired about vaccine updates for students. Ms. Johnson replied that there is no update on mandating Vaccinations for children in New York City public schools.

- Mrs. Arnold asked for clarity on vaccinated students returning to school after a classroom closure. Miss Johnson informed that there is no talk of exceptions for vaccinated students.
 - Mrs. Morgan asked if vaccinated students are allowed to return just school will they be placed in a different class or with a new teacher. Principal Thompson responded that in any case, we will end up with more students in classes vaccinated than not.
- ✓ **BCS Update** (*BCS Representative, Y. Olayinka*)
 - BCS is fully enrolled with 140 students. Moving forward DYCD has implemented the vaccine mandate for students enrolled in after-school programs. Because DYCD has different rules from the NYCDOE, BCS is waiting for guidance to implement the vaccine mandate for students who participate in both PS 21 and BCS programs. The city and CBO are all working together to develop a plan.
 - *Holiday Camp*- For winter break BCS will not hold holiday camp. Staff members however will participate in professional development. Holiday camp will be provided during mid-winter and spring break. Additional holiday camp dates have been added- Lunar New Year and Chancellor's Day.
 - *Staff*- Ms. Olayinka has accepted a role at and charter organization. Her last day with BCS at P.S. 21 will be December 23rd. Until the position of director is filled, Sharon Holiner will support the school during the transition.
 - **Questions/Comments-**
 - Mrs. Flowers asked when the vaccine mandate for DYCD become effective. Ms. Olayinka responded that the mandate was in effect as of today.
 - Mrs. Arnold wanted to know if BCS was holding a culminating activity for the holidays. Ms. Olayinka responded that there will be no holiday event. However, Mr. Serrano will work to create a video to showcase the student's artwork.
- ✓ **Open Discussion** (*SLT Members*)
 - Mrs. Morgan inquired about programs for student 3K this is second grade to support academic learning. Mr. Thompson stated that he is working with a team to formalize programs. Additionally, parents should look out for online programs that the school has used in the past.
 - Mrs. Morgan asked if parents will get access to students' *I-Ready* assessment data so that they can work with their child at home. Ms. O'Bryant responded that students can sign on to *I-Ready* at any time and parents can view their progress. Mrs. Morgan added that free programs are available to parents on Teach Hub.
 - Mrs. Flower stated that SLT meetings will be held in-person beginning January 2022. If any changes are made moving forward, she will inform the team.
 - Mrs. Fletcher asked if the SLT meetings are being made public to the school community. Mrs. Welch replied that the recurring link is on the school's website.
- ✓ **Next Meeting-** January 11, 2022, at 5:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned by M. Flowers, S.L.T. Chairperson (6:22 pm)