

**MINUTES**  
**SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT) MEETING**  
**APRIL 27, 2017 AT 7:13AM IN ROOM 412**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:13am.

In Attendance: Catherine Box, Eileen Mishanie-Goldberg, Julie Norwell, Debra Mastriano, Nina Roosevelt-Collmer, Iuliia Stozub, Max Alvarez, Rachel Polimeni, Emma Balmuth-Loris, Rachelle King, Deborah Middleton and Pam Korson.

Absent: There were no absences.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A few small edits were made to the minutes of the School Leadership Team Meeting held on March 21st. A MOTION to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**III. CEP Goals**

The group began discussion changes to the CEP goals until it realized that it was working from an outdated sheet of goals. Hence, discussion on this topic was shelved.

**IV. Website Update**

Ms. Roosevelt-Collmer reported that efforts to update the website were underway with a goal of improving communicating information to current PS 166 families as well as to prospective families. She and Mr. Alvarez have met with Deborah Markewich to identify how best to clean up the website, including removing duplicate information and links to nowhere. The website will be designed for quick access to go-to information, like lunch menus, test information, and it will be smartphone-friendly. Other possible pages might include information on useful resources for parents and opportunities for after-school and summertime programs. She added that they also discussed having a specific site on the website for each class to access information unique to the class. She said that, although it may take some time, a team of parents stands ready to move on the plan when it is finalized.

Ms. Middleton suggested that the new website might also include a link to a DOE website where parents can find information about free, useful services such as translation and Dial-a-Teacher.

**V. SLT Elections**

Catherine Box reminded the group that SLT elections will be held soon and that three parent seats and two teacher seats will be vacated. Ms. Roosevelt-Collmer said that the PTA will run the election for the parents in June and will advertise the open seats in

May. Ms. Mastriano said that she would spread the word among teachers. It was widely agreed that younger grades are currently overrepresented on the board and, therefore, Ms. Mastriano should target teachers in older grades, especially fourth grade teachers, to improve the balance of grade representation.

**VI. Homework**

Ms. Mishanie launched discussion of this topic by saying that she thinks there should be various kinds of homework, especially projects – not just rote worksheets. The group generally voiced support for project-based homework, but agreed that assigning projects that don't overly involve parents remains a challenge. The risks of projects that require parental involvement range from a situation where parents feel obliged to help their children and end up doing the assignment themselves instead of the children, to a situation where children whose parents are too busy to help them at all feel that their work doesn't measure up to the work of peers whose parents have helped.

The discussion also touched on whether homework of any type is helpful at all in elementary school and, to the extent that it is assigned, what its purpose is. The group expressed various viewpoints on these points but generally agreed that, at a minimum, nightly reading is important.

The discussion concluded with an agreement to implement no change for the current school year but to consider changes for the next school year.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13am.

Respectfully submitted,

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Julie Norwell  
Co-Recording Secretary