

NYC iSchool School Leadership Team

November 19, 2020 | 4:00-5:00 PM

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Rob Cowan Isora Bailey Lambeth Hochwald Katy Barber Peter Mulroy Catherine Turso Johanna Perez Vanessa Figueroa	Ferrah Reid Yaseen Saleh Annika Salomonsson Holly Epstein Jennifer Freidman Sue Jaye Johnson Jody Dreszner Bill Reinsch
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1. Update on School Closing Today

BAILEY- Communication has been vague. Based on mayor's press conference, through Thanksgiving. Threshold is below 3% now, but still closed...

2. Student Update: Particular Concerns

BAILEY- There are some students who will be impacted by not being in the building; red flag is lack of attendance- if multiple teachers reporting absences; 1 student was delivered a laptop today

HOCHWALD- Question of food insecurity-- can we support families during holidays?

BAILEY- Will keep following up with families, they are overwhelmed right now, will go to PA if there is need. We have lost no parents, but a lot of grandparents

FREIDMAN- Can we provide grief counseling support? **BAILEY-** there was something in the Spring, but should be re-sent (Health and Wellness subcommittee goal!)

EPSTEIN- isolation is being amplified for everyone- there is a lot of PA convo about what we can do (as well as for remote learning)

- ongoing video and audio issues
- breakout rooms could use more scaffolding, like assigning roles. Hard for discussion to occur in the breakout rooms (esp. Freshman and Sophomore parents have commented)

REINSCH- Thinks that our school needs a lot of credit, in comparison with other schools we were much more prepared. Audio/video issues can maybe be improved by making parents more aware of how to set up the right environment for Zoom. We should keep an eye on transition to Q2, hopefully it will get better.

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YASEEN- iSchool has definitely improved overall organization and structure. Small group vs. large groups have improved. In Breakout rooms, there are kids not all participating but feels that teachers are translating a similar experience from school (groups). Likes being in small groups bc it helps to individualize learning

ANNIKA- Partnership is also helpful- helped to have someone keep us in check; **BARBER-** Worked well for the final project, kids had the choice and some opted not to partner up.

EPSTEIN- Grade level probably makes a difference- engagement with Freshman and sophomores more difficult bc not as comfortable;

DRESZNER- How can parents help to get more students to turn cameras on? Offer to upgrade video features?

HOCHWALD- Souped up Zoom help? **BAILEY-** depends on device; **ANNIKA-** Depends on time for her-- some kids self-conscious and not wanting to turn on camera;

FERRAH- Connectivity issues leads her to choose between camera and having a well-operated call-- can't hear instruction when camera is connected

EPSTEIN- Use other tools besides zoom? Backchannel? (some suggest Discord in CHAT)

REINSCH- It's tough to include backchannel tool and synchronous tool

MULROY- If core issue is engagement, then technology is not necessarily the issue. Breakout rooms are a tool but there is not a way to improve them or improve cameras being off. Can we look for other answers, not in tools but in the tasks we assign.

FREIDMAN- Wellness activities- start class by going into breakout room with engaging question-- might encourage kids to turn cameras on/get comfortable at the beginning

YASEEN- Mulroy classes start with engagement questions- shout out. Mom is a teacher, gets a sense of what teachers are dealing with. Gets sense that things will improve with time.

3. Faculty & Staff Update

Q2 schedule is almost done and tomorrow students will get a PDF; grades due after Thanksgiving

4. This Year's Projects/Subcommittees:

Visible Work--posting agendas, minutes, and other info on PA website; revising bylaws
Rob Cowan, Katy Barber, Holly Ojalvo, Bill Reinisch

- Getting minutes on website

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- Don't want to necessarily make website better because we don't want to get more ppl enrolled than we can handle, ie long informational emails-- can colleges that are visiting the school be listed on the website? **ANNIKA**- We have Classroom page. **EPSTEIN**- We have "College Corner" on PA website; Programs and Opportunities can't be shared with other families
- **EPSTEIN**- Additions to website- end of quarter announcements; clubs, club contact, how to join/create; PA wants to stay in lane but also help;
- **ANNIKA**- has always envisioned some sort of "community hub" where parents can talk to e/o and teachers can give updates like other schools have; a Student Portal would be great like to announce going to clubs-- (Q2 start should maybe have another email sent to get more people come to clubs)
- **BAILEY**- Social media is all admin- don't want to burden teachers with it. Have been considering what next post will be. Not top of list right now.

Student Government--trying to solve the issue of making the student gov't permanent Annika Salomonsson, Holly Ojalvo, Catherine Turso, Yaseen Saleh

- **FERRAH**- asked to join in chat
- **EPSTEIN**- Why hasn't it gotten going, been consistent? **YASEEN**- left student govt because frustrated with the lack of power they had to do anything.
- **COWAN**- Might be that there has not been a consistent leader- no consistent teacher involved since Gibbons
- **BAILEY**- There wasn't as much popularity as other clubs.
- **TURSO**- Is there a need? What is its purpose? Should be our goal.
- **YASEEN**- How to centralize? Compete, find place amongst other organizations

Health & Wellness--caring for community during the pandemic and beyond Jennifer Friedman, Annika Salomonsson, Holly Ojalvo, Damasa Doyle

- Did not get to talk yet

Racial Equity--DEI, Conservative Voices Project, Restorative Justice Jennifer Friedman, Jody Drezner Alperin, Yaseen Saleh, Pete Mulroy

- Did not get to talk yet
- **FERRAH** to join; wants to address having more conversations about race; **MULROY**- important to have conversations, build trust, but is it about that or about making changes in the school?
- **BARBER**- UFT Voted in Delegate Assembly for resolution in favor of Black Lives Matter: <http://nyceducator.com/2020/11/uft-resolution-in-support-of-black.html> ; might want to look at it in subcommittees or BSU

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- **BAILEY**-We decided at the end of Equity Team meeting that Advisory should lead conversations/activities (not 100% sure); Equity Team minutes to be shared

5. New Business

- Subcommittees to meet within next month
- SLT Minutes, Equity Team minutes to be shared and publicized