

NYC iSchool School Leadership Team

October 22, 2020 | 5:00-6:00 PM

MINUTES

**ATTENDEES**

<b>Isora Bailey</b> <b>Robert Cowan</b> <b>Katy Barber</b> <b>Johanna Perez</b> <b>Catherine Turso</b> <b>Katie Coleridge</b> <b>Lambeth Hochwald</b>	<b>Jaye Johnson</b> <b>Damasa Doyle</b> <b>Bill Reinsch</b> <b>Jennifer Freidman</b> <b>Annika Salmonsson</b> <b>Yaseen Saleh</b> <b>Ferrah Reid</b>
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**1. Introductions & Welcome of New Student Members**

- Welcome Yaseen (senior and aquarium club president) and Ferrah (junior)

Minutes?

- We will create a folder for agendas and minutes moving forward. BARBER is writing them
- BAILEY is going to send out SLT email with minutes moving forward
- Approved from last time

**2. Student Update: Next Steps with Black Student Union**

BSU just had a meeting and they are considering forming more of a partnership with us. ANNIKA thinks that it might be better to partner with the equity team since there is overlap?

- BAILEY only member who is on it. It has expanded this year to have 16 students, Leimsider, Colon (facilitator), Baracaldo (data focus), Whittaker and Bittman (deans), Mulroy, Kim. They are furthering the conversation of race and equity in our school.
- Last meeting- spoke about Town Hall and survey results, Want to improve communication between equity team and advisories so that more students will talk/participate
- YASEEN suggests that someone from Equity team shares back to BSU and SLT, Similarly, thinks that all Clubs should report to SLT. Central venue to “streamline” concerns and issues back to SLT

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- BAILEY-Government has not been consistent at the iSchool-some years there are stronger leaders than others; YASEEN- suggests that more of a foundation should be built up to get government to have more of a following

### **3. Faculty & Staff Update: How is it going, how will it?**

BAILEY- today is midway point of Q1. We have been busy. Request for feedback was sent out 3 weeks ago. Students are saying that it is better than spring, better organized, appreciate what teachers have done. Seniors are stressed, other grades not as much. 331 responses.

Random testing happening in the next week. No one has been sent home with COVID. A student who had never been here tested positive. Student and OHS reached out. BAILEY did not send out info, not needed.

PEREZ- Things are ok. Has 9th graders. Hard to make connections with students in remote setting, wants more to come to office hours and have one on one meetings.

Office Hours is a universal challenge- even in college (COWAN)

DOYLE- Son is idle more than she would like. Attentiveness from teachers has been helpful for family; question of how some kids are able to thrive and some are not, how to support?

COWAN- balancing synchronous and asynchronous can be challenging, presents need for special skills

TURSO- students are used to being in class as being the most intense time, but this has shifted. The “empty” periods are now the times for work. Tough change

FREIDMAN- iSchool kids are used to having independent work, which is new for 9th graders and a tough transition from middle school

HOCHWALD- PA’s biggest focus is to try and get parents and advisory groups to be linked; also putting together a directory of families. Only 30 families at the moment- is it because there is no need, or because parents are exhausted? Hoping to help parents who are expressing need to understand the “vibe” of the iSchool

FREIDMAN- can see for whom it is not working to help. She headed Advisory call, was surprised that her child is thriving compared with others. It was a good way to feel connected

HOCHWALD- next month’s PA meeting will have a speaker on this. Last one was good.

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JOHNSON- Daughter is doing well academically but not physically-- drained body, lack of energy. How to deal with stress, breathing, mindfulness, etc. Strategies needed.

HOCHWALD-- Let's get a speaker to help with this!

BAILEY- Q3 Workshops are an opportunity

COLERIDGE- Mental health is a pillar of health

ANNIKA- Has had several classes address mental health and meditation

TURSO- We could use a resource with a menu of activities to use in advisory or classes.

DOYLE- We have intentionality. Can we identify the audience-- everyone can benefit. Cooking, napping, breathing. Ideas of what to offer, how to offer it. How much time? Important for people to have ownership over their health and wellness, something to chose and that is easy (topics: movement, psychology of mental health, activate senses)

DOYLE and JOHNSON- to start a subcommittee? Start compiling resources. Need students to join...

FROM THE CHAT: points raised that students who might attend a voluntary session related to mental health/wellness may not be the students who could benefit most from it. Need to think about how to reach students who need it most...

**4. This Year's Projects/Subcommittees:**

- o Bylaws Revision/making SLT more visible
- o DEI, Conservative Voices Project, Restorative Justice
- o Formalizing Student Government- longer term,
- o Communication: making meetings accessible, posting agendas and minutes

COWAN- will make a Google Doc with subcommittees for members to put their ideas into; each subcommittee should come up with a tangible goal

FERRAH- How are we going to decide on topics to focus on? BAILEY- Thinking about things through lenses, not topics...

**5. New Business**

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- Comprehensive Education Plan
- Brainstorm about role of student government and how to build it up moving forward
- EQUITY TEAM- Bailey is looking to find focus of equity team and keep it as a lens, not just a topic (like mental health)