

**Philippa Schuyler Middle School for the Gifted and Talented
School Leadership Team Meeting
December 16, 2021
4:30-6:30 pm
Agenda**

1. Call to Order and Review SLT Protocols--**Chairperson Ms. Illery (5 minutes)**
 - a. The meeting will be recorded
 - b. SLT members use Zoom reaction, “Raise Hand” to indicate comment. Facilitator will recognize unmute.
 - c. Chat is disabled until the facilitator announces guests may pose questions in the chat.
 - d. Q&A session is time permitting.
2. [Link to November minutes](#) **Chairperson Ms. Illery (7-10 minutes)**
3. New Business: Discussion of Safety in our Schuyler School Community:
Principal Wigdorsky (60 minutes)
 - a. SLT members discussion
 - b. Visitors participate in discussion
 - c. Solutions and Next Steps
4. New Business: CEP Progress Monitoring **Principal Wigdorsky (30 minutes)**
5. Old Business: Schuyler Electronics Policy **Principal Wigdorsky (15 minutes)**
6. Closing of Meeting **Ms. Illery (3 minutes)**

Voting Members (Present)

Ms. Rivera
Mr. Adoniz
Ms. Baldino
Ms. Wigdorsky
Ms. M. James
Ms. Gibson
Ms. Morales
Ms. Slaughter

Review of the previous meeting's minutes at 4:51pm. Minutes are approved by Ms. Baldino motioned to approved the minutes and Ms. Gomez seconded the motion. 4:55pm.

School Safety

Ms Wigdorsky addresses the community

School year has been a unique school year. All students have not been in a school building consistently since March 2020. We had two days of professional development in socio-emotional learning. We have a dean and have added an extra guidance counselor this school year.

Our current 6th graders haven't been in the building since the 4th grade and this is their first large school experience. Another issue has been students taking video/pictures with their phones and devices and then posting to social media. We must work together as a community to support our students. Students need to feel safe and supported

Joyce Baldino, the uft chapter leader speaks and introduces herself. I think it requires constant reminders for all of our students that they haven't been in a building since the start of the pandemic. Presents an example in floor spots with student to student horseplay. Students need to understand that public self and private self are important to know when they are in the building.

Ms. Rivera, the PTA president, gives a note about phones being collected at the beginning of the day and returned at the end of the day. Have a restorative justice system where there is peer mediation for students to resolve the conflict themselves. Ms. Rivera suggests more assemblies to address concerns with the students.

Ms. Morales speaks. Is there an anti-bullying campaign? Speaks on a counselor coming around and speaking to the students and addressing students' concerns. The assembly was a welcome back more than a behavioral assembly. What will be implemented now that we are in this position?

At the time of the town hall, there were physical altercations that were addressed, since then there have been more.

Ms. Mya James AP speaks. Ms. James works with all of the grades. Because students were out of a building for more than a year and a half and they haven't been handling conflict resolution well. Ms. James echoes what Ms. Rivera says about having peer mediation.

Visitors speak

Spanish interpretation line is open for Q&A.

Rosy - Can I give my point of view what is happening? I know that Schuyler is a good school but with things happening is this happening across the board at all schools. Parent says that she never received a letter about something bad that had happened at the school. The school hasn't had punishment for students that are distracting from the learning and safety of others. I'm very scared and worried about this situation.

Wigdorsky - Thank you for your input in this situation. We did send a notice home on Monday to all families as soon as there was information to share. We still have many families that are not registered on pupilpath. Pupilpath is how we communicate to families and have families communicate with us. The message was sent out at 12:15PM on pupil path. We had a letter backpacked home to families at the end of the day and followed up with a one call. If families are not receiving this information, then we do not have updated information. We need you to do that as soon as possible.

Ms. JeanBaptiste - Is there hallway monitors as students transfer from class to class.

We have 4 school safety agents assigned to the building. There is a citywide school shortage of safety agents. We have an administrator and school aids on each floor. We have had meetings with the staff since concerns have arisen. Teachers come out and assist and bring classes down to lunches. In the hallways, if administrators do catch students running then they take away outside recess.

Ms. JeanBaptiste - If it is in your budget, could you hire more paras or starting paras to assist in the work. What was the worst thing that happened to you and how are you handling it? It's more than having a counselor step in.

Ms. Wigdorsky - paras are assigned to students in the classroom but we are currently in the process of hiring school aides. Most teachers and administrators are trained in restorative circles. We need to have a plan in place where teachers and all are using this on a regular basis. We have to give the students an opportunity to talk before we do the curriculum.

Ms. Richards - In 2019, We should have cameras in the hallways where the blindspots are. The talks work but if we aren't watching the blind spots of the school certain events can happen. Parent asks for the specific kinds of threats that are happening at the school.

Ms. Wigdorsky - We do not have cameras but we are currently working on getting cameras in the building. We are actively working on the camera issue right now. We have a partnership with the NYPD ambassador program, Ms. Hutchinson is a part of it. There is an increase in threats across the city. This is happening across the country. We need to monitor what students are doing on social media. We need for parents to be aware of what students are doing on social media. We have to teach them social responsibility with their devices.

Tamara Nelson - Recognize the reality of what we are dealing with. People have our anxiety on 10, parents look on social media, she makes herself aware of what is happening on social media. Observed students disrespecting adults at the school in public. Could we have a day as a community to come into the school to give a presence? (Dad's on duty) There are parents that aren't trained in how to deal with their children.

Ms. Wigdorsky - Students have a certain responsibility and they know what that expectation is. We will look into Dads on Duty. There is a process for parents to volunteer in the school.

Ms. Rivera - As long as the parents are vaccinated, they can enter the building.

Ms. Wigdorsky - parents and guardians play an important role in the child's development.

Maureen - Comment about transparency. It's scary for a parent to be at work and read the letters with vague language.

Wigdorsky - The language of the letters is what we have to share with our school communities. Across the district and across the city a lot of what is happening is prompted by social media. This is the first year of increased random scanning. School is not a place for any type of weapon at all. Our school was not specifically named in the threat.

Gilberto - my perspective as a student. I like coming to school. It's sad to know that some of the 6th and 7th graders are banging on doors and pulling fire alarms. We have to be mindful of false alarms.

Wigdorsky - Some students figured out if they bump into the alarms they can remove the box. We haven't had an alarm concern in a few weeks. We had a plan to have ELA and history regents before the pandemic happened. We were awarded a \$300,000 STEAM grant.

Peer mediation - We had a program in the school prior to COVID, we have to get this started with our 5th graders and 6th graders.

Ms. Baldino - There is discussion in the chat about consequences and discipline for students that break school policy. Go to the DOE website, find the discipline code book. <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/know-your-rights/discipline-code>. Students have experienced a lot of loss over the pandemic and need our support.

Ms. James - Being a former student at Schuylers, the school means everything to Ms. James. Students will be coming back to school that have faced trauma, the DOE invested in more social workers. We make sure that we follow the discipline code and that students receive consequences.

Ms. Wigdorsky - Last year, none of the middle schools in the city had a screening process. The process was done by lottery. The DOE has developed a discipline code that is progressive.

PTA meeting December 21st at 6:00PM

Mr. Adonis motions to close the meeting Ms. Rivera seconds the motion.