

2024-2025 SLT Minutes

To access minutes from last year's meeting click on [2023-2024 SLT Minutes](#)

June 18, 2025

- **Call to Order / Approval of May's Minutes**
- **Principal's Report**
 - Very busy past ten days
 - Had budget meeting on Monday night
 - Our average teacher salary went up 10K to about 129K
 - Stepping up ceremonies, fifth grade overnight, last week was Kick Butts day for 4th/5th grade on pier, every grade had a field day
 - Epic block party - Art Auction was bigger than ever, Benefit and Auction
 - Question of whether some events could move earlier
 - Hiring committee is hard at work finding six new teachers - huge amount of work and VERY IMPORTANT
 - Designing and implementing interview process
 - We've made a few hires - yay!
 - Many teachers are wondering exactly what grade they're teaching next year
 - One teacher is returning from childcare leave so five positions to hire for
 - One arts teacher may do 3 days/week here and 2 days/week at another school
 - In budget meeting it became apparent that they want to see those salaries going to adherence in specific grades - they would rather have one grade at 100% compliance than improvement across all grades
 - If there are outlier large class size grades could problem solve with America Reads tutors or potential assistants
 - Packing Logistics for Construction project also at work
- **Equity Team Updates**
 - Equity committee planning on being a part of welcome week
 - Trying to rally people who know different language to be present during welcome weeks
- **Reflections of the Year**
- **Adjournment**

May 22, 2025

- **Call to Order / Approval of April's Minutes**
- **Principal's Report**
 - Dr. Fagin attended a conference where the chancellor spoke - The Center for Jewish Inclusive Learning
 - The Facing History CEO gave the keynote, all the superintendents were there

- Within the Passport Social Studies curriculum there's a program called Hidden Voices, working on a Jewish History
 - Thinking more about integrating more teaching on Jewish History and the Holocaust
 - All Are Welcome event May 1st was a big success
 - Want to iterate on the Potluck component, potentially having time slots like the silent disco
 - Kindergarten Registration in process
 - Our BIPOC affinity group and our All Are Welcome affinity group are both preparing June presentations - there will be a wear colors of the rainbow day for PRIDE on June 2nd
 - Wizard of Oz shows on Tuesday and Wednesday
 - Proposal to add some subject line detail to both PS29 and PTA Newsletter to increase open rates
 - Jungle gym is back!
 - Hiring committee is beginning to work on our 6 new hires - 1st interview is Tuesday next week
- **Discussion of CEP Goals for 25-26 School Year**
 - 1st pillar - reading goal - foundational literacy, science of reading - focus on K-2, Accadience Screener data, probably focus on ELLs (we have about 25 ELL students)
 - 2nd pillar - safe environment, safety, took some survey data this year on how many kids feel like they have a trusted adult at the school (and potentially an older student)
 - Related: bringing back Peer Mediation and Recess Helpers
 - 3rd pillar - "High Quality Academics" - Math goal, probably focusing on students with disabilities in the bottom 16th percentile
 - 4th pillar - College and Career Readiness goal - on financial literacy (now required in K-3)
 - 5th pillar - Family Engagement, bringing back Lunch and Learns where parents can come in to teach something on their specialty
 - Sending out our Family Engagement Survey for this year soon
- **Committee Updates - Equity Team**
 - Review of Proposal from Damasia to revamp Parent Equity Committee (separating Equity from Service)
 - Staff Equity to discuss at their June meeting and parents will meet again once in June
- **Creation of Agenda for Next Meeting**
- **Adjournment**

April 24, 2025

- **Call to Order / Approval of March's Minutes**
- **Principal's Report**

- Jungle gym coming back! Seems that they will take the walls down on Monday. We have asked them to clean. All Are Welcome sign will move to a different section of the yard
- All Are Welcome fest on May 1st. Affinity groups will be showcasing work and activities. Potluck.
- Equity committee met a few weeks ago and talked through the role for families. In upper grades having conversations about what it means to feel welcome
- ADA construction - Monday the front of building construction began to build entry ramp. Dr. Fagin has a walkthrough tomorrow at 2 pm.
- Initial Kindergarten registration ongoing, initial acceptance deadline next week. 126 initial offers went out
 - 3-5th testing starts next week with ELA, following week Math, then Science
- **Update Class Size Reduction Plan**
 - We were told we had six teachers funded.
 - Going to put together a hiring committee
 - Hiring fair is coming up soon
 - Debating what grades to put funding/teachers towards
- **Discussion on Social Media Messaging**
- **Committee Updates**
 - Learning Support - Anna Levy-Warren coming back tomorrow for Executive Function workshop on middle school transition and transitions in general, strengthening the home/school partnership
 - Equity committee - in a place where we need some stronger parent leadership, but the plan for the All Are Welcome event is for parent reps to have talking points about things that are happening in the school
 - Could be good to have student journalists from PS29 Post documenting
 - Wellness Committee - Move It Morning coming up
 - Earth Day/Work Day
- **Creation of Agenda for Next Meeting**
- **Adjournment**

March 20, 2025

- **Call to Order**
 - Approval of February minutes
- **Principal's Report**
 - We had our first Students of Divorce group meeting of fourth and fifth graders, reinforced to students that it's totally voluntary, they did norm setting, some ice breakers, made some family crest drawings, talked about the text that they are going to read, every kid said they are going to come back

- Health education conversations have been happening with 4th and 5th graders with Ashliegh Petillo.
 - No families chose to opt out or keep students home this year
- 1st grade Shakespeare performances all happened this week
- Kindergarten registration conversations have started - assignments should go out April 2nd
- Class Size grants have not been announced yet, some word that “most” schools might get “some” of their funding request
- “Are You Returning?” Survey will be sent out to parents in a week or so
- Had our first comfort dog session with Wave
- Next round of family mornings have begun
- Internal prep for next round of Parent Teacher Conferences - ensuring what we’re doing across grades is consistent/coherent
- Wit and Wisdom is publishing a number of new modules
- **Update on Plan for May 1st Family Event**
 - All Are Welcome Festival
 - Different affinity groups in upper grades will all have chance to share through various lenses, celebrating who we are as a school, plus a potluck where families can share, a silent disco, staff will all be in attendance
- **Neurodiversity Week**
 - Discussed Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia - kids have really appreciated hearing about it and feeling seen, and discussed strengths that come with different abilities
 - One to three parents complained that kids came home self-diagnosing, but that seems like a good opportunity for discussion
 - Potentially need to do some pre-work with the lower grades before the week and providing more context
- **Committee Updates**
 - Learning Support group had a book club discussion of Jonathan Haidt’s The Anxious Generation
 - Wellness Committee hosted Super Science Saturday and Move It Morning
 - EAC met to discuss various government issues right now and possible dismantling of Department of Education (~10% of the state’s education funding comes from Fed)
 - At NEA meeting yesterday discussion of whether a new mayor could change curriculum again - it’s possible
 - No curriculum change for next year at least
- **Creation of Agenda for Next Meeting**
- **Adjournment**

February 6, 2025

- **Call to Order**
 - Approval of January minutes
- **Principal's Report**

- Had four open houses, three in person, one remote
- Received positive feedback on our class size proposal from our Deputy Superintendent
- Divorce group letter was sent out, 11 responses so far
- Comfort Dog consent - 453 responses
- Black History Month celebrations have begun, World Read Aloud Day - Jacqueline Woodson
- Executive Orders definitely wearing people down and making people nervous about implications for schools and families - but we keep doing what we do and what we believe in, nothing stopping us from doing this work - we are also mindful of protecting our kids/families/staff
 - Definitely conversations at all levels of school/district/city about potential statements, probably to come from the city itself in next weeks
- Respect For All Week is next week in NYC DOE
 - Potential letter about all the things we're so proud of - honor, celebration, joy, inclusion
- Potential outreach to some families who may be nervous about ICE who have been absent
 - Any non-local law enforcement agent cannot enter our building, they would be stopped at the door, they would be photographed and their documents would be photographed and sent to our lawyer for review - if they didn't stop we would proceed as if we had an intruder in the building and we would not give any information about a child to someone
- **Reflection on Separate Parent Teacher Conferences and Report Cards**
 - Perhaps the decoupling of report card vs conference doesn't necessarily help
 - Some parents felt surprised by January report card
- **Equity Potluck**
 - Want to have an event for joy and community
 - Ideo to use May date for a potluck where all staff would be there
- **Committee Updates**
- **Creation of Agenda for Next Meeting**
- **Adjournment**

January 16, 2025

- **Call to Order**
 - Approval of December minutes
- **Principal's Report**
 - Lice policy communication went out
 - New protocol for "outbreaks" including clothing separation
 - Probably going to schedule another demo
 - Based on last meeting convo about support for divorced families Admin spoke with Loretta about developing a new support/socializing program, either with Banana Split or another approach. Working on a letter to send to the whole community and gauge interest and think about a potential read aloud approach for a K-2 group (with parent sign

up for younger grades) and then potential affinity group for grades 4 and 5. After the letter goes home from the school probably up to the parent and child to engage. Goal is to move forward on this, not let perfect be the enemy of the good.

- Comfort Dog initiative - our Dog is WAVE!
- **Construction Update**
 - Message went out today - the SCA (School Construction Authority) is making our building ADA compliant - it was their initiative
 - Peter, the Kindergarten parent with architecture/construction experience is part of our internal committee and will be present for SCA updates to admin
 - There will be a crane in the gated off area
 - Danielle from the SCA is attending PTA meeting tomorrow
 - Playground project is stalled until we have two weeks above freezing
- **Committee Updates**
 - Education Action Committee sent an email about the concrete plant action
 - PTA leadership/Equity committee and admin met with Courageous Conversations about potential family workshop
- **Creation of Agenda for Next Meeting**
- **Adjournment**

December 19.2024

- **Call to Order**
 - Approval of November Minutes
- **Principal's Report**
 - Rebecca absent to Halee giving report
 - Have had two prospective parent tours, two more to come, one in person, one virtual
 - Second round of family mornings finish up tomorrow
 - Adding one more family morning this year so there will be four total
 - 4th graders did their ballroom share
 - 1st graders start Shakespeare in January, as does 5th grade improv
 - Construction updates
 - Building on Kane has found more significant damage than they thought, to finalize, they need temps to be consistently above freezing for two weeks. Now hoping for completion by March/April
 - ADA project is in the mobilization phase, setting up the staging area, getting ready to bring in trailer and machinery
 - Couldn't be where staff parking is because their equipment can't maneuver into that space
 - Garden will be more of a pollinator garden this term
 - We will get two week look ahead with committee from the school
 - Working on a plan that doesn't require front sidewalk to close completely
 - Classrooms will get air purifiers to help with air quality concerns
 - Letter going out to the community as well

- January 18th will be first two week report
 - They have to follow all the UFT checklist and the NYC codes
 - Proposal: Laminated poster with QR code for Q&A page on fences - **PTA will do this!**
- **Supports for Students of Divorce Families Discussion**
 - In the past our former social worker felt it was really challenging to gather students together since they are all experiencing different family dynamics, so it was much more one on one, then did train Social Worker in Banana Splits (like an affinity group). She has since retired, but could potentially get our current social worker training in the program.
 - Proposal for a potential lunch club - mostly so students know they are not the only one with divorced parents
 - Thought of ordering extra books to help support transition between homes (or providing pdfs), potential cushion in annual order
- **Review of Class Size Reduction Proposal**
 - Proposal submitted! Lots of different links/spreadsheets/plans. We asked for everything, but did also include phase in/alternate plans - Suzanne did a lot of work!
 - 350 schools applied as of 2 weeks ago, so will probably be much more
 - No clear timeline on decision, but one would think/hope we would have to hear back by May at the latest
 - If we get funding it will be ongoing year to year
- **Creation of Agenda for Next Meeting**
- **Adjournment**

November 21, 2024

- **Call to Order**
 - **Approval of October's Minutes**
- **Principal's Report**
 - Tuesday did observation at 321 and New Voices
 - December 3rd, 25 principals and district staff will be visiting 29 and focusing on/observing project based learning (PBL) to support district focus on "Choice, Voice, and Agency"
 - One of the things we are mindful of with new Wit and Wisdom curriculum is where we can put in more choice
 - Had parent teacher conferences. First year where they are decoupled from report cards
- **Class Size Reduction Proposal**
 - We are applying for funding to support reducing class size. We are in good position because we already have the space
 - Question of whether we are better positioned to get funds because we already have the space or worse positioned because we are getting good outcomes even with large classes
 - With reduced class sizes, number of students with IEP also goes down to maintain 40/60 ratio so in some grades would need to open a second ICT classroom
 - Reviewed spaces that would be getting reallocated to classrooms

- Discussion of optimizing for grade level hitting full compliance vs progress at all grade levels
- Discussed possibility of increased retention with smaller class sizes in higher grades
- With two APs we are already well positioned for supervision needs
- Reviewed program narrative questions
- **Supports for Students of Divorce Families Discussion - being moved to December meeting**
- **Creation of Agenda for Next Meeting**
- **Adjournment**

October 17, 2024

- **Call to Order**
 - **Approval of September's Minutes**
- **Principal's Report**
 - PTA meeting at 6:30 this evening, budget vote for extra 50K from PTA in particular to support substitute coverage
 - In Kindergarten this year we had a bit of a perfect storm where we had only one student with an IEP in an ICT classroom and so that classroom was transitioned back to a Gen Ed classroom (with support and communication of the family)
 - Two teachers were excessed this summer, and to avoid excessing another teacher transitioning that teacher to the classroom that is retiring mid-year
 - Teachers are all working with and implementing new Wit and Wisdom curriculum with integrity rather than fidelity
 - Digital Citizenship week
 - Ballroom for 4th and Chess for 3rd grade have already started
 - Brooklyn Nets clinic with 3rd graders today
 - There will be a therapy dog in the building!!
- **Equity Committee**
 - Formerly Service and Equity committee
 - There's a staff equity team that's very active but working to reactivate the parent component
 - Doris Ho-Kane and Emma Fitzpatrick working together
 - Staff equity team met and discussed what they're hoping to get from parent/family component
 - Heritage celebrations are going again and very successful, but now also want to make sure there's guidance/work about shared language/conversations
 - Partnering with organization called Courageous Conversations, training on election day
 - Potentially looking at new curriculum through ABAR lens
 - Discussion of communication ahead of Election re how the school teaches about election (and what it doesn't do). Donald to draft and share with Admin team
- **SLT Sub-Committee Updates (if applicable)**

- Wellness: Harvest week a big success
 - Move It Morning in the yard October 25th
 - Bike to Learn either Nov 2nd or 3rd
- Learning Support Committee
 - Planning an Intro to Neurodiversity presentation Friday, October 25th
- **2024-2025 CEP Goals**
 - Review of CEP goals set in June
- **Creation of Agenda for Next Meeting**

Minutes- 9/26/24

Introductions

Election of chair and secretary

Chair - Halee Hochman

Secretary - Elizabeth Milch

Minutes are public and also have to be uploaded for record keeping purposes

Principal's Report

Beginning of the Academic Year

We celebrate Janet (Jeehyun) Cavanaugh joining PS29 as the new Parent Coordinator

The beginning of the school year has seen:

- Affinity groups scheduled
- Launching PS29 Post for 4th and 5th graders
- Chess (3rd) and Ballroom Dance (4th)
- Adding additional family mornings for each grade level
- Reinvigorating Service and Equity committee with co-chair Doris Ho-Kane
- Courageous Conversations
 - Partnership with Books Are Magic
- Service learning connected to curriculum: City Harvest, Project Cicero
- Continuing to work to engage families and thinking of new partnerships
- SLT sub-committee fair on Monday 9/23

Looking Ahead

- Budgeting is a challenge, especially for fiscal year 2024-2025
- Construction projects
 - Coordinating with many parties regarding the private construction by the playground
 - Accessibility construction anticipated to begin by the schoolyard around Election Day and will continue for 2-3 years
 - External elevator, ramp, accessible classrooms, auditorium, and bathrooms (1 accessible student and 1 accessible staff bathroom on each floor)

- Baltic Street will have an additional gate and fencing around the staging area where the heavy equipment and dumpsters will be stored
- It will go to the mid-field of the kickball field
- Eventually the Kane Street exit to the yard will be closed
- Pre-K entrance will be closed to put in a ramp (3 months)
- Possible yard-wide repairs due to wear and tear after all of the construction work
- Trying to manage the schedule around school hours/events/permits
- Security will be here 24/7
- Construction will be occurring after school hours
- Some classes have already been moved in anticipation of the construction and the rooms it will impact
- Eventually Nurse Pam and the PS29 After School offices will need to move so that the space can be made accessible.

Things to consider as a committee

- A meeting about the construction may make sense prior to it beginning, the agenda at the first PTA meeting didn't allow for sufficient time
- Tamara, a former PS29 parent, would be the parent liaison regarding the construction by the playground
- Street closures during lunch periods and special events (PS29 Block Party) due to loss of yard
 - Neighbors wouldn't be able to move their cars at that time
 - Security/guards would need to be present at both ends of the street
 - There may be an organization that can help with supplies through a grant
 - Both roofs (above auditorium and above school) was initially intended to be another recess area, but it would be very costly to build the wall to meet safety requirements
- Thinking of ways to include PS29 parents in the process
 - Suggestion to create a parent committee to think through some of these issues, but a number of things are decided by external parties
 - Two parents responded to express interest in communicating with the community about construction following an initial email regarding construction
 - Late October/November have SCA come to present to parents to help parents understand what to expect and to allow parents a chance to share ideas of how to address some issues that may arise and impact students

Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP)

- SLT sub-committees are aligned with the goals
- Focus on ENL/MLL population
- Meetings and work with Service and Equity team to engage parents through Culture in our Community
- Helping students to see themselves and feel that their cultures are recognized and celebrated

Progressive Redesign Opportunity Schools for Excellence (PROSE)

- New structure that PS29 applied and received approval for
- Offers another layer of flexibility for PS29 staff and community members to work in a collaborative way

- “Enables schools who have a demonstrated record of effective school leadership, collaboration, and trust to implement innovative practices outside of existing rules”

[Source](#)

- 4-5 year status
- Allowed us to rethink Report Cards and best practices in communicating student progress.
 - First report card will be pushed later in the academic year and preceded by a conference rooted in student work
 - First Parent Teacher Conference in November followed by a Report Card in January/February
 - Second Parent Teacher Conference in March followed by a Report Card in June
 - Additional time allotted for conferences in May
 - Non-instructional morning allows pedagogues and staff to dedicate that time to working on collaborating around the new literacy curriculum
 - There may be some families that are upset by this shift in the calendar and as a team we will need to work on messaging to families so that we can convey the value in using this time for meaningful professional development.
 - Attaching this time to what would have been a half-day will hopefully alleviate some of the child-care concerns.
 - There will be a stand alone email to message this to families
 - It was discussed if there will be Kids Club available for families
 - PTC is contractually remote
 - Some prefer remote since they can log on from home/work
 - If parents request an in person meeting, the UFT strongly suggests that these are scheduled during Tuesday afternoons and not on the day of afternoon/evening conferences

SLT Sub-Committee Protocols and Expectations

- Email address are on the website and parents can direct questions and suggestions to the appropriate committees

Sub-Committees

- Wellness
- Service and Equity
- Education Action
- Learning Support

PTA is a separate entity, but there may be overlap

There may be times when some committees are really active

SLT members act as liaisons between the sub-committees and the SLT

- Weaving these initiatives into the school day and in school activities such as the Service and Equity project to celebrate the countries of origin for the Dancing Classrooms dances.

Thinking through how to message out community events:

- Class parents
- Social Worker has called families

- Word of mouth and continued messaging
- Delegating who will communicate with families around cultural events
- Signs outside

Agenda for Next Meeting

- Email any specific topics
- Communicate if you hear from others