



THE ANDERSON SCHOOL (P.S. 334)  
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

---

April 9, 2014  
Minutes

Jodi Hyde, principal  
Rob Schliessman, assistant principal  
Leni Cohen -K-2 teacher rep,  
Dianne Kirksey-Floyd - 3-5 teacher rep,  
Stefanie Wolf, 6-8 teacher Rep  
Nicole Cardinale, elementary at large rep  
Nicole Chandonnet 6-8 at large teacher rep  
Robert Moy - UFT rep  
Joy Heinze - PTA co-pres,  
Diane Heith - K-2 parent rep,  
Laura Mount - 6-8 parent rep,  
Rina Cohen Schwarz K-4 at large parent rep,  
Deborah Lopez 5-8 at large parent rep,  
Mindy Wigutow - PTA parent rep

- I. Minutes from the March meeting were approved.
- II. Discussion regarding “Looping” proposal:
  - A. The school is considering piloting looping.
    1. This year’s 2<sup>nd</sup> grade “loops,” stays with the same teacher for 3rd grade.
    2. Current K and 1 would have new teachers next year
  - B. The proposed pilot has not yet been finalized. We expect to hear more about it in June but, as always, teacher assignments won’t be finalized until the end of the summer.
  - C. A variety of questions and concerns about the proposal have been discussed with administration and SLT reps. A first grade parent attended the meeting and also asked questions.
    1. The chief concerns:
      - a. What are the social implications?
      - b. What if the student /teacher or parent/teacher relationship isn’t a successful one?
      - c. The teachers will have to be able to teach our accelerated curriculum across 2 grades.
    2. The benefits:
      - a. Time saved in the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year on teacher assessment, getting to know one another, and the rules and expectations of the classroom.
- III. CEP - - Goals have been approved. Next step is to review whether we are meeting these goals.

#### IV. Safety

- A. Our video surveillance system is being upgraded.
- B. We are replacing the public announcement and fire alarm systems.
- C. Work on replacing light fixtures to avoid PCB contamination will begin in the summer of 2015.
- D. We plan to remind all students that the “no weapons” policy includes pocket knives.

V. Vocabulary initiative: We have started a program to encourage reading for pleasure. It is called “Caught Reading a Book” (CRAB) and will feature incentives to read in a student’s spare time.

#### VI. Budget Update - -

- A. The PTA has accumulated excess funds due to:
  - a. Contributions from the rental of the school yard from GreenFlea
  2. Final spend being below budgets
  3. Other revenue streams.
- B. In response, the Administration has put forth increases in line items that will increase:
  1. The Anderson Action program,
  2. Increase the budgets for clubs and academic teams
  3. Add F status teachers for math coaches and ELA, etc.
- C. The plan is to keep these expenditures at these levels for the next three years. All of these increases are predicated on a DOE flat budget and no unforeseen expenditures.
- D. The PTA budget committee is reviewing the additions and will present to the PTA Executive Board and the General PTA at their next meetings.

#### VII. Subcommittee Reports

- A. The technology committee reported that it is working on getting either [Google bodies or Apple Education].
- B. We are creating a Multicultural committee.
  1. The committee will plan an annual festival, centered on art
  2. Each grade will have a museum that it goes to in that grade year.
  3. The committee members are: Vahan Nahabedian, Dianne Kirksey-Floyd, Robert Moy, Laura Mount, Mindy Wigutow and Rina Cohen Schwarz

#### VIII. Parent/teacher reports K-2

- A. Parents wanted to know why teachers in younger grades were used to administer upper grade state tests.
  1. This is done routinely to share the burden of state testing equitably among the staff.
- B. A request for teachers in Art, music, chess, Spanish, Science and bridge post updates on the school site for K-2.

#### IX. Parent/Teacher reports 3-5:

- A. Parents have asked if the children can read if they finish the State exams early. This decision is at the discretion of the Principal.
  1. Our Principal and staff feel strongly that the children NOT be allowed to read. This privilege would cause some to rush, might cause anxiety or distraction

---

among those who haven't yet finished and doesn't prepare children appropriately for testing conditions they will encounter as they get older.

X. Parent/Teacher reports 6-8

A. Some parents want homework to count towards a student's grades and feel class participation is over-weighted.

1. The policy will be reviewed this summer.