

**The Steinway School for Future Community Leaders, P.S. 84Q**  
**22-45 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Astoria, N.Y. 11105**

**School Leadership Team Minutes (Virtual)**

Meeting: June 28, 2020 Noon

Attendance: Principal, John Buffa; Assistant Principal, Dominic Armano; UFT Chairperson, Lorraine Masciarelli; Teacher, Michael Lynch; Teacher, Maryann Mazzoli; Teacher, Maria Schwab; Parent, Ilva Bosch-Costa; Parent, Jaisey Diep; Parent, Claudia Stratigakis; Parent, Danielle Vitolo

Agenda Items:

**1. Reopening Plan**

The chancellor asked all school SLTs to plan how to reopen their schools under the CDC guidelines of social distancing. Then Mr. Buffa will submit a survey and wait to hear back from the DOE. He wants to be prepared and planned for the maximum opportunity for children to learn in a safe environment. Mr. Buffa said that we are a small school and shouldn't have the magnitude of problems that larger schools have with space.

**2. Anti-Racism and Anti-Bias Presentation**

Jaisey Deip shared what her DOE school did for a staff professional development. The school presented an anti-bias and anti-racism awareness PD so staff can continue constructive and open and safe conversations about race. They can address race and trauma in the classroom. It was a really good resource on how to approach conversations among educators to talk about race trauma and educate them from the beginning. For example, what effects racial trauma has on different ages. The PD used the four A's text protocol. The staff read a resource: 1. What assumptions did you make about the author? 2. What did you agree about in the text? 3. What would you argue about in the text? 4. What parts do you plan to implement? They received a book list from EPIC collection on black culture and how to have conversations about race. The PD was for educators to help reform and make things happen around racial and social injustices. Mr. Buffa said he will send the links out and expressed how wonderful the input from parents was because it makes us a stronger unit as educators.

**3. 2020/2021 Blended Learning Model**

Mr. Buffa said the school is looking at ways to maximize instructional space. The DOE gave capacity estimates on how to use school space while maximizing learning opportunities safely. The goal is to get students in school safely. Mr. Armano spoke about how we are preparing for a brick and mortar opening and a hybrid scenario. Preliminary social distancing guidelines is the sixty-five square foot rule which is square footage divided by sixty-five which is how many students can safely be in a

room. Mr.Armano explained that the school estimate is three-hundred and twenty-five students. The school has also been approved for an additional kindergarten at twenty-five students. Mr.Armano is recommending the A B C group capacity model. This will keep clusters in their classrooms so students still get to experience art, music and physical education. The school capacity is one-hundred ninety students per day. With the A B C model, there will be at most one hundred and thirteen students a day. This will limit foot traffic in the hallway and limit movement in the building. Two classes need to be relocated to larger rooms. The A B C model also allows the ratio of six to ten students in a classroom socially distanced providing the most instructional time with the teacher. The goal is to have the students in the building with their teacher socially distanced in a safe environment. This also allows teachers and paraprofessionals to push into classrooms. All grades will loop with their teacher and classmates. So all children in kindergarten through grade four will move up with their teacher and class. The grades with new teachers are pre-k and kindergarten. Fifth grade teachers will move to kindergarten. There will be a roll out of the iLearn platform which has more functionality than Google classroom. A half day and weekly model was discussed. At the end of the meeting, the SLT determined by consensus that the most effective way to safely socially distance while maximizing instruction for children was the A B C model.

**Respectfully Submitted, Lorraine Masciarelli**