

12/9/16 PS 199 SLT Minutes

Members in attendance:

Andrea Steinkamp
Anu Sehgal
Danielle Cione
Ellen Shultz
Enrique Gonzalez
JoEllen Schuleman
Karen Kemp
Kirsten Loderer
Liz Sutherland
Louise Xerri
Peter Rockwitz
Rachel Baer
Rob Schlaff
Scott Oscher
Victoria Kopper
Wendy Hutter

Guests:

Brenda Paulenoff
Stacy Rosen

1. Minutes approved from November 18.

2. PCB issue: Louise has had ongoing communications with the SCA (School Construction Authority) and the DSF (Department of School Facilities) about this PCB contamination, testing and remediation in the building. Recent testing results for PCBs found higher numbers than the EPA guidelines in certain rooms. The SCA had TRC (the company that tests for PCBs) hire Airpath Engineering to look at the ventilation ducts and fans. The ducts need a major cleaning and because this work is messy and could distribute dust into classrooms, it will occur during the December holiday break. Little or no air circulation affects PCBs and it is important to have as much air circulating as possible.

In addition, the SCA is working on a letter to be sent to all families of PS199. Andrea raised that it was important that Parents remain informed and that it will be discussed at the upcoming PTA meeting. It was noted that there has not been the high level of communication with parents on this issue as we have seen in other citywide issues such as lead contamination in water pipes.

Liz asked if the EPA would be conducting a test after this cleaning to make sure there was an improvement. Louise believes yes, the EPA will test after cleaning is complete.

Victoria is concerned about dust left in classrooms after the cleaning of the ducts. Louise said a full crew would be at the school to clean.

Liz has been in touch with Gus from Linda Rosenthal's office about the PCB issue. Elected officials can help advocate on our behalf.

(PCB test results from 10/21/16 are attached).

Action: Louise will continue to coordinate with SCA and DSF. Liz will follow up with Gus about setting up a meeting.

3. Parents as Partners (PaP): The team working on this evening event scheduled for January 26, 2017 is Peter Rockwitz, Danielle Cione, Anu Sehgal, Robert Schlaff, and Scott Oscher.

Anu suggested we send a save the date email before the break.

Robert thought perhaps we could have a general interest speaker about the RULER (social emotional) program or something similar.

Action: Peter and Danielle will talk with the teachers and get topic ideas for teacher presentations at PaP.

A save the date email will be sent to the parents.

SLT members can make suggestions of general interest topics that could be presented as a session in the auditorium, after the teacher presentations. Louise will talk with Brendan Beseda about the RULER idea.

4. Reading Logs: In response to a parent inquiry Louise invited teachers to share with the SLT how reading logs and jotting is used by teachers. Louise said comprehensive strategies develop from grade to grade and get more involved in the higher grades.

In general, reading logs show not only progress through a particular book but also give an indication of improved comprehension and comfort within a dot level and/or genre. It would be expected that the amount a student reads within a certain timeframe would increase over time as they become more competent within that level. Jotting is to demonstrate the readers' comprehension of the material and to encourage the children to think more deeply about what they are reading. As students move from younger to older grades, jotting develops from simple interpretations of storylines or emotions, to more complex analyses of plot and character development.

Parents noted that the concerns seem more related to the overall time students spend doing reading homework as logging and jotting can add several minutes to the reading time.

Submitted by Ellen Shultz, SLT

PCB Test Results from 10/21/16

10/21/2016

Location	PCB Concentration (ng/m ³)
Classroom 108	72.1
Classroom 118	139.0
Classroom 120	173.2
Classroom 204	N/A
Library	277.3
Library (Duplicate)	252.3
Gymnasium	351.1
Classroom 308	162.4
Classroom 310	134.1
Classroom 312	155.1
Classroom 314	163.8
Classroom 316	231.0
Classroom 322	168.9
Classroom 336	171.3
Ambient	ND

ND – Not detected, below laboratory detection limits
N/A - Sample Voided – Disconnected During Sampling