



# Long Island City High School

Vivian P. Selenikas, Principal

14-30 Broadway, Long Island City, NY 11106 (718) 545-7095 Fax: (718) 545-2980

longislandcityhs.schoolwires.net

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## School Leadership Team Meeting

December 11, 2023

5:45 PM

**Attendees:** Vivian Selenikas, Ramy Nasr, Daniel Bacharach, Patricia Santora Cardona, Hale Berk, Agata Niyazova, Evelyn Herrera, Masuda Begum, Dr. Anju J. Rupchandani

### 1. Attendance Data Review

- a. The team reviewed data from Insight related to whole school and subgroup attendance, focusing on chronic absenteeism and in particular on our Current ELLs, Students with IEPs, and Students in Temporary Housing
- b. Principal Selenikas shared that our newcomers can be evaluated for services with a teacher or parent request, and the evaluation will determine if the student is struggling with learning or with language. It is a six month evaluation period.
- c. It was noted that there are 150 students with less than 50% attendance.
- d. The team discussed the impact of the 60-day order that will be implemented tomorrow and will affect five of our students on its first day. Students have the right to remain at LICHS. SW Manzano has been working to communicate with students and families.

### 2. Period Attendance Data

- a. Mr. Nasr pointed out the difference between attendance and cutting, noticing that as the months have progressed, attendance each period has gone down.
- b. Ms. Berk asked about truancy, which Principal Selenikas shared has been done away with
- c. Mr. Nasr shared that middle of the day attendance is bad, and that's with many teachers not bubbling in late students as late. Principal Selenikas shared that the data is only as good as the data in.
- d. Mr. Nasr shared that this is a concern with the culture of the building – being short agents and deans, noting more concern needs to be taken up in the hallway.
- e. Ms. Berk asked if Regents passing can be considered in promotion criteria. Principal Selenikas shared that promotion is a citywide policy.
- f. Principal Selenikas shared that as a Cabinet we have been exploring what is happening in periods 1 and 9, and making recommendations to incentivize coming at the start of the period.
- g. Dr. Rupchandani asked about the feasibility of the lateness initiative, bringing late students into 110 when they swipe in late. Principal Selenikas shared that the program is successful in the short term but not sustainable to take people away from their other tasks for 90 minutes a day.
- h. We reviewed the lateness policy in the school handbook, and Mr. Nasr said that it would result in a lot of phone calls and we don't have the time.
- i. Principal Selenikas shared that if phone calls are not taking place, it contributes to the student perception of accountability. Teachers have time on Monday and Friday for parent outreach and grade entry. We also had a PD for teachers last week. This is not administration saying it isn't happening, but the classroom can't be a black box. We all need to do our part from now to February to shift school culture.

- j. Ms. Herrera shared that change happens with the school and parents see eye to eye. If the goal is being on time and present, it will happen if parents are involved and using the same language. How can we get parents into the know? 70% of students are here – phone calls? Send reports?
  - k. Principal Selenikas noted that she used “we,” as we cannot finger point. This is a problem we all share.
  - l. Mr. Nasr pointed out that in October, there were 2993 latenesses during Period 3. He noted that dividing that by 21 would pose the number per day. Principal Selenikas added to divide by even 1/3 of the teaching staff, which is a manageable number of phone calls to make.
  - m. Ms. Cardona asked about incentivizing on-time attendance over some duration of time – offering extra credit on a test perhaps.
  - n. Mr. Nasr pointed out that we do PBIS, but don’t deter students who don’t do the right thing.
  - o. Principal Selenikas pointed out the layers of support through SLCs, but that the foundation is in the classroom. Every teacher must work to revitalize attendance, calling one student in each of their classes will snowball across the school and tackle those on the cusp of chronic absence.
  - p. Mr. Nasr agreed about 1-2 calls per class, but asked if teachers can get SLC time to do so in unison and if a focus could be put on teachers bubbling in the late bubble on their attendance sheets.
  - q. Principal Selenikas shared that with 147 teaches, making 2 calls per week per class, would be 1470 phone calls per week.
  - r. Ms. Cardona shared that she takes phone calls more seriously from her child’s teacher than from a secretary or some other entity calling from the school
  - s. Mr. Nasr shared that time is the challenge, and asked to dedicate SLC time to outreach. Principal Selenikas shared that she would consider doing so if teachers were doing Monday and Friday outreach as well.
  - t. Mr. Nasr agreed that phone calls would be made by teachers, and Principal Selenikas agreed that SLCs are part of the solution. All agreed to communicate that to their constituencies in a positive manner.
3. New Term Procedures
- a. PD on 1/29 is now remote, which is when program pickup has traditionally taken place
  - b. 20 students combined are taking Earth Science and Chemistry on Friday 1/26. Doing program distribution on Friday would result in 400-600 students experiencing program changes upon returning to school
  - c. There is a NYC Student application – Greg Levine tested it out with a group of students and the first thing that appears are student programs.
  - d. Friday 1/26, students will pick up metrocards and a coversheet on how to access their program in English and Spanish. Students will be asked to come for pickup at specific times according to their cohort.
  - e. At this Thursday’s MTSS meeting, APs Argyris and Sherman will show all teachers how to download, and on 1/19 during Period 3, all students will download and open their app.
  - f. Programs will be available via NYCSA accounts by 10 AM on Sunday, 1/28. On Tuesday AM, students will be asked to show their app with a program to get in, and if not, will be directed to pick up a hard copy. Hard copies will be distributed to all students in Period 3 classes.
4. Zone 126 Updates
- a. Food Pantry has a new flyer – Michelle will share with SLT tomorrow
  - b. Laundry cards have been distributed – will update next month with usage numbers

- c. Eyewear distribution is underway with the goal of completion pre-Regents
  - d. Food pantry is moving from canned products to plastic bags, as cans are being confiscated at shelters as weapons
  - e. Scheduling is underway to meet with two potential dental providers for next year
  - f. CCNY is staffed with 3 clinicians and a youth advocate
  - g. Zone had been planning a staff trafficking workshop with Queens DA for 1/29, but will now revisit planning since we are remote that day
  - h. Zone is waiting on budget cuts for FY24 – they were going to hire a co-CSD but are now waiting to see impact of cuts
  - i. This is the final year of Zone’s contract but they expect another 3 year contract, but it will cut by at least half.
  - j. 2 ELA classes on Mondays are having college access push-ins.
  - k. Financial Literacy will start in February through Project Pivot – 8 weeks with one class
  - l. Queens DA is working with us on Z-Chats for Black History Month and Women’s History Month.
5. Mid-Year and Regents Week Calendar
    - a. Calendars shared with families. Students attend as usual during Mid-Year exams, only attend during Regents Week for exams or catch-up.
  6. Upcoming Events
    - a. Senior Portraits, Mid-Year Exams, Regents Week, Saturday Academy, etc.
  7. Potluck
    - a. A Google Form will be shared – pair up to take each of the meetings
  8. Q&D
    - a. Principal Selenikas thanked the SLT for an honest discussion about issues we need to revolve; we all benefited from everyone’s honest point of view.