

PS 516 Sunset Park Avenues Elementary School Leadership Team (SLT)
November 3rd, 2025

Start time: 4:45 pm - End time 6:30

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Topic: SLT Zoom link

<https://zoom.us/j/99339235165?pwd=p8yykR3PbOR6TEzfoc0uSD7LAWqybS.1>

Meeting ID: 941 6199 4836
Passcode: 025852

Present	Absent	Guests
Principal - Jessica Knudson UFT Rep - Gabe Radbel PTA President - Jody Avirgan Co-secretary - Erica Lessner Co-secretary Parent- Leonard White Parent- Karina Albistegui Adler Parent - Gregg Stankewicz Chair- Amber Benham Co-chair - Timekeeper- Teacher - Jennifer Sanchez Teacher - Erica Lessner Teacher - Amber Benham CFL Coordinator- Olney Edmonson Natalie Francisco	Erica Doyle Zainab Akbar	

Agenda

Mission: The mission of the SLT is to provide a forum for parents, administrators, and staff to collaborate and function as a unifying voice that reflects the diversity of our student body. SLT is a space to enact change and enhance the quality of education at PS 516, with the goal of developing kids as people who have agency over themselves and their world.

SLT Resources

- Call to Order - 4:50
- Greeting -
 - a. What did you do for Halloween?
- New Roles- New date and start time Vote
 - Chairperson or co-chair - Benham
 - Secretary or co-secretary- Lessner
 - Timekeeper - Erica Doyle
 - Other roles -
- Principal's Report -
 - a. Basketball clinic
 - i. Chosen to have basketball clinic with Brooklyn Basketball (Nets, Liberty)
 - ii. November 17th
 - iii. 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th
 - iv. Workshops, tshirts, basketballs for school
 - b. RJAT
 - i. Chosen for funding with office of safety and youth development to form a restorative justice team.
 - ii. Last year - after school events - to continue this year
 - iii. Allison Wilmot - RJ coordinator.
 - iv. Waiting for funding, once funded, can support teachers in this work.
 - c. Winter showcase
 - i. Different this year for families
 - ii. Every child in 2 showcases throughout year but in different times
 - 1. Winter Showcase - PK, K, 3rd, 5th
 - 2. Black Excellence - 1st, 2nd, 4th
 - 3. May 21st - all grades, split into 2 shows
 - 4. Special Events Committee met to discuss logistics, subject to change, info will be sent out to teachers and families in timely manner.
 - iii. Parent input on showcases
 - 1. One parent: yes - easier to split apart
 - iv. Connect with Dan Dzula - about sound with showcase prior to next show
 - d. Student Government/Peer Mediation
 - i. Elected student government last year, will have representatives from 3rd grade as well.
 - ii. Peer mediation rolling out now, trainings starting this week with Ms. Francisco and Mr. Muriel.
 - e. Sensory & SAFE room

- i. Additional items needed to affix padding to the wall
 - ii. Lessner has extra flooring
 - iii. C19 in 557, C08 in 333 - deescalation spaces for students.
 - f. Bathrooms
 - i. Principal spoke with legal
 - 1. Safety concerns that could give public blueprints of a building - asks if it's ok if remove actual locations of bathrooms from the letter?
 - 2. SLT is comfortable with this change
 - 3. Suggestion: name the grades and what they have access to in both buildings
 - g. PTA Trip Information
 - i. First teachers send request to parents, if parents can pay, pay. If not, reach out to PTA.
 - h. CFL - support in schools program
 - i. they will be sharing dates once a month when they have office hours open for students, teachers, families.
 - i. Small Class Size
 - i. <https://infohub.nyced.org/in-our-schools/policies/class-size-policy>
 - ii. Survey shared by chancellor to request funding for class sizes.
 - iii. Due December 3rd
 - 1. What do we need funding-wise to meet small class size 100%
 - a. 1 classroom teacher
 - i. 1 second grade class not in compliance
 - b. Additional cluster teacher
 - c. Additional AP funding
 - i. Support with 2 buildings and smaller class sizes
 - d. 3rd grade moving from 557-333
 - iv. SLT supports
- Teachers' Report -
 - a. Suggestion- potential food/drink item ideas for fundraising
 - i. Potential ways to fundraise
 - 1. Food/drink that families in our community would be interested in
 - a. Hot chocolate, pan dulce, churros, popcorn
 - b. Family Friday/Togetherness Thursday
 - c. Bake sale - marathon
 - d. Snack day
 - i. Lunch
 - ii. Sell snacks to kids
 - iii. Parent volunteers (recess and lunch volunteers)
 - e. Local businesses
 - ii. Big ticket fundraising - PTA looking for
 - 1. Corporate match

2. Big ticket fundraising
 3. Event open to the community - \$/ticket event
 - a. Consensus that gala may not be best fit for our school community - but open to ideas and gala if we could make it work.
 - iii. From a UFT member: "We are GRATEFUL and thrilled that admin is advocating for TEACHERS and STUDENTS by prioritizing small classes over budget. Thank you for advocating for our teachers and kids."
- Parents' Report -
 - a. PTA updates
 - i. Raffle
 1. Making graphics for school/teachers to share
 - ii. T-shirt sales
 1. Teachers want shirts
 - a. Lunch time -
 - b. Monday after school - teachers here until 4:20
 - iii. Avenues winter market ideas
 1. December 13th
 - a. Vendors from community
 - b. South Brooklyn Mutual Aid
 - c. CFL
 - d. Any ideas for local vendors? Let PTA know
 - iv. Bush avenue clean up this Sunday
 - v. CFL potluck
 - b. New field trip funding policy
 - c. Enrollment committee help
 - i. Priority for PTA - looking for parent volunteers
 - d. CFL advocacy
 - CFL Report
 - a. Lights on Afterschool was a huge success
 - i. Paraded from school to sunset park
 - ii. Gave students chance to advocate in community around something they love
 - b. Next Family Event, CFL & PTA potluck, 11/21/2025
 - i. Raffle, hope to give turkeys to families
 - c. Fall Newsletter
 - i. What's happening with afterschool so far, pictures, what's coming next, info for families.
 - d. December 17th Winter Wonderland event
 - i.
 - e. Open slots

- i. Space for 2 second graders, 1 3rd grader, a 4th or a 5th grader.
 - f. How can we support families
 - i. Head to main office on 39th st about benefits - 1st floor
 - ii. Food pantry
 - iii. Reached out to SIS to see how they can support families affected by the government shutdown.
 - 1. Having a clothing drive 11/4 - 12:00-3 pm, Sunset Park on 44th and 6th avenue. 4-6pm at Rise Up.
 - 2. New or gently used - collecting donations
- New Business
 - a. SNAP - School Needs - Pantry (Karina)
 - i. CFL food pantry - capacity - room for 30 people/day, requires people to line up at a certain time of day and return - may be a barrier for families to access. Concerns about hesitancy.
 - 1. Emergent need - send - will not be turned away
 - ii. 958 and 169 have pantries - monthly food distribution
 - 1. List where people sign up
 - 2. Parent volunteers
 - iii. Discuss how to identify families
 - 1. Reach out to community to see how more who need it can access it.
 - 2. Can one of SIS office hours be dedicated to this?
 - 3. Taking donations/rules around non-perishables
 - a. Dropped off in morning, picked up in afternoon
 - b. Driscoll partnered with local school - check for possibility
 - iv. Where can people who want to donate drop things off?
 - 1. Reach out to Mr. Mischler, Gabby, Michelle to set up a time to drop things off.
 - 2. Can teachers donate to this?
 - a. Non-perishables
 - b. Teacher donation - one teacher offered idea to go to costco to stock up on non perishables, collect funds from teachers who wish to donate.
 - v. Donated refrigerators - some restaurants have extras
 - 1. Parent following up
- Public Comments
 - a. Welcoming Jenny Sanchez to SLT - speech therapist that works at our school
- End time - 5:58

Next Meeting- December 8th 4:45

11/3 - 4:45

12/8 - 4:45

1/14 - 4:30
2/10 - 4:30