

PS 516 Sunset Park Avenues Elementary School Leadership Team (SLT)  
February 10th, 2026

**Start time: 4:30 pm - End time**

**Topic:**

PS 516 Sunset Park Avenues Elementary School Leadership Team (SLT)  
February 10th, 2026  
4:30- 6:30pm

**Topic: SLT Zoom link**  
[zoom](#)

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

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 - 4:36
- Greeting - For time reasons “hello”
  - a.
- New Roles- New date and start time Vote
  - Chairperson or co-chair - Benham
  - Secretary or co-secretary- Lessner
  - Timekeeper - Erica Doyle
  - Other roles -

## Office of School Planning

- **Principal’s Report -**
  - a. Important dates
    - i. District Performing Arts Showcase
    - ii. PTC March 5th
    - iii. ELA state test April 16-17
    - iv. Math 28-29
    - v. Science 5/12
    - vi. NYSESLAT (no opt out for language learners)
      - 1. Speaking april 13-30
      - 2. Listening - May 4th and 5th 3-5, May 7-9 K-2
  - b. School Survey
    - i. Open - promote at pajama jam!
    - ii. Closes April 1st.
    - iii. Families click link - type in F and student’s OSIS number.
    - iv. Important for families and staff to fill out
      - 1. Can we give time for teachers to fill out?
  - c. Instructional Updates
    - i. Teaching Matters staff developers
      - 1. Working with PreK - early reading matters grant
      - 2. K-5 as well
      - 3. Coach coming 2/11 for dual language teachers in bilingual program. HMH has bilingual coaches. 5 days of coaching total.
    - ii. Illustrative math
      - 1. 3-5 piloting program - preparation.
      - 2. NYC Solves (IM) is coming down to
        - a. Do we have a plan in mind if IM goes away (unsure of Chancellor’s priorities)
        - b. Likely will come from Chancellor to Superintendent, Rafael favors IM.
  - d. Office of District Planning Updates
    - i. Proposal went out to families
    - ii. PS516 Town Hall 2/25 - virtual, building open for families who need technology access.

- iii. March 16 - panel for education policy vote at 6pm.
- iv. In proposal
  - 1. 3rd grade to K333
  - 2. Co-location with D75 program
    - a. Brooklyn Children's School - new site
      - i. Known to have a focus on inclusion
      - ii. Sites under same principal, we would be their 5th site, Site Director. Usually a positive connection between site director and co-located school.
  - 3. Can we re-frame the letter to make it less formal and come from us. Promote why we're excited about it.
- e. Pre-K enrollment
  - i. Deadline 2/27
- f. Mission & Vision
  - i. Included in teacher report

- **Teachers' Report -**

- a. Pajama Jam
  - i. Tentative date Thursday 3/12
    - 1. Will there be a coin drive kick off?
      - a. Welcome section - easily work out session
- b. Question from a teacher - possible 3K program?
  - i. Answer from superintendent
    - 1. To add in a school setting requires another one being closed to move into - may change?
      - a. They will keep us in mind if a 3K closes somewhere else
      - b. This was told to principal before the mayoral transition
    - 2. Transparently it's easier to have 3K and PreK in non-doe because of salaries (UFT contract)
- c. What sets us apart?, mission beyond dual language
  - i. Topics discussed
    - 1. STEAM - neighborhood reputation for coding and other STEAM stuff
    - 2. More arts and theater things happening with Inside Broadway connection
      - a. CMP
      - b. Dance program
- d. Cluster positions for the 2026/2027 school year. What positions would best suit our school community?
  - i. With what sets us apart in mind, what are our needs?
  - ii. Class size proposal - one additional cluster proposed
  - iii. Feedback from 5th grade
    - 1. More support needed with science

- iv. Principal - PTA meetings
    - 1. Bringing back STEAM cluster or STEM
  - v. PTA president - prospective parents
    - 1. Music, arts, cultural programming,
    - 2. School reflects the neighborhood
    - 3. Testing - what is the school's philosophy on testing
      - a. Articulation for families asking
        - i. Principal - always want students to feel prepared for test, giving many opportunities
          - 1. Does not want to be a school that shut down completely for test prep.
          - 2. We want kids to feel confident and ready, but not stressed.
          - 3. There are tests throughout your life, finding ways to make them feel confident and comfortable to do this and keep the motivation.
          - 4. Parent input - we care about prepping the kids, but it's not the end all.
            - a. We are culturally responsive to the needs of the neighborhood and the resources available.
            - b. Some schools make show of reject the testing
              - i. We are not there either
              - ii. Could impact school designation - TSI school, much more control over how you are allowed to spend funding - more mandates and control. If large percentage of students drops out, students that take it represent the data.
    - 4. Key feature - small school. Teachers get to know kids, they are well known to adults in the building.
- vi. Transition plan when Ms. Knudson goes on leave
  - 1. Superintendent decision. TBD.

- **Parents' Report**

- a. update on recess? there is concern about the lack opportunity for kids to run and play in recess and gym
  - i. Cold weather - some parents want outside, some do not

1. How is decision made?
  - a. Chancellor's cut off 0 degrees.
  - b. School's - feels like 30 degrees.
    - i. Teachers out there for 1.5 hours
    - ii. Conditions of yard - ice, snow
    - iii. Some students come prepared for cold weather more than others
    - iv. Netting on 557 - snow/ice safety precautions
    - v. PreK goes out when other's don't
    - vi. Announcement made
    - vii. Safety taken into account with indoor recess with either recess location.
    - viii. Parent input - putting it in writing to families so it's clear.

b. Bus situation

- i. Contract? We cannot change who we are contracted for.
  1. We get bus company and route
  2. All American has caused the most issues with both bussing to and from school and field trips
    - a. City Wide
  3. Contact - complaints for All American - Mrs. Ray Fouche

c. Scaffolding

- i. Dept. of Buildings came, SCA was prepared to take it down, warning form Dept. of Buildings - cannot remove scaffolding until all scaffolding comes down. Back scaffolding still in use.

● **CFL Report**

a.

● **New Business -**

a.

● **Public Comments -**

- a. Budget use - thinking of a plan for modifying clusters to be supportive for our whole school.
  - i. Do our current clusters support what we reflect and need? How do we add science?
  - ii. STEAM position - how can we make sure our clusters are aligned to what we need and how we can grow from here.
  - iii. Practical about what we really need. Need for science. Too much for teachers to do as much as a science cluster could do.
    1. Parent input - missing science.
    2. Is it STEM or is it straight science class
    3. Labs - more support needed.
      - a. There is a plan

4. Last small class size grant - .25 for F status teacher - part time team.
- iv. School special
  1. 2 libraries is really special
- v. If we have more budget - part time performing arts.
- b. Parent input
  - i. More science support - from families? What is needed/how can they help?
    1. Parent volunteers to help organize.

- End time - 5:33

#### Next Meeting

- 3/17 - 4:30
- 4/21 - 4:30
- 5/18 - 4:45
- 6/16 - 4:30