



Home of the Warriors

Luisa Dessus Cruz, Middle School 302

681 Kelly Street, Bronx, New York 10455

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<https://ms302x.echalksites.com/>

*If you can **imagine** it, then you can **achieve** it. If you can **dream** it, you can **become** it...*

DR. LIZA ORTIZ, PRINCIPAL

MR. MIKE MERCEDES, PARENT COORDINATOR

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

BERNADETTE PIZARRO

ROSNY JEAN-LOUIS

CLARIBEL PAYANO

School Leadership Team Meeting

April 23, 2026

In Attendance:

SLT Role	Name	SLT Role	Name
Member	Carmen Grayten	Timekeeper	Marie Lewis UFT
Member	Jose Dennis, DC37	Member	Lisa Singletary, UFT
Member	*Liza Ortiz, Principal	On call	Liza Ortiz, Principa
Member	LaTicia Thompson, Parent	In person	Maria Morales UFT Ms. Robinson
Secretary	Jahania Pizzini, UFT		

The meeting, called to order at 4:32 PM . Roll call conducted; quorum met . Meeting conducted as a SLT meeting session

Review of Previous Minutes

- Meeting opened as informational; website contains minutes and link to March 20 minutes for parents online.
- Initially not in quorum; later quorum achieved at 4:45 PM and the March minutes were moved to adoption (motion/adopt carried).
- Reading of minutes concluded only for review (approval deferred until quorum — then adopted).
- Several attendees confirmed volunteer roles (co-chairs noted)

Title I and Parent Engagement Updates

- Title I parent engagement line: \$4,495 set aside; carryover \$231 produced combined \$4,726 and district added funds to reach roughly \$5,000 available for parent activities.
- Funds intended for parent/family activities (workshops, wellness, field trips) aligned to CEP; not for student-only purchases.
- Purchases executed: planners, blazers/blazers bulk, cardigans, club materials (drone, VR, visual arts, dance). Some items purchased with SY24-25 money; distribution sequencing: honors students first (award ceremonies) then PBIS store / purchase options for others.
- Title I spending plan and Page references were reviewed (Title I spending on agenda page 6 of 10).

2025-2026

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Educational Trips & Materials

- Several educational trips are secured at no cost to families: Washington DC (7–8), Philadelphia (6–7), Albany (7–8), Ramapo (6–8), Holiday Hills.
- Backpacks and school supplies distributed to graduating 8th graders.

Staffing & Leaves

- Vacancies: two paraprofessionals, one foreign language, one science teacher, one associate teacher, one secretary; subs secured for ELA and science leaves (two full-time subs currently in place).
- Multiple teacher leaves with return dates noted (ELA return in May; other math returns earlier in year); staffing efforts continue through Subcentral (district sub placement). Program changes may be required if licensed subs are not available.

CEP (Comprehensive Educational Plan) Review

- Priority One (literacy/ELA): 27% proficient (IRA diagnostic). Second simulation administered; final state results expected in Sept/Oct but local end-of-year diagnostic scheduled in mid/May will confirm final attainment.
- ENL students: currently 4% proficient but showing growth potential with supports and June diagnostics planned.
- Priority Two (math / NYC Solves): current simulated proficiency ~30%; an 8% decrease observed between simulations; curriculum/test-prep adjustments implemented; goal-setting ongoing with focus on decreasing Level-1 students and increasing proficiency.
- Priority Three (safe & inclusive schools): safety/climate indicators tracked (level 3/4 infractions update) with goal to reduce incidents (current total infractions reported and a target referenced from prior session).
- Priority Four (college & career / science): eighth-grade science assessment on track per simulation two; creating end-of-year assessments for 6th/7th grade to close a three-year data gap and inform 8th grade readiness.
- Data timeline: final monitoring before June 30; SLT meeting early June to finalize whether year goals met.

Assessment & Grading Clarifications

- CBT written responses are graded by teachers; multiple-choice automatically scored.

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- The district is rolling out new test item types (drag/select) which may be AI-gradable in future, but currently written responses remain teacher-graded.
- School-developed end-of-year assessments created for 6th & 7th grade to inform 8th-grade teachers.

Parent Engagement & Communication

- Title I parent workshops planned (college savings workshop scheduled Apr 28, 2026, 3:30 PM).
- Suggestion to leverage outreach touchpoints (Back-to-School Night, award ceremonies, games) and UFT liaisons to push Title I/parent events and small periodic reminders (short "pings") to parents to refresh simple skills (e.g., fractions tables) rather than full packets.
- Parent compact / family handbook and CEP Section 7 (parent engagement policy) to be aligned and reviewed.

Attendance & Lateness

- Chronic absenteeism improved: March 35% → 32% overall; 6th grade: 34% → 31%; 7th: 32% → 30%.
- Lateness raised as an actionable concern (many students arrive late to school or first period). Discussion emphasized measuring instructional time lost and potential interventions; various data sources discussed (PowerSchool, scanners, late-book) and their trade-offs (manual effort vs automated timestamping).
- Recommendation: collect targeted lateness data (timestamped) and incorporate into action plan / DCEP as an instructional time loss metric rather than using the word "lateness" if needed.

Next Steps and Adjournment

- Create leads for CEP priorities so each area has a main contact and a co-point person; stakeholders (teachers, non-SLT leads) can present committee-level work to SLT.
- Continue final progress monitoring and compile end-of-year diagnostics to inform June SLT decision on goals.
- Attendance team to refine reports and consider scanning/PowerSchool data to obtain timestamped lateness insights; pilot disaggregation for first-/second-period late students to correlate with academic outcomes.

Questions Pertaining to the budget:

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Cardigans purchased with the 24-25 budget, how will they be distributed?

Planners- How will they be distributed?

Request by Ms. Thompson- Have the number of students for the junior Homor society for the distribution of the cardigans.

Ms. Thompson- Pins from last year; will we be able to purchase. They may have some in storage? Dr. Ortiz will check

Ms. Lewis- Warriors pins? How will they be distributed?

The meeting concluded at 6:15 PM

