

Citywide Council on Special Education

45-18 Court Square - 2nd Floor-Room 260, Long Island City, New York 11101

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1/07/09 WORKING MEETING MINUTES

The Working Calendar Meeting of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at 6:00pm at 45-18 Court Square, Long Island City, NY 11101. The following people were in attendance.

1. Roll Call

1. Charlene Carroll-Hall	Present
2. John Englert	Present
3. Charles Henderson	Present
4. Diana Marenfeld	Present
5. Ellen McHugh	Present
6. Tom Ryan, Jr.	Excused
7. Patricia Connelly	Excused
8. Gloria Gonsalves	Present

2. Consideration of Agenda and Time Allocations

The time allocations as noted on the Agenda were found to be acceptable.

3. Appointed Timekeeper

Ramona Garcia

4. Update on 1/5/09 Meeting Regarding Special Ed Handbook

Tom Ryan attended a meeting on 1/5/09 at the District Office to discuss the Special Ed handbook. Tom indicated that Bonnie Brown was going to incorporate the parent's feedback from that meeting in a response to Linda Wernikoff. Patricia will email comments to the council for their review prior to Friday. Ellen would also submit comments and pass along to the council for their review.

5. Review of Items for 1/21/09 public Meeting

Diana, organizer of the upcoming calendar meeting informed the Council that the topic on the agenda is Transition and the guest speakers are Raphael Rivas, Youth in Transition Coordinator, Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled, Inc. and Louise Maisello, Transition Coordinator, P077K. Diana mentioned that the Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled are developing A Bill of Rights for students with special needs. However, it has

not officially been approved and it may not be presented during the Calendar Meeting.

6. Assignment of 2/18/09 Public Meeting

John mentioned due to Spring Break and Recess for February and April the Calendar Meetings dates would be the second Wednesday of the month and changed to 2/11/09 and 4/08/09.

Ramona, AA will reach out to OMRDD and DDSO in Queens for guest speakers and information. Ramona will also contact the Parent Coordinators to request the PTA contact information, as well as, to what space can be used for the February Calendar Meeting at P 177Q.

7. Old Business

- i. Capital Plan Response: John distributed a draft regarding the capital plan response which is due out by 1/9/09. The response is identical to last year's response except for Item 2 which mentions gates in stairwells that cannot be locked. John asked that if anyone had any further revisions to give them to him before the end of the meeting.
- ii. Annual Report: The Annual Report for 2008-2009 is due at the end of June. It was suggested that Council members pick a topic and present to everyone for their comment during the February Working Meeting.
- iii. PEP Update: At December's Panel for Educational Policy meeting, Linda Wernikoff made a presentation on Special Education.

Ellen mentioned that there are upcoming meetings at VESID –VESID Hearings on Jan. 15th and IEP Hearings at 131 Livingston Street on Jan 14th.

8. New Business:

- i. Parent Commission Update: John and Patricia are on the Special Education Committee and have drafted recommendations regarding the School Governance and Mayoral Control. The recommendations will be presented within the next month to the Commission for feedback and finalized shortly thereafter before presenting to the State.
- ii. Other business: A letter from the Albany General was sent to parents asking their consent to release information to access their child's Medicaid number/ information to bill Medicaid. What they have neglected to tell parents that Medicaid has cap on services, caps on the life of services and if the DOE bills Medicaid for services no one else can bill you for services. If you want other services for your child you will have to pay out of pocket. Ellen mentioned that it was sent out to the parents in Queens and have not reached the other boroughs.

- iii. John mentioned the NYS Commission on Property Tax Relief Report that was sent out. He urged that everyone read it as there are major concerns that NYC will try to adapt certain cost cutting measures involving special education.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm