

Citywide Council on Special Education

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

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05/13/09 WORKING MEETING MINUTES

The Working Calendar Meeting of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 6:00pm at 45-18 Court Square, Long Island City, NY 11101. The following people were in attendance.

1. Roll Call

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|-------------------------|---------|
| ➤ Charlene Carroll-Hall | Present |
| ➤ John Englert | Present |
| ➤ Charles Henderson | Present |
| ➤ Diana Marenfeld | Present |
| ➤ Ellen McHugh | Present |
| ➤ Tom Ryan, Jr. | Present |
| ➤ Patricia Connelly | Excused |
| ➤ 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

Charlene Carroll-Hall was appointed time keeper

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes dated 04/01/09

Tom made a Motion to accept the minutes and Charles Second. The meeting minutes dated 04/01/09 was approved.

5. Discussion with Garth Harries on Special Education

CCSE met with Garth Harries during their monthly Working Meeting to further explore and share the recent input Garth has received during his fact finding on improving special education.

* Garth Harries initiatives and out line please refer to attachment

6. Discussion on 5/20/09 Meeting

John mentioned that the Betsy Gotbaum, Public Advocate NY award will be presented at the Calendar Meeting on 5/20 at Tweed by Tom Ryan. Thereafter Lisa Donnelly, CEC 1 President will present her piece on the Parent Commission. Invitations for the Calendar Meeting were sent to CEC Presidents, Politicians and the Parent Coordinators (agenda and flyer).

7. Old Business

i. Review/Discussion on Annual Report:

Was tabled until June's Working Meeting

ii. Review Proposed Resolution on Parent Commission Report:

John gave the council a summary of the Parent Commission Report to review and mentioned that after reviewing all the reports (UFT, CSA, Public Advocate and Campaign for Better Schools); Parent Commission was the only report that identified and mentioned Special Education. Included was a draft resolution for the council to review and John wanted everyone's feed back. Charles mentioned that the council should support the proposed resolution on the parent commission and change the wording before voting.

8. New Business

Tom mentioned at his daughter's school a consent release form was sent to the parents of those receiving related services and how the school can receive monies from Medicaid. Ellen stated that she asked about the letter sent out by the DOE and that there is a pile of monies set aside for districts to utilize when the parent agrees to Medicaid being billed. The issue is if a parent signs the letter and is receiving services with another provider the parent will not be able to use the outside services, this would be considered double dipping.

Tom brought up that his daughters school was one of the schools closed due to a student with swine flu. Tom thought the reaction to the closing of the school was not done in a timely manner. The information was on the news the night before and the parents were the last to know what steps the school and DOE was going to take by informing the parents first thing in the morning instead of late in the afternoon (1pm). Tom voiced his concern that there seems not to be in place a Crisis Management Plan in place when things like this happen. Ellen and Diana suggested that Tom speak to Bonnie Brown as to what plan will be developed in the near future if anything like this should arise again.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm

CCSE Executive Team Working Session
May 13, 2009

I. Synthesis of Input-DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

- Organizational
 - o Clarifying the DOE roles and responsibilities (e.g. SSO)
 - o Prioritizing inclusive culture (e.g. campus management, statement re inclusion)
 - o Deepening parent access, knowledge, and involvement (e.g. website, 311)
- Instructional:
 - o Improving school programming and use of the continuum (e.g. partial CTT, multiple SETTS)
 - o Building instructional capacity in schools (e.g. GE teachers, SE teachers, Paraprofessionals)
 - o Strengthening curricular and intervention programs (i.e. early grade intervention, modified promotional criteria and summer school)
- Strategic
 - o Strengthening and expanding configuration of special education options (e.g. targeted programs, role of inclusion settings, and linkages between settings)
 - o Strengthening instructional planning and placement (e.g. transitions, long-term planning for individual students, placement process and decisions, busing)
 - o Expanding metrics (e.g. social/behavioral metrics, system tracking)

II. Discussion

- What is missing?
- What is most important?