

Citywide Council on Special Education

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

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06/04/08 WORKING MEETING MINUTES

The Working Calendar Meeting of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2008 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 | Excused |
| ➤ John Englert | Excused |
| ➤ Charles Henderson | Present |
| ➤ Diana Marenfeld | Present |
| ➤ Ellen McHugh | Present |
| ➤ Tom Ryan, Jr. | Present |
| ➤ Patricia Connelly | Present |
| ➤ Robin Murray | Present |
| ➤ Dawson Pironneau,
Student Member | Absent |

2. Consideration of Agenda and Time Allocations

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

3. Appointed Timekeeper

Patricia Connelly was appointed time keeper.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes dated 3/05/08, 04/02/08 & 05/07/08

The meeting minutes dated 03/05/08, 04/02/08 & 05/07/08 were approved.

5. Discussion with Merryl Tisch, Vice Chancellor of the NYS Board of Regents

Council members introduced themselves, provided personal and professional background information, including the schools their children attend, and their reasons for joining the CCSE.

The purpose of this meeting between Dr. Tisch, Vice Chancellor and the CCSE was to begin an on-going dialog on a broad range of issues of concern to special needs students in the New York City Public Schools and their

families in which the NYS Board of Regents has an interest or can play a constructive role. Topics raised during this initial meeting included:

- Inclusion
- IEP'S/ IEP'S Diploma/ Graduate rate of students with IEP'S
- Reorganization
- Accountability/ The Office of Accountability
- Space/Capital Plan/Schools Construction Authority
- Charter Schools
- The DOE's Family Guide & Learning Environment Surveys
- Related Services
- Busing

At the conclusion of our discussion with Dr. Tisch, she made a commitment to the CCSE to meet with us on a regular basis as well as to bring other stakeholders to the table in order to find ways to improve the delivery and quality of special education and related systems in the New York City Public Schools. CCSE AA Ramona Garcia will coordinate schedules with Dr. Tisch's office.

6. Old Business: i. Review/Discussion on Annual Report, ii. Publicity Campaign

Charles provided Council members with a draft (hard copy) of the End of Year Report to review. Patricia mentioned that the Public Advocate's (Betsy Gotbaum) report referenced should be properly cited with exact title and date of release. Comments should be turned into Charles by the end of the week.

Ellen reported that John has asked OFEA to postpone sending a photographer to take a photo of Council members for the DOE's CEC Publicity Campaign.

7. New Business: i. Charter Schools, ii. IEP Diplomas, iii. Other

Starting with the 2008-2009 school year, charter schools are required to register special needs students. There is a new charter school focusing on students with Autism, The New York City Center for Autism Charter School: M337, located at East 100th Street. Larger charter schools are able to better serve their students with special needs in comparison with smaller charter schools. Larger charter schools funding allows for the hiring of a supervisor of Special Education to oversee students who special education and related services.

IEP Diplomas: Ellen suggested that the council should invite someone from the DOE to provide information, requirements, and data (graduation rate) regarding IEP Diploma's.

The June 18th CCSE Monthly Calendar meeting was discussed, Ellen and Patricia asked for Ramona, A.A. to reach out to the principal and PC of the school (P721K Roy Campanella Occupational Training Center) to see if CCSE could piggy back during the PTA Meeting or Award Ceremony. Also, Ramona was asked to find what the chief concerns of the parents with respect to their children's education and related services.

Patricia proposed that the scheduled for the summer Working Meetings dates be changed to reflect the holiday (July 2nd) travel issues, replacing meeting with a full day retreat (August) and other location as well as changing September's Calendar Meeting from the 3rd to the 10th due to the first week of school. Tom and asked Ramona to email a reminder to the council regarding the meeting dates.

Diana suggested and would like CCSE to recognize Richie Scarpa, for his hard work within the DOE's Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) on behalf of special education students, especially his championing of driver and matron training programs.

Ellen suggested that the council should send a condolence card and gift basket to Maria Leo, DOE Employee due to the passing of her son during the recent crane incident.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm