

Citywide Council on Special Education

45-18 Court Square - 2nd Floor-Room 260, Long Island City, New York 11101
Tel: 718-752-7393 Fax: 718-752-7481 Email: ccse@schools.nyc.gov

3/04/09 WORKING MEETING MINUTES

The Working Meeting of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 6:00pm at 45-18 Court Square, Long Island City, NY 11101. The following people were in attendance.

1. Roll Call

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

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes dated 1/ 02/08

The meeting minutes dated 2/4/09 Ellen accepted and Tom seconded minutes excepted with amended.

5. Review of Items for 03/18/09 Public Meeting

Charlene organizer of the upcoming calendar meeting at P721M informed the council the guest presenters are Azea (Carol Reid) founder of Deaf Jam who works with children with disabilities and received a government grant to start a summer program where children can take classes, get paid and the program is located in Harlem. Also in attendance is Lisa Ginsburg of Ramapo for Children a summer (camp) program that service over 400 children with special needs.

6. Assignment of 04/08/09 Public Meeting

Ellen mentioned that the council should co-sponsor with the PTA at P176X during the Calendar (Public) Meeting-April and that is it Autism Awareness Month. Charlene suggested that the council push back from the original date of April 4th to the 22nd due to the Spring Break. John asked Ramona, AA to find out the date of the PTA meeting (planned schedule) for that evening for co-sponsorship of the Calendar Meeting.

7. Upcoming CEC Elections- Review of Resolution

John mentioned the upcoming CEC elections and reminded the council the self nominations end on the 13th of next Friday. Patricia informed the council that during the PEP Meeting in January Martine Guerrier gave a presentation about the grassroots outreach that is supposedly cheaper and much more effective method of conducting the election. Some of the newspaper reported on the process and some of the people started to hear that they are suppose to have the district president's councils run the elections in their districts. President's council is supposed to be organizing accordingly to the formula provided by "Power to the People.Org" a grassroots organization (election) a non-for-profit consultant. CCSE are supposed to attend candidate's forums, set up by the president's council of D75. There is going to be a window of period after the president's council where parents who are defector members of PTA's at the schools of D75 would go on-line and let it be known on who they would like to see on the CCSE through a straw-poll vote by entering your child's oasis number. There have been a question of legality, many parents don't have access at home, is the website secure, is the site at the doe secure and also it's a data based website managed and created by power to the people; plus this straw vote is non binding,. It's supposed to give our selectors (PA/PTA Executive Board) another format to get people involved.

The Council Reviewed the CDEC 26 Joining in Resolution Regarding Actions of the Department of Education Passed on February 26, 2009. After reviewing the resolution the council made edits, suggestions and asked for a new version to be formulated and presented during the Calendar meeting.

8. PEP Meeting Update- Federal Stimulus Update

John mentioned that he attended a power point presentation where Pat Sullivan provided information on the Federal Stimulus. The DOE will be receiving a little bit shy of 2 billion, it had the entire break down of the categories and they were told that D75 will get some of the money. John passed that information on to Bonnie Brown.

9. Old Business

i. Review /Discussion on Annual Report

Charles mentioned the 2008-2009 report will have all of the council comments from the calendar meeting with Garth Harries and will add and summarize the comments. Charles will send the report to the council to review, add suggestions, recommendations and comments to the report.

ii. **3R's Pledge**

Patricia provided information on the 3R's Coalition and mentioned the advocates who originated the coalition and advocates who recently joined. The Core principals and goals of the coalition is to hold the leaders accountable, put into place a public funded commission, primary stakeholders within the public schools engaged in principal discussion and to no longer shut out parents when making decisions. After the discussion Ellen made a motion to call a vote if the CCSE should participate in becoming part of the coalition: 4 Members Abstained: Charles Henderson, Tom Ryan, Diana Marenfeld, Ellen McHugh and 2 yes: Charlene Carroll-Hall and Gloria Gonsalves.

10. New Business

i. **May Public Meeting Agenda**

John mentioned the upcoming calendar meeting in may will be set aside to honor Betsy Goutbaum, NYC Public Advocate since this her last term. The council will present her with an award and a special thank you for support the council as well as the children and parents of D75.

Other Business

John mentioned that in the past he and Patricia are part of the Parent Commission and that they have been meeting since September and the final draft of recommendations are complete. There will be a briefing at NYU at 6 pm regarding the recommendations. John is now co-chairing with Monica Major of the Bronx and Lisa Dolan of Manhattan. Also there will be a press conference on the step of City Hall at 1pm where they will present their recommendations.

Friday, March 13th there is a Bronx Meeting at 10 am
March 20th, Brooklyn Hearings and Patricia will be testifying
March 11th, the Bar Association will have its meeting on Mayoral Control
March 5th, Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President at Brooklyn Borough Hall, 6pm will have Governance Hearings.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm