



Citywide Council on Special Education

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4/22/2009 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at P811M@149M, 34 West 118th Street (between 5th & Lenox Avenue), Manhattan, New York 10025

1. Roll Call

Charlene Carroll-Hall	Present
John Englert	Present
Charles Henderson	Present
Diana Marenfeld	Present
Ellen McHugh	Present
Tom Ryan	Present
Patricia Connelly	Present
Gloria Gonslves	Present

2. Secretary's Report – Charles Henderson

No minutes presented for approval.

3. Report of the President – John Englert

- a) **Staten Island Special Education Meeting with Mr. Garth Harries:** I will be taking part in a meeting on Staten Island on 5/6/09 with District 31 in which SI Parent Leaders will host a discussion on Special Education with Mr. Garth Harries. Though we understand that there will be similar meetings scheduled in Community School Districts in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Bronx, we are unaware of any outreach thus far to the Community School Districts in these boroughs. We will keep you updated as more information becomes known.
- b) **Five Year Capital Plan,** As of this date, we have not received a response to our comments on the Department of Education's Proposed 2010-2014 Five Year Capital Plan. We understand that there will be a vote on the Capital Plan at the 4/27/09 Panel for Educational Policy Meeting and plan on voicing our concern at this meeting.
- c) **Parents Guide to Special Education,** As of this report, we have not received the revised copy of the Parents Guide to Special Education.

- d) **Parent Commission Report on School Governance and Mayoral Control**, As mentioned last month, the Parent Commission Report on School Governance and Mayoral Control has been issued. The Parent Commission proposes a fundamental shift in the NYC school governance structure based upon democratic principles that fosters a partnership between the Mayor and the parents. I urge everyone to visit the website at www.parentcommission.org and view the recommendations and the report.
- e) **P811@149M**, The real reason why we're here tonight is about P811@149M. We heard what was planned for the District 75 programs in this school and we rescheduled our meeting location. We spoke to the Chancellor at last month's PEP Meeting and asked him to find an alternative. We spoke to Cathy Nolan's Chief of Staff and requested that she intervene. For those of you who do not know, Cathy Nolan is the Chairperson of the NYS Assembly Committee on Education. And with the help of our Superintendent and others, we look forward to the good news that the Superintendent will report on tonight.
- f) **EPIC** , Lastly, the EPIC Conference & Best Practices Fair is this Saturday, 4/25/09 at P811X from 9am-3pm. Empowering Parents Impacting Children. Let what you witnessed here at this school be the benchmark of the impact that parents' voices have on their children's education. Don't let a moment go by where you can make a difference for the better. I guarantee you; you'll be surprised at the outcome and will never look back. I look forward to seeing everyone at EPIC on Saturday.

4. Report of the Superintendent – Bonnie Brown

- **Program 811M@149**: Bonnie informed the council and parents 3 years ago Harlem Success Academy (HSA) wanted to open a charter school in Harlem and D75 just closed school 162M and re-opened it as an off-site of 811M. D75 was not using all of the space at the time and was approached to share their space with HSA. D75 agreed to do that; the question was, what will happen to D75/811M if HSA kept adding grades: K to 8 Grade. D75 was told that HSA will be looking for a building and that it was a temporary situation. HSA and 811M have been good neighbors and has a good relationship. In reality HSA every year has added grades and aged up. We were informed that as HSA expanded our program (811M) will be moving; we contacted CCSE and other supporters to inform them of this and felt that we at D75 have been supportive and fair in regards to HSA. After meeting with HSA, Eva Moskowitz and Central a decision was made to keep 811M@149M and other grades HSA will be adding will be at the adjacent building.
 - **The issue of space**, D75 is still focusing on the issue of space and working with portfolio and space has been identified for D75. The projected register for March 31st D75 enrollment surpassed 500 students and projected an increase of 35 to 45 classes of young children with autism and an increase of students within the high schools with alternate assessment and services.
 - **Garth Harries Evaluation**, D75 has been working with Garth Harries by evaluating the system that currently is in place regarding special education.
- a) Why aren't there identifications of students within D75?
- b) Students with emotional challenges remain within there community schools and receives RTI: Response to Intervention and Proactive Strategies and Support for the student and family.

- **Stimulus package money**, John Englert mentioned that the Chancellor stated NYC will receive less money from the stimulus packet due to Title 1 schools. Since d75 doesn't have Title 1 schools how this will affect the budget for d75. Bonnie informed the panel that now one knows about the budget only that there have been cuts within the administrative departments, not within the schools and the budget will come out on May 5th.
- **Special Ed. Parent Guide**, Has Bonnie asked about the Special Ed. Parent Guide. Suggested changes and amendments for the Parent Guide has been submitted to Linda and still waiting for a response.

5. **CCSE Resolution Regarding NYS Education Law**

- Tom Read to the Parent Constituents and CCSE Panel: Resolution #009- Regarding NY State Education Law Part 52-a, 2590 ET. SEQ
Tom Motion to pass Resoultion#008, Ellen Seconded the motion, Unanimously passed, Resoultion#009.

6. **Update on District 75 Program at P811M@149**

- **School buildings housing multiple schools**, How do principals, teachers, PTA's, SLT's, and students in a school building with multiple schools work together in sharing building resources? Many opinions were shared and the discussion will be continued.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm