



## Citywide Council on Special Education

45-18 Court Square - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor-Room 260, Long Island City, New York 11101  
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### 1/20/2010 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at The Tweed Courthouse, 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY.

#### 1. Roll Call

Charlene Carroll-Hall	Present
John Englert	Present
Charles Henderson	Present
Diana Marenfeld	Present
Ellen McHugh	Present
Tom Ryan	Present
Able Alagbe	Present
Gloria Gonsalves	Present

#### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes Dated 12/16/09

Meeting minutes for 12/16/2009 Tom made a motion for approval of meeting minutes, Diana second and all council members approved.

#### 3. Report of the President – John Englert

John mentioned there are two Public Advocate Appointees seats open on the CCSE. The CCSE are waiting for Bill de Blasio's office to complete the process and fill the seats within the next thirty days for applicants Jessica Santos of P94M and Joseph Williams.

The CCSE sent their comments regarding the Capital Plan 2010-14 on January 8<sup>th</sup> to the DOE-School Construction Authority to review and respond to the council. The council has not received a response regarding the issues of Dept of Health, NYC Fire Dept. and Accessibility issues in the report. The council will follow through the SCA regarding their questions.

Within the last two weeks parents should have received the information

regarding the proposed changes to the Chancellors Reg. E-150 CCSE Policy. We asked that schools distribute to all parents a sample letter to be mailed and/or emailed to Melissa Harris at the DOE a copy of that letter is at the table when you first came in. Comments are being accepted until Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. What is taking place is D75 is going to lose its voice within the parent community; there will be no educational council for D75. Instead of compromising with the people on the council new elections will take place in May just for the CCSE and only two seats will be reserved for D75 that doesn't include Parent Advocate Appointees. If you're a parent within D75 it's important to get the word out. This policy is up for a vote next Tuesday at the Panel Educational Policy meeting. This is one of many changes that they are voting on whether there is a CEC, SLT; PTA. C-PAC has issued a request for postponement of the election until March.

There is a huge struggle regarding space D75 programs in schools will be displaced to make way for charter schools or general education enrollment without following the process of consulting the parents of the children being affected. As we sit here tonight there are hearings being scheduled and are published by the Education Impact Statement for the following:

Hearings on Clinton Relocation: Feb 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, 281 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. (M033)  
February 9, @ 6:30 pm, 320 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street (M011)

Hearings on P.S. 138M Relocation: February 10, @ 6pm, 225 East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (M047)

February 22, @ 6pm, PS33, 281 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue (M033)

Girls Prep Charter School-Grade Expansion at the Expense of dist. 75  
February 11, @ 6pm  
442 East Houston St, Manhattan

The dates are on the DOE Website please feel free to see me after the meeting regarding the location and dates.

This concludes the Presidents Report

#### **4. Report of the Superintendent – Bonnie Brown**

Gary Hetch, Deputy Superintendent provided the Report of the Superintendent for Ms. Brown regarding the following:

- 6 schools with new principals will be receiving a Quality Review and are currently waiting to be scheduled: P53K, P96K, 771K, 811Q, 25R, 188X. There are three principals are interacting if they are not appointed by February 1<sup>st</sup> the review will not take place.
- Summer School: Starts July 6<sup>th</sup> and ends Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>

- Best Practice Fair is May 1<sup>st</sup> at 811X
- D75 will be opening six new programs(new buildings) at the following locations:

PS/IS338X 60 Seats, Van Ness School in the Bronx 38 Seats, Mott Haven H.S. (IS) 96 Seats, 163K 60 seats, Metropolitan Campus in Queens 216 seats, 276M Battery Park 96 seats.

John asked what kind of accommodation the principal of 276 for the 96 seats at Battery Park. Gary informed the council that Ms. Shuster, Principal of 94M is currently collaborating with each other.

- Dist 75 is now under the Chief Achievement Office who will supervise D75. Ms. Brown and Mr. Hetch have met with Laura Rodriquez, Chief Achievement Officer responsible for d75 to utilize their expertise. D75 will help train DOE Personal regarding seclusion programs. Understanding the needs of the students, working with alternate assessment on developing IEP's.
- Last year the Chancellor met with all superintendents and indicated they should be working on a secession plan as principals leave. It's difficult to find replacements and D75 has developed the principal's institute and meet with assistant principals monthly to prepare them for the position as a principal.

## **5. Special Programs Servicing Special Populations:**

### **Metropolitan Parent Center Sinergia, Inc.: Godfrey Rivera**

Since 1977, Sinergia has created a number of innovative programs, including among others, transitional housing for homeless families who have children with disabilities, community residences for adults with developmental disabilities, parenting classes for adults with mental retardation, Day Habilitation, Family Support Services, Home Care, Family Care Programs, Medicaid Services Coordination and Housing Assistance Programs and a Neighborhood Preservation Program. In 1995 Sinergia, Inc's Metropolitan Parent Center (MPC) received federal funding to provide information, training, referral and individual advocacy to parents living in New York City, and in 2002 and 2006 received continued funding to provide these services. Over the past ten years the MPC has provided information, training, referral and individual advocacy to over ten thousand parents of children with the full range of disabilities, and the professionals who work with them.

### **ArtAccess Educator of the Queens Museum of Art: Donnielle Rome, Coordinator & Sarah Pousty**

The Queens Museum of Art creates programming that annually engages over 30,000 children and adults of all ages.

The ArtAccess program, led by two staff art therapists annually serves over 5,000 children and adults with physical, developmental, and emotional disabilities, as well as varying learning styles and expressive needs. Using such techniques and materials as tactile aids, music, and games, ArtAccess is nationally known and was honored by Mayor Bloomberg at his reception for the 18th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The New New Yorkers program serves adult immigrants through digital art, fine art, and skill-building classes in languages other than English as well ESOL through the arts. Family Programs include free Sunday Drop-in Art Workshops for the whole family. Senior Programs include film series, classical music concerts and slide talks.

**Resources for Children with Special Needs Inc.: Hilda J. Alarcon, Parent Community Educator**

Resources for Children with Special Needs (RCSN) helps families navigate "the system" to secure the needed resources that will help their children reach their fullest potentials. When families have knowledge, confidence and skills, they improve our schools, our human and social services, and outcomes for all of our children. RCSN is a nonprofit organization, located near Union Square in New York City. Whether your or your child's special need is social, cognitive, physical or behavioral, RCSN will help provided you with locating programs and camps for your child.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm