

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@nycboe.net

01/16/2008 Calendar Meeting Minutes

The Calendar Meeting Minutes of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 6:30pm located at P226: Julia Richmond Educational Complex, 317 East 67th Street, New York, NY 10021. The following people were in attendance.

1. Roll Call

➤ Charlene Carroll-Hall	Present
➤ John Englert	Present
➤ Maria Garcia	Excused
➤ Charles Henderson	Present
➤ Diana Marenfeld	Present
➤ Ellen McHugh	Present
➤ Tom Ryan	Present
➤ Patricia Connelly	Present
➤ Robin Murray	Excused

John introduced new CCSE Student Member, Dawson Pironneau of P4Q: Skillman High school.

2. Secretary's Report- Approval of Meeting Minutes dated 12/12/2007

Charles made a motion to approve the meeting minutes all were in favor for the approval of the meeting minutes.

3. Presidents Report- John Englert

The CCSE response to the 5 year capital plan was submitted to the School Construction Authority on January 10th. It consisted of projects identified by the District Office in conjunction with school principals and letters received from Staten Island PTA's. This was forwarded over to the School Construction Authority, as well as, the Deputy Chancellor of Budget and Finance.

CCSE was invited to speak to the Commission on School Government on Thursday, January 31st regarding Mayoral Control. The commission asked for CCSE's input on how the current school governance structure is working and if any improvements are needed. Also last week the Public Advocate debuted

a website which parents can visit to add your comments on what you think about Mayoral Control. Access to the site can be found from nycpublicschoolparents.com.

CCSE was also asked to participate in a meeting with the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) to discuss the training manual for drivers and matrons. In late of 2004 a draft of the training manual was produced by the CCSE. Members of the Busing Committee will be meeting with the (OPT) to review what the timetable is for the training manual.

The CCSE currently has two (2) vacancies and is accepting applications for the openings. The application period will last till the end of February. Anyone who is interested in applying should complete the application and submit it to our office in Long Island City. Applications can be found on the table as soon as you entered this evening. Anyone who has any further questions, are asked to call to the office or speak to me this evening.

Important Dates for Upcoming Events:

The 1st Queens Consumer's Council Advocacies Exhibition on March 15th at Queens Occupational Training Center and District 75 EPIC Parent Conference will be held on April 5, 2008 at P79M.

During the Q&A member of the audience asked for CCSE response to the proposed Chancellor's regulations related to SLT governance. The CCSE will follow-up, review and report back.

4. Superintendents Report-Bonnie Brown

Bonnie Brown and D75 principals were disturbed of the loss of the Title IIA funding that supports Professional Development for teachers. Ms. Brown expressed her gratitude from the CCSE, parents and administrators who supported the movement of a letter campaign to the Chancellor to reallocate funds towards Title IIA.

District 75 is involved in working with the Council of Great City Schools (www.cgcs.org). The Council of Great City Schools has been brought into NYC by The Broad Foundation. The DOE won The Broad Foundation grant (\$1Million Broad Prize for Urban Education- <http://www.broadprize.org>) last year. The CGCS interests of involvement are English Language Learners, Pre-Kindergarten and D75. During their last visit to NYC, they spoke to the wa Bonnie and her Executive Team, D75 SLT, parent leaders and several members of the CCSE regarding the structure of the District and wanted to hear their feedback on the schools and special education system in NYC. Examples of questions raised was, "Why are there 2 principals needed at co-

located schools?" Bonnie response was that at the moment this arrangement is still necessary because most principals in community schools lack the training and expertise to administer programs for the severely disabled student population that D75 is comprised of:

- Dramatic demographic shift in D75 population since Bonnie became superintendent in 2005 (while census has held steady).
- 2005 -- 51% subject to alternate assessment; 49% standard assessment
- 2007 -- 70% subject to alternate assessment, 30% standard assessment
- Special focus on implementation of school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports through a PBIS grant from the State of NY. Special mention was made of the following restraint free programs -- Life Space Crises Intervention and Therapeutic Crises Intervention (joint project with Cornell University).
- Space issue - Three new D75 middle schools and two new high schools are coming online next year. [*I think Bonnie reported as follows, but please check with others: 1 MS & 1 HS in the Bronx; 1 MS in Staten Island; 1 MS in Brooklyn; 1 HS in Queens.*] In 2007-2008 D75 added 36 new classes across its Autism programs (11% in self-contained classrooms).
- D75 website is becoming a leading resource for special educators nationally & internationally -- more than 5000 hits per week.
- Related Services: impact of increasing shortages of therapists on the district's ability to provide mandated services.
- 3 more D75 schools have been placed on the state's "persistently dangerous watch list". D75 continues to collect and share data with the state.

Autism:

D75 has implemented a pilot program (extended day) for students that are mandated for verbal behavior and a high mandated IEP that could not be serviced during the school day due to the shortage of speech teachers. The extended day program has been receiving vast enrollment request from the five boroughs. Dr. Carbone will be spearheading the professional development for the program. DOE/Special Ed office/Wernikoff has invited D75 to partner on expansion of Autism programs located in and administered by community schools. D75 is wary of the move -- doesn't think the community schools have the expertise to do this.

5. The Museum Access Consortium, Access New York

Presentations by members of The Museum Access Consortium, a project of City Access New York, about their institutions' efforts to make their museums/cultural institutions accessible to people of all abilities. [Attach to the minutes the overview handout that MAC provided to the CCSE and distributed at the meeting.] Speakers included:

Ken Struve, Executive Director, City Access New York

Rebecca McGinnis, Access Coordinator and Associate Museum Educator, The Metropolitan Museum Art:

- Special education groups - 1 specially trained volunteer educator per 9 students
- 20+ year old Sunday "hands on" program - "Discoveries" for LD and developmentally disabled people and their families.

Francesca Rosenber, Director, Community and Access Programs, The Museum of Modern Art

Marisa Horowitz, Access Manager, Whitney Museum of American Art:

- Accessibility program in its infancy; Marisa is establishing it and currently conducting institution-wide needs assessment and action plan.
- Whitney's world renowned Biennial opens on March 6th and will offer accessibility programs.

Danielle Linzer, Education Coordinator, Lower East Side Tenement Museum:

- Due to special physical nature of museum (a preserved 19th century tenement building) this museum is not wheel-chair accessible. However, they offer a "virtual tour" at the museum for those who cannot manage the stairs and narrow corridors and will send educators dressed in period era costumes to conduct programs in school classrooms.
- Currently have a grant to offer free museum tours to school groups of Spanish and Chinese speaking students.

7. Public Forum

PTA President Siri Kagan of P373 on Staten Island called on the CCSE and all special ed. advocates & parents to support their effort to demand more space for their programs -- currently out of compliance in terms of space/classroom ratios. Asking for the DOE to approve the 2009 budget and 3 story addition to their main site. P373 has the support of local legislators on S.I. who will join the PTA at a press conference on Friday, February 8th at P373R.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm