



## Citywide Council on Special Education

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### 11/18/2009 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Bronx High School for the Visual Arts, 2040 Antin Place, Bronx, NY.

#### 1. Roll Call

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

#### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes Dated 10/21/09

Approval of Meeting Minutes will be set aside for the December Calendar Meeting.

#### 3. Special Education in NYC: Dennis M. Walcott, Deputy Mayor for Education & Community Development

John mentioned last month the council sent out a Questionnaire regarding Special Education to the candidates running in the 2009 election for City Council, Public Advocate, Borough President, Controller and Mayor. CCSE contacted the Mayor Bloomberg's re-election campaign office and the CCSE was informed, they were focused on the re-election and could not answer the questionnaire. CCSE reached out to the Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott's office to request his participation during the calendar meeting to speak to CCSE and the parents of D75.

Mr. Walcott opened his address by thanking the council for the invitation to speak at the calendar and informed the parents he felt it was important for him to attend the meeting because they have strived to do fantastic work

under the leadership at the Department of Education. The Mayor, Mr. Walcott and others know they have a long way to go to accomplish our goals, were going to have to work collaboratively to make sure that we continue raise the bar for all students. Mr. Walcott commitment for attending the meeting is response to the invitation but more importantly is to send a signal that we and I take very seriously that we have a continued dialogue with all of you as we move forward especially since the re-election has taken place. We're looking to do a lot of things differently in the upcoming term we want to make sure that we are even more responsive to the needs of all our parents and find new ways to engage our parents including parents with different kind of needs and special populations. Mr. Walcott mentioned Dr. Alan Gardner former executive director for special education and Deborah Taylor, education point person, it was important that they were brought into City Hall to help bring continuity and moving forward purpose; this will be a step in a direction of an ongoing dialogue between all of us. The Chancellor did something extremely significant by naming Dr. Laura Rodriguez, Chief Achievement Officer the point person in dealing with a variety of special populations, issues by pulling that together in making sure that we have a master plan and a blueprint to move forward by taking a look at the recommendation and refer too the Garth Harries Report. How we can increase our out come in productivity and working with various populations in NYC. We want to reinforce that and I think for me what I want to do with your permission is not just dwell on what possible but really is hampering you directly on what you think what we should be doing and how we can become more responsible. I'm here to say with you that you have the commitment of City Hall to work with you hand in hand in addressing the needs and even though we have disagreements with each other around a variety of issues making sure we understand why were disagreeing and how we develop a conciseness in moving forward and would open it up to the floor for discussion.

#### **4. Transition: The Beginning, Awa Asterita: Director of Transition at D75**

Ms. Asterita, introduced herself and explained her role as the newly appointed Director of Transition for District 75 as well as the roles of the School Transition staff and services, i.e. Transition coordinator, Job Developer, Job Coach, Related Services. (Please see, out-line presentation attachment provided during the meeting).

#### **5. Report of the President – John Englert**

- a) The Proposed Capital Plan for 2010-2014 should be issued this month for our review. In the next few weeks, we will be speaking with the District Office in an attempt to ascertain each schools and boroughs needs with respect to new Capital Plan projects within their school. I urge all Principals to submit their requests to the District Office and the CCSE so that we can prioritize on a District level and finalize our comments in time for the January 2010 deadline. We will be holding a Public Hearing on 12/2 at our offices in Long Island City. We urge all to come.
- b) Lastly, I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

- c) This concludes the President's Report

## 6. Report of the Superintendent – Bonnie Brown

Bonnie Brown, Superintendent of District 75 informed the Council and attendees of the following:

- Dr. Ami Klin, Yale University, Autism Department and his team are in the first stages of discussion to establish a collaborate and working relationship with D75.
- Emotional Literacy Program: Bonnie explained the (prevention) program and 7 more schools will be added to the program within D75.
- We have been working with Portfolio in September for schools next year, there are three new schools opening in the process in Queens. The challenge that D75 is facing in queens they have a large population of children who come from the Rockaway and we don't have schools for them so they travel to H.S. in L.I.C and Jamaica. They have been getting to trouble on the trains; D75 is looking to maybe move one of the populations that are now in the Rockaway to the new building on Metropolitan Campus.
- Another challenge is shared space with the charter schools and are expanding and aging up. Dist. 75 is always looked upon as to where can we move them to and what space can we take from them. Bonnie mentioned that has been the challenges with Harlem Success Academy, also within Brooklyn. Were in a situation right now were a D75 school is lower Manhattan the charter school shared space and is expanding its program. The charter school wants for the D75 program to move to a new location at Battery Park City but the point is our school should not have to move because the charter school wants to expand.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm