



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

10/21/2009 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 IS 43, 100 Essex Drive, Staten Island, NY.

1. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes Dated 9/15/09

Meeting minutes for 9/15/2009 Ellen made a motion for approval, Charlene Second and all council members approved.

3. Report of the President – John Englert

- As you know, the CCSE, as well as, other constituencies submitted feedback on the Special Education Recommendations prepared by Garth Harries in July. This evening we have Laura Rodriguez and Dov Rokeach in attendance to speak briefly about the progress being made and the timetable for any changes.
- The CCSE submitted written testimony earlier this month to the City Council on the Oversight of C4E funds pertaining to District 75. Also testifying on our behalf was the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, as well as, the ARISE Coalition. Since then, we have received a response from the DOE explaining why District 75 has been excluded from receiving any

State funds on the Contracts for Excellence. Specifically, D75 schools do not have comparable data for inclusion in the need index that SED uses to enforce the “75% of funds to the neediest 50% of schools” provision of the C4E regulation. We are currently reviewing this response to determine the next steps which will be taken.

- The Proposed Capital Plan for 2010-2014 will be issued next 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. Also, parents don't be afraid to speak to your PTA's or SLT's about facility issues and your local Councilperson regarding discretionary funds for other improvement needs.
- Last month, the CCSE sent out a Questionnaire to all candidates running for office in the five boroughs of NYC. The purpose of the questionnaire was to obtain feedback from the candidates on their awareness of the special needs community and the impact they plan on having for children with disabilities in their community in the next four (4) years. Our response rate wasn't as great as we had hoped. Some of the candidates that had responded that I'd like to acknowledge are:

1. Alex Zablocki, NYC Public Advocate
2. Jessica Lappin, City Council Dist 5
3. Margaret Chin, City Council Dist 1
4. Joe Nardiello, City Council Dist 39
5. Joshua J. Goldberg, Rep. Candidate City Council Dist 6
6. Eric Ulrich, City Council Dist 32
7. Daniel Garodnick, City Council Dist 4
8. Rosie Mendez, City Council Dist 2
9. Vincent M. Ignizio, City Council Dist 51
10. Bill Thompson, Mayor
11. Marty Markowitz, Bklyn, Borough Pres.
12. Joe Mendola, NYC Comptroller
13. Stephen Kaufman, City Council Dist 5

Please note that anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the questionnaire completed by a particular candidate, can do so by calling our office.

This concludes the President's Report. If anyone has any questions, I'd be happy to address them now.

4. Report of the Superintendent – Bonnie Brown

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

- There are two principal vacancies at 141K and 188BX, the interim-acting principals are in the stages of becoming Appointed by the Chancellor once approved.
- 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.
- D75 has three new Network Leaders: Stephanie McCaskill, Autism Adrian Edelstein and Arthur Iusco
- D75 Currently has Principals retiring from the following schools: 537K, 72M, 23Q and 331K.
- D75 will initiate the Principal Institute (Leadership Academy) once again for Assistant Principals who inspire to become Principals. They will receive the training and support from the academy.

5. Introduction and Special Education Update:

John introduced Laura Rodriguez, Chief Achievement Officer and Dov Rokeach, Deputy Chief Achievements Officer with the NYC Department of Educations Students with Disabilities and English Learners Office.

Ms. Rodriguez thanked the parents for attending the calendar meeting and read from her statement that she was glad to be in attendance and would be glad to hear from parents. She and Mr. Rokeach were at the meeting to provided a brief up date as to their work as the Chief Achievement Officers and its relationship to the Garth Harries Report, as well as the recommendations and time line for the recommendations. She stated, most importantly Dov and I are here tonight to hear your questions, understand your concerns, learn more about the schools, parents, educators , students, the interests here in Staten Island both District 75 and District 31. Ms. Rodriguez wanted to provide the attendees information about herself first as a parent; that her two sons are a product of the NYC Public School system. She mentioned as an educator in her role as a Regional Superintendent and also as a leader of a school support organization she looks forward to working with District 75 by providing the options as well as to promote more principals to address the needs of all students with disabilities. She added her office is 15 weeks old and the Chief Achievement Office which in its name talks to the tradition of expectation for achievement with students with disabilities, ELL, students in district 75 school programs.

Ms. Rodriguez wanted to share some of the things they (her office) have accomplished within the last 15 weeks. Her office has worked together with

DOE colleagues, advocacy group's and has continued a dialogue with the CCSE as well as other groups with the belief and commitment that this is a partnership with communication that we can accelerated the partnership for the students and the schools.

She spoke about some of the areas regarding the Garth Harries Report that there has been a large endorsement by the State Education Department, ARISE, Advocacy Groups as well as the CCSE. She mention the report points to the fact that we (DOE) needs to build capacity as a system to better educate and use our collective resources in the schools. That every general ed, special ed teacher and resource in the building has to become an expert in differentiating the approaches, understanding the diversity, needs and potential. The Garth Harries Repot clearly states we need to integrate, alien and leverage our resource with the expertise of the teachers and administrators within the school as well as build bridges parents, advocacy groups and the organizations that make a difference with students with disabilities. The chancellor acted on one of the recommendations to put in place a person (Ms. Rodriquez) and office that will focus on students with special needs who will be held accountable for Special Education.

Mr. Rokeach, thanked the parents for attending the meeting and that he too is a parents of children who are a product of the Public Education System. He felt the time was right for them to give some input into enhancing service for students in the system. The system has made progress and the data does point to growth in all areas including students with disabilities but when we look very carefully at the data we see we can do better. Mr. Rokeach mentioned that when he and Laura look forward to the input from those in the audience and are interested in your comments. Laura mentioned the principals of alignment we believe that if were going to sustain progress we have to make sure the incentives we launch are fully aligned. I want to address a few of the incentives we launched since we started in July 15th.

- Distribution of stimulus resources through the American Recovery Act due to the numbers of students who are suspended. We are required to spend a portion of the stimulus resources what is called coordinated urban intervening services and allocated the funds to 3 distinct groups. We gave a small portion of the resources to D75 for kids who are at risk to be classified because we acknowledge that D75 has expertise in the area of positive prevention strategies.
- Allocation was given to schools that have significant behavior issues, impact schools, persistent dangerous working with Elena Constance and he group to support those programs.
- The over whelming majority of resources have been fully aliened with the seventy plus networks around the city of NY. Every net work around the city of NY we allocated resources because of the formula because we identified particular methods for every school and we fully attend to augment the capacity of every network in the city to offer support services to students who might be at risk to be referred. And we asked each net work to develop a plan that is based on the data; it must target clusters of schools in their network that have the greatest

needs. Information should be in the office by Friday and will be reviewed in two weeks and the actual program will launch in November.

Mr. Rokeach mentioned additional incentives from his office, related transitions and programs for students who have autism. How his office is looking into enhancing and improving the programs.

Parents brought to the attention of the panel the issues of:

- Related Services
- Busing
- Funding: Stimulus Monies, D75 receiving its share.
- Charter Schools: shared space
- Autisms: More programs/services

Meeting adjourned at 9pm