

# Citywide Council on Special Education

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## **08/13/2008 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Calendar Meeting Minutes of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held Wednesday, August 13, 2008 at 6:00pm located at Tweed Courthouse, 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 11212. The following people were in attendance.

### **1. Roll Call**

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

### **2. Secretary's Report- Approval of Meeting Minutes dated 05/21/08, 6/18/08, 7/16/08 & Annual Meeting**

Tom motion to accept meeting minutes for 5/21/08 Ellen seconded, Ellen motioned to accept meeting minutes for 7/16/08 Tom seconded, Tom motioned to accept Annual Meeting Minutes Ellen seconded the council all were in favor. The meeting minutes for 6/18/08 are still being modified and will be voted at the next calendar meeting.

### **3. Report of the President- John Englert**

- a) As a result of the hearings on the Contracts for Excellence, the CCSE has filed a formal grievance/complaint concerning the implementation of State funds. We've urged the State to review the distribution of the funds so that the funds would go towards the children with the greatest educational need and include children with special needs in District 75.
- b) Last month, we mentioned that the District did not receive 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Monies which go towards funding programs such as AfterSchool Programs. The explanation was a little complicated so we're hoping that someone from the District can help out with the reason and explain what

steps can be taken in the future so that the grant monies get awarded to the District.

- c) We have received a copy of the Report from the Council on Great City Schools. Though we have been asking for this report since April, Tweed released the report to the press before sharing it with the CCSE. Once again, the parents, just like the children in District 75 are an afterthought and the issue of transparency is nonexistent. As far as the Report goes, it is very long with many recommendations. We are in the progress of reading the Report and will issue a statement in the next week.
- d) As of this date, we have not received any updates from Sandy Ferguson and Ellen Newman regarding Middle School CTT placement process (especially in those districts with existing school choice programs).

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**

Gary Hetch, D75-Deputy Superintendent was not able to present for Ms. Brown due to a family emergency in his place Helen Kaufman, District 75 Superintendent for Clinical and Supportive Service presented the Report of the Superintendent during the calendar meeting.

The Superintendent and her staff have read and discussed the document regarding the Great City Schools Report. Ms. Brown will be responding to some of the parts that are offensive. There were particular insults in the report such as the instructional programs. The superintendent 3 years ago took the position of emphasizing on students in D75 receiving the best quality education: curriculum and instructional support that is available. Another inaccuracy mentioned was the lack of ongoing staff trainings. D75 teachers as well as related service providers have attended DOE mandated and non-mandated trainings. The report has failed to address Special Education as a whole and Special Educations programs as part of General Ed programs. The report did not address anything related to the district as a whole and was unnecessary instead of how to serve the needs of the students. Diana asked if Ms. Brown, D75 Superintendent has spoken to Chancellor Klein regarding the report. Ms. Kaufman's response was, Ms. Brown currently is asking for feed back from the principals and her cabinet to address the report. Diana again asked if Mr. Klein reached out to Ms. Brown and Ms. Kaufman mentioned she has no knowledge if there was contact between them.

Another document in draft form is the (CEP) Comprehensive Educational Plan. The plan is a format of how the district will provide: Academic Instruction, Related Support Services and how to ensure students with enough skills to be independent-productive citizens.

**5. Review of the Office of Pupil Transportation Escort Training Module: Richie Scarpa, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of The Office of Pupil Transportation**

John introduced Mr. Scarpa who has put together a training module that will be utilized in the transporting of children with special needs within D75.

Mr. Scarpa thanked the council and mentioned that the training module was a joint effort with district 75 as well as the CCSE. Mr. Scarpa presented the council with a draft copy of the Escort Training Manual to review and add comments to before finalizing. The manual will be posted on the DOE website after completion. Office of Pupil Transportation is in the process of hiring a D75 Account Manager that solely purpose will be serving parents, providing information, bring to the forefront issues, concerns for children with special needs and addressing them. In place for September parents can call the automotive system by inputting their child's student ID number as well as the child's date of birth and get busing information instead of waiting to hear from the school. The information accessing the automotive service will be on the DOE website. Some of the buses will be equipped with GPS. This will ensure that the buses pick up and get the children to school on time, located the bus and driver and identify traffic conditions. There was positive dialogue and outcome between the audience and Mr. Scarpa during the calendar meeting at Tweed.

Diana presented Mr. Scarpa with a plaque thanking him for his diligent work and cooperation with the CCSE in implementing changes for the betterment of students within D75.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30pm