

Citywide Council on Special Education

45-18 Court Square - 2nd Floor-Room 260, Long Island City, New York 11101

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05/21/2008 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES

The Calendar Meeting Minutes of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 6:00pm located at P176X: Truman High School, 850 Baychester Avenue, Bronx, NY 10475. The following people were in attendance.

1. Roll Call

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

2. Secretary's Report- Approval of Meeting Minutes dated 04/16/08

Charles made a motion to accept the meeting minutes 04/16/08, all is in favor.

3. Report of the President- John Englert

Monday, June 9th is the monthly meeting with the Chancellor and the CEC'S. The meeting with Kathleen Grimm, Deputy Chancellor of Budget and Finance, Sharon Greenberg, CEO School Construction Authority, the Chancellor and the CEC'S will be held at the Tweed Court House on June 2, 2008.

The DOE will be undertaking a Publicity Campaign to increase awareness of the CEC'S as well parent involvement. The quote that was submitted by the CCSE is the following, "Were putting all children first come join us the CCSE". As of right now CCSE has not received any information as to when it will take place.

Due to Bonnie Brown's absence John asked if Sacha Ingles could provide any updated information regarding the report or recommendations from the Great City Council of Schools- Dist 75 that has not been issues as of yet.

Last month we talked about the Contract for Excellence and Dist 75 received 740 thousand out of 256 million for the 2007-08 school year. The council wrote to Blaine Duran, Campaign of Fiscal Equity regarding the allocations of funds for the 2008-2009 school year. The council will forward any information once provided to them.

John congratulated to Bonnie Brown for being honored by Phi Delta Capa at Columbia University, Teachers College for Superintendent of the Year 2008

4. Report of the Superintendent-Bonnie Brown

Ms. Brown was not able to stay for the meeting and asked Sacha Ingles to read the outline of her report.

The Best Practice Fair at 721Q was a success 1,100 parents from the five boroughs were in attendance.

There is new space at the following schools:

PS 111, PS306: Bronx,
PS 7, PS 15: Richmond, S.I.

Additional Space at the following schools for the 08-09 school year:

IS5 @ P9: Queens, Two 8:1:1 classes
IS88, PS 67@ P369K: Brooklyn, still awaiting information

P372K will return to Dist 75 and will no longer be considered and Empowerment School as of September. Mr. Mattia, Principal feels that there is no support in addressing needs of special needs students in his current LSO. The return to Dist 75 will provide the opportunity for his staff to participate in Professional Development in as well as increase staff awareness with cutting edge practices for the betterment of the students.

The new SCEP- School CEP template, (the SLT works on) is out and is due in Sept. and there will be training provided to staff on that and the Dist Office has been getting training in what it will look like, the deadline and how to complete the template.

The Council for Great City Schools letter is in and is with the Chancellor and that Ms. Brown has not seen it as of yet. As soon it is passed along to her she will inform the council.

The Samuel Stern Awards will be held on Friday, May 30th at 9:30 am at the Lighthouse International.

5. Opened Discussion

Before John opened the Public Forum he mentioned originally on the agenda was the Budget allocation Formula for D75 and the commit period deadline is May 30th and has not received a date when the discussion will take place.

John asked for Evelyn Santiago, AP and Elena Talamo Mirabal, AP of P176X what are the parent issues in the Bronx? The answer was Related Services. Tom asked what the biggest issue is regarding related service and where is the biggest shortage of service. The reply was not able to get providers; there is a belief that there is inadequate dispersal of related services. Queens has the largest portion of providers/therapist. Tom stated that it is the same in Queens as in the other boroughs. Speech has the highest shortage rate of providers. Tom asked is the shortage of providers due to the DOE unwillingness to pay the market rate. Reply: It's a combination of things, mainly higher education priority and waiting list. Tom also brought up the issue of travel time and the therapy sessions start when the child is picked up by the therapist. The AP's are not aware of that as an issue. Tom asked Sacha does she know anything about it. Sacha stated the best person to address the issue is Helen Kaufman and she spoke to the DLT and the issues came up regarding related service: shortage of providers and therapy sessions and the new procedures set forth for the new school year.

John asked about the Capital Plan items that have been requested and not provide or under review. P176X is putting in adapted bathrooms, 2 on each floor as well as a wheel chair accessible elevator.

A question of relationships between special education and general ed. programs due to sharing space? It's based on the tone the principal sets within there school.

P176X has a strong PTA as well as a SLT. Parents started the program within a bowling alley and the school has grown from there.

School busing was chaotic this year with all of the changes and they had weekly changes regarding the routes. Another issue that parents complain that they have is since that the matrons are not properly trained. Tom stated that there will be bus and matron training the first CCSE worked hand in hand with OPT to formulate a training program it was passed through to the stated and should go into effect this summer.

John asked Sacha if she could ask Bonnie could inform the principals as to when the training will take place fir the matrons

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30pm