

# Citywide Council on Special Education

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

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## **03/19/08 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Calendar Meeting Minutes of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 6:00pm located at Tweed Court House, 52 Chambers Street Street, New York, NY 10007. The following people were in attendance.

### **1. Roll Call**

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

### **2. Secretary's Report- Approval of Meeting Minutes dated 1/16/08**

Charles made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes dated 1/16/08. All voted in favor of the approval of the Meeting Minutes.

#### **a. Discussion with NYC Public Advocate - Honorable Betsy Gotbaum**

Betsy Gotbaum reminded all present that her office continually searches for ways to improve opportunities for children with disabilities and special needs. She mentioned the following:

- An improvement in the communication for parent's special education concerns in which a hotline and/or 311 does not get referred to Parent Coordinators. She called on the CCSE to help her office work with the DOE to identify an Information System that can get information to parents when they need it.
- An improvement in the transportation services for children with special needs. Who do you call when there is an issue? The CCSE had mentioned that Bill Heslin of OPT is the person in charge of the transportation services and that a

Work Order System was being followed. Betsy Gotbaum had suggested that a Year End Report be requested from OPT.

**3. Discussion on Budget Reductions - Sandy Brawer, Dept. Director of ISC**

Sandy Brawer led a discussion on the recent budget reductions as announced by the Mayor. Sandy noted that revenues were down in the City and that the Mayor was looking for a 2.5% reduction in City Agencies with an increase to 5% reduction next year.

**4. Discussion on District 75 Learning Environment Survey – David Osbourne**

David Osbourne from the DOE, Office of Accountability spoke to parents about the 2008 Special Education District 75 Parent Survey which is currently being distributed to all schools. David indicated that this is a working document and will be used to hope improve special education services. The deadline for the survey responses is April 14, 2008.

**5. CCSE President's Report - John Englert**

- a) The monthly meeting with the Chancellor and the CEC's has been scheduled for Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. All of the CEC's Presidents and/or Designees are meeting Monday 3/24/08 to draft up the Agenda for the meeting with the Chancellor.
- b) The application period for the CCSE vacancies is closed. The candidate's applications are being reviewed by the DOE and we will keep you updated as developments become known.
- c) The District 75 EPIC Parent Conference will be held on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at P79M. This is always a great event and we hope that as many of you as possible can make it.

**6. District 75 Superintendents Report - Bonnie Brown**

- a) Progress Reports for District 75 are ongoing. Bonnie indicated that it was difficult to judge progress with our children and it was not as easy as initially thought.
- b) She meets with the Office of Portfolio Development weekly. She has been assured that everyone has equal rights in the buildings. The District is looking for additional space where we are already sited. We are going into new schools in Staten Island and Queens.
- c) The SCA is working with us and Tweed is honoring their commitment to us on space. The push is to have us occupy more integrated and less segregated buildings.
- d) We are still waiting on the Report from the Council on Great City Schools.
- e) Principal's yearly performance planning is ongoing.

- f) We are working with ISC and Budget and Finance so that the District can mitigate the budget cuts so that they have no impact on children in the District. However, the cuts will effect professional development.
- g) PBS Channel 13 did training to Tweed staff. 721R and 138M have full classrooms that utilize Assistive Technology.
- h) Applications to the Samuel Stern Awards are being accepted.
- i) The Best Practice Fair is on May 10<sup>th</sup> at P721Q.
- j) EPIC is scheduled for 4/5/08 at P79M.
- k) Special thanks to Community Mayors for their support.

**7. Review of Resolution No.4 - SLT**

Tom read Resolution No. 4 - SLT (see attachment) and made a motion. Ellen seconded the motion. All were in favor and voted to accept and pass Resolution No. 4 - SLT.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm