



## Citywide Council on Special Education

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### **07/15/2009 ANNUAL & CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at P721Q, 57-12 94<sup>th</sup> Street, Elmhurst, NY.

#### **1. Roll Call**

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

#### **2. Secretary's Report – Charles Henderson**

No Quorum: meeting minutes will be approved at August Calendar Meeting.

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

John informed the attendees that the CCSE does not currently exist due to the sunset of Mayoral Control. As the senators in Albany delay the signing of the law to continue Mayoral Control, Chancellor Klein has asked for the Community Education Councils and CCSE to continue to business until the elected officials sign the bill. John mentioned normally this is our first meeting for the year and the council would have its election of officers. CCSE does not have a quorum the election of officers will be tabled for the August Calendar Meeting.

Garth Harries issued his recommendations as well as requested feed back from the community. A copy of the recommendations is posted on the DOE web-site and parent feed back must be submitted not later than mid-August.

Currently in Albany there are bills (amendments) on the Assembly & Senate

floor that call for Citywide Councils for Special Education, Arts and ELL. In the case of CCSE (Dist 75) the council will represent all children with IEP's (including Gen. Ed Schools) throughout the city. Therefore if you do the numbers District 75 is out numbered 7 to 1 and that could be comprised of maybe 1 or 2 parents within D75 with representation in the near future. Also, there are term limits- elected parents will serve for two years and those who know us on the CCSE it takes longer to get acquainted and to become formulized with the inner workings of the DOE. If these changes within the bill strike a cord with you as it do us, please contact your senators. There seems to be misinformed and information of what D75 is comprised of and who it serves. It is up to the parents to inform Elected Officials of what is happening within the DOE when it comes to Special Education.

#### **4. Report of the Superintendent – Bonnie Brown**

Ms. Brown, Superintendent was not able to attend the meeting in her place Mr. Gary Hecth, Deputy Superintendent of Dist. 75 informed the council and attendees during the meeting of the following:

- o District 75 has completed the interview process for hiring Network Leaders. He explained the requirements, how they are a resource and support for principal and will newly hired Network Leaders will begin working in August.
- o Currently there are negotiations occurring between OTS & PTS and D75/DOE.
- o The Garth Harries Report: Garth worked very closely with dist 75 and is moving on to another position and his replacement will be Laura Rodriquez who has a background in Special Education, who is currently working with us at D75.
- o P721Q Name Change: Bonnie and I support the name change the paper work regarding the name change was approved and it will officially become the John F. Kennedy Jr. H.S.
- o Opening New programs and we have students on waiting lists; we have possible two thousand seats available and are being filled.

## **5. Public Comment on Proposed Name Change of P721Q to “The John F. Kennedy Jr. High School”**

Beth Rudolph, Principal of P721Q was introduced by Gary Hetch and asked to speak to the parents regarding the proposed name change. Ms. Rudolph read from a prepared speech:

The Kennedy Family has been the leading family in the world to attempt to have equal rights for the disabled. It started with Rose Kennedy who gave birth to a daughter with mental retardation. When her son Joe was killed in the war - she established the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation to open schools for children with mental retardation so that families would be assisted.

Here in NYC Kennedy Child Study Center started early intervention in the 1970's before it was even a trend... In 1961 when President Kennedy just beginning as President of the USA founded the President's Commission on Mental retardation. This was the first time a disability was recognized by any government. From there, people started to look at the MR differently. The first OTC opened shortly after that significant Federal moment.

The Kennedy's established the Special Olympics which is now an international event each year as you know and our district is involved in.

JFK, Jr. visited an OTC and also founded the Kennedy Fellows program through his organization reaching up. This Fellows program has funded paras in our OTC's and in the agencies that work with the OTC's like UCP, AHRC, YAI to give \$1000 a semester to a para studying to move up and become teachers, social workers, nurses, etc.

I believe that the dedication that the Kennedy family has given to our field is significant and I would like to have my school named after John F. Kennedy, Jr. as a tribute to the commitment that he had to be a change agent in the lives of the disabled and those who work with the disabled!

Meeting adjourned at 9pm