

Citywide Council on Special Education

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

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9/19/2007 Calendar Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly Calendar meeting of the Citywide Council on Special was held on Wednesday, September 19th, 2007 at 6:30pm at the Petrides Complex located at 715 Ocean Terrace Avenue, SI, NY. The meeting was attended by the following members:

1. Roll Call

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

2. Secretary's Report - Approval of Minutes dated 08/08/2007

At this time the Meeting Minutes were not drafted. Therefore, the Meeting Minutes would be approved at next month's meeting.

3. President's Report - John Englert

John had reported on a few issues:

- a. The CCSE has a new phone number. The number is (718) 752-7393. Please make note of it. We also will be meeting the 3rd Wednesday of the month unless we're observing a holiday such as Thanksgiving.
- b. John took part in the Mayor's Task Force on Parent Engagement in the summer. The efforts of the Task Force contributed to strengthening the involvement of the SLT's, PA/PTA's, PC's and CEC's between families and the DOED and resulted in the latest revision to the Chancellor's Regulation A-665 which is currently posted on the web for everyone's review.
- c. In addition to collaborating with the District and President's Council, we're also collaborating with the rest of the CEC's. Either John or a designee, meets with the rest of the CEC Presidents and discuss similar educational challenges

and policy concerns that effect the children. We realize that our influence would be more powerful if we worked on issues together. As the President of the CCSE, I'm happy to say that we have their support in any special education endeavors that are pursued throughout the City.

- d. The CEC Presidents and Officers met with the Chancellor in late August in an effort to include us as lead partners in community discussions about new policies. The Councils were encouraged to identify six (6) representatives to participate as members of the following internal workgroups:
 - i. Student Achievement
 - ii. Special Education Service
 - iii. Budget
 - iv. English Language Learner Service
 - v. Outreach / Training
 - vi. Facilities
- e. John also attended a CEC Executive Board Meeting on Monday, 9/19/07. There were presentations by:
 - Garth Harries – Chief Portfolio Officer
 - James Liebman – Chief Accountability Officer
 - Linda Wernikoff – Sr. Instructional Manager on Special Education InitiativesI have copies of the presentation for everyone to take.
- f. We also have copies of the Office of Family Engagement Structure, Borough Directors, etc...
- g. Members of the Council, as well as, other parent leaders have been meeting with the DOE to customize a survey for special education. I'm sure that our Superintendent, Bonnie Brown will talk more about the survey.

4. Superintendent's Report- Bonnie Brown

Key issues that Superintendent Bonnie Brown discussed included: space, staffing issues, support from TWEED, changes in placement officers, SEC: special education component-computer system, the influx of autism and the high number of students turning 5 with autism, D75 opened up 90 new classes to accommodate these students. Supt. Brown spoke about a lot of new initiatives and ways the curriculum is expanding: High School Advisory, Office of Transition, Office of Accountability and what's being used for the Alternate assessment. She discussed the Parent Surveys, the District Progress Report and she spoke about the 4 new schools that have been put on the dangerous list and how this happens. The state has its guidelines. D75 will be relying more on FBA/BIP's & other documentation to help support student's with aggressive and acting out behaviors. The State is a year behind regarding reporting data. She spoke about Portfolio's on students and the development of Incident Reduction Plans.

5. Report from the Office of Instruction and Accountability

Lorraine Boyhan presented more on the D75 progress report and the need to lessen the achievement gaps for our students. A special team was assigned by the Chancellor to learn more about D75. This district team will come out with a progress report by next September 2008. Some of their highlights will include the school environment, attendance, the parent survey, student performance, the cohort of schools, state assessment, NYSAA and the use of standardized tests (i.e. the Brigance) as a tool to measure our student's growth. Ms. Boyhan also discussed Quality Reviews and the Inquiry Team.

The District indicated that it would be a hard sell to have another District 75 school built in Staten Island because the State won't approve it. It was recommended that the parents should advocate if they feel there is a need for a self-contained building on Staten Island or other boroughs. Perhaps an invitation to Becky Cort to come speak to the parents and address our concerns would be in order.

The committees on special education (CSE) have been dismantled. The OSEPA will be handling new evaluations and students needing to go to more restrictive environments.

6. Resolutions

The following Resolutions were passed:

Resolution No. 1 – Hiring of AA

Resolution No. 2 – CEC President's Committee

Dr. Nancy Needle, Director of Support and External Partnerships has been invited to the October Calendar meeting which will be at the TWEED Courthouse in Manhattan

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm