



Citywide Council on Special Education

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12/16/2009 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at P.S. 811K: Connie Lekas School, 2525 Haring Street, Brooklyn, NY.

1. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes Dated 10/21/09 & 11/18/2009

Tom motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes. Diana seconded and all agreed to approve the Meeting Minutes for 10/21/09 & 11/18/09.

3. Report of the President – John Englert

- Last week the council attended PTA emergency meetings and wrote letters advocating for the PTA Presidents, Jessica Santos of 94M and Patricia Jewett of 33M and on behalf of the children of D75, regarding the relocation of their programs. We understand from the DOE the parents will have an opportunity to commit prior to the educational impact statement. However we are concerned about the process and validity of such a statement considering the deals that we know that has been cut by the principal and 94M Monday evening and the decision made by Klein & Walcott in their memo dated December 4th relocating the children to J47M to make additional room at the Clinton Middle School.

- We set up a meeting with Chancellor Klein and the public on January 7th and it's going to be held at Park West H.S. located at 50th Street. Flyers will be produced and sent out. We ask the parents to please make every effort to attend the meeting to receive the changes that are being made to the D75 programs to allow the expansion of charter schools.
- Last month the Purposed Capital Plan for 2010-2014 has been issued a hearing was held at our Court Square Office on Dec 2nd to get feed back from the public and to ask questions from the SCA we are working with the district office in attempt to identify the top priorities within the district so we can finalize our comments in time for the January 2010 deadline.
- Lastly I would like to wish everyone a happy holidays and new year.

4. Report of the Superintendent – Bonnie Brown

Bonnie mentioned that there have been meetings with her team and the office of portfolio and development regarding space:

- Bonnie mentioned the expansion of the Girls Prep Charter School to expand its middle school from 6th to 8th grade thus relocating District 75 program at P94 to a new location at Battery Park City.
- There is another proposal from the DOE to relocate 138M@PP33M to the School for the Deaf J47. Ms. Brown stated the relocation is not suitable for the children as the elevators need to be replaced/repared and are not in working condition. There is also air conditioning issues at the school.
- Potentially relocating 11 autistic classes over the next 2 years from PS176X@169X which D75 just moved into in September to a new school, Icahn Bronx North.

5. A Message from the NYC Public Advocate Elect-Bill de Blasio :

Thaline Tarpinian, of the Public Advocates Office thanked the council for inviting her to the calendar meeting. Thaline mentioned the Public Advocate Office has been in contact with the council to establish a working relationship. Currently the Public Advocate Appointee Application is available to those who want to serve on the CCSE and she urged the parents to review the application so they too can become advocates for the children of District 75.

6. Transition High School: Successful Programs at 811K and Job Training & Placement

Guest speakers: Fred Fields, Transition Coordinator, Fontessa Cole, Travel Training , Ferguson, Pupil Personal Liaison: I.E.P and Theresa McCalde, Culinary Program

The following represents a brief summary of what was discussed and provided to the public present:

The school has programs that introduce students how to become independent through travel training and prepares them with job skills after they graduate with their IEP diploma. The transition coordinators works in conjunction to establish what will interest the student in the selected work study program. The transition program has established relationships with community business: i.e. Home Depot, Duane Reade, educational institutions such as Long Island University as well as establishing the Culinary Program at 811K. The travel training program prepares students for independent travel to their destination (school to their job sites). Students become familiar with how to navigate the bus and train, alternative routes, schedule service as well as become familiar with the neighborhood.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm