



Citywide Council on Special Education

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3/18/2009 CALENDAR MEETING NOTES

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at P721M, Manhattan Occupational Training Center, 250 West Houston Street, Manhattan, New York.

1. Roll Call

Charlene Carroll-Hall	Present
John Englert	Present
Charles Henderson	Present
Diana Marenfeld	Present
Ellen McHugh	Present
Tom Ryan	Excused
Patricia Connelly	Excused
Gloria Gonslves	Absent

2. Secretary's Report – Charles Henderson

Approval for meeting minutes 1/21/09 and 2/11/2009
No Quorum-No official minutes to approve.

3. Report of the President – John Englert

- **Garth Harries Special Education Parent Advisory Meeting**, As a follow-up to our Public Meeting last month, we understand that Garth Harries will be attending the Special Education Parent Advisory Meeting on 3/25/09 chaired by Linda Wernikoff. In addition to meeting with D75's President's Council, we also understand that there will be meetings scheduled with CPAC and smaller meetings scheduled in Community School Districts in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island. As of this report, there hasn't been much outreach to Community School Districts. The CCSE has offered our assistance in the outreach effort and will keep you updated as more information becomes known.
- **Five Year Capital Plan**, The CCSE submitted the Priority Request for the NYC Department of Education Proposed 2010-2014 Five Year Capital Plan. We understand that there was a hearing today with the City Council. We have not received a response regarding the CCSE's

request to the Plan and will keep you updated when a response is received.

- **The Panel for Educational Policy**, (PEP) Meeting is scheduled for Monday, 3/23/09 at Tweed. I urge as many parents as possible to show up for this meeting. Though an Agenda for this meeting has not been published yet, we now understand that the DOE will be receiving a smaller amount of funds as a result of the economic stimulus plan because of the great number of Title I schools and funds NYC receives. We request that the Superintendent follow-up with the Chancellor on the allocation of these funds and make sure that D75 receives their fair share as we don't receive any Title I funds at all.
- **Parents Guide to Special Education**, As of this report, we have not received the revised copy of the Parents Guide to Special Education.
- **CEC President's meeting**, At last week's 3/12/09 CEC President's meeting, I informed the Chancellor that the recent Draft Consent to Release Information to Access Medicaid Reimbursement for Special Education Support Services issued by the OSI was wrong and continues this Administration's trend to take money and services away from the children who need it the most. Other examples of this was not providing C4E funds to D75, not providing LSO status to the District and the recent testimony that the Chancellor provided in Albany requesting relief from mandated programs because they cost too much. For what it's worth, the Chancellor indicated that I misunderstood the NCLB discussion at the last PEP Meeting and that D75 does fall within the guidelines; but, he wasn't sure about Assessment.
- **The NYS Assembly Committee on Education**, will be holding hearings in NYC about the governance of the NYC School District in Brooklyn on Friday, 3/20/09 at the NYC Technical College at 285 Jay Street. It is important that you attend as Cathy Nolan and the Committee wants to hear the issues that are facing special education under the current governance structure. This represents the last of the hearings that the NYS Assembly Committee on Education has scheduled. I've had the opportunity to speak with Cathy Nolan's Chief of Staff regarding issues that have taken place in the last month and I can assure you that she's committed to improving special education and parent involvement.
- **Parent Commission on School Governance and Mayoral Control**, Since the beginning of the school year, I have provided quick updates on the progress of the Parent Commission on School Governance and Mayoral Control. I am pleased to announce that the Parent Commission Report has been issued and is starting to gain momentum. The Parent Commission proposes a fundamental shift in the NYC school governance structure based upon democratic principles that fosters a partnership between the Mayor and the parents. The Parent Commission recommendations provide for the following:
 - a. A prominent role for school districts.

- b. Stronger parent input.
- c. An independent Board of Education and revised structure to assure access and transparency by the public.
- d. Representation for special education students and their parents at all levels.
- e. A commission to develop a Constitution for the NYC Public School System.

I urge everyone to visit the website at www.parentcommission.org and view the recommendations and the report.

- **Merryl Tisch**, Last but not least, we offer a special congratulations to one of our friends, Merryl Tisch. Merryl Tisch was chosen this week by the Board of Regents as the first woman to become New York state schools chancellor. We know that she will do a fabulous job as the NYS Schools Chancellor.

4. Report of the Superintendent – Bonnie Brown

Bonnie Brown, D75 Superintendent informed the parents the following:

- **Quality Review:** D75 schools are in the process of being evaluated, the reviewers are meeting with the parents, staff, students and PA/PTA/SLT to provide a rating for the school's report card.
- **Channel 13 Teaching and Learning:** Two Weeks ago D75 presented Sensory Scanning with Children with Autism for Channel 13 Teaching & Learning Program.
- D75 continues to work with their **University Partners at NYU Child Study Program.**
- **Sensory Input:** Formatted to teach students how to advocate for themselves. To inform others of what is happening within their surroundings (i.e. sound, smell, taste, and visual).

4A. Emma Barker-Grassroots Initiative

Ms. Barker of Grassroots Initiative purpose was to outreach to the CEC and parents to inform them about the CEC Candidate process, on-line access, deadline to register (midnight- 3/19/09) and the workshops. Flyers were provided to the parents to receive further information.

5. Summer Planning-Camps and Job Training:

Kyisha, Def Jam Workshop, DDJW/Summer Youth Employment Program. DDJW/Summer Youth Employment Program Serves as a City Summer Youth Site for youth with Special Needs to work during the summer. The program is

based out of Harlem and is a six week dance training and job readiness program in arts management. DDJW provides experience for the youth participants to:

- Teach, perform, choreograph and learn explore production and arts management.
- Participating children must be between the ages of 13-21 years old and must submit the Summer Youth Application to be considered.

Other Programs at DDWJ:

- DDJW Fellowship: provides scholarships and work experience to DDJW graduate who is about to enter college.
- DDJW Young Jammers Workshop: fosters principals of community, self-esteem, the workshop curriculum along with structure of different forms of dance and movement.

Christina Harris, Assistant Director, Ramapo for Children.

Ramapo for Children is a residential co-ed summer camp ages 6-16 with social, emotional and learning challenges. Ramapo for Children campers participate in experimental learning activities that promote essential character values, builds social competencies and enhances self-esteem in special need children. Ramapo for Children provides:

- One-to-one staff to child ratio
- Activities individualized to each child's ability
- A supportive atmosphere
- An average of six campers per group

Ramapo also offer to campers:

- Science Discovery Workshop
- Reading Enrichment Center
- Swimming
- Chess, Music, Drama, Dance, Arts and Craft and Ceramics
- Horse back riding, Canoeing, Kayaking and Boating.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm