

Citywide Council on Special Education

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

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1/06/10 WORKING MEETING MINUTES

The Working Calendar Meeting of the Citywide Council on Special Education was held on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 6:00pm at 45-18 Court Square, Long Island City, NY 11101. The following people were in attendance.

1. Roll Call

- Charlene Carroll-Hall Present
- John Englert Present
- Charles Henderson Present
- Diana Marenfeld Present
- Ellen McHugh Present
- Tom Ryan, Jr. Present
- Gloria Gonsalves Present
- Able Alagbe Absent

2. Consideration of Agenda and Time Allocations

The time allocations as noted on the Agenda were found to be acceptable.

3. Appointed Timekeeper

Charlene Carroll-Hall

4. Approval of 11/04/09 Meeting Minutes

Tom made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Ellen 2nd and all are in favor for approval of meeting minutes.

5. Discussion with Laura Rodriguez, Chief Achievement Officer & Staff

Ms. Rodriguez introduced her staff in attendance; Mary Kate O'Neal, Chief of Staff; Steven Albert, Senior School Improvement officer; Lynn Kandrac, Director of Teaching and Learning Office of Special Education.

Laura mentioned Dov Rokeach, Deputy Chief Achievement Officer has retired as of December 31st and her office is in the process of looking for a replacement.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide the council with updates, their findings as well as input from the council. Ms. Rodriguez mentioned that she and her team have met with constituents; all who were part of the Garth Harries recommendations report. Ms. Rodriguez attended the Ms. Brown, D75 Superintendent Principal's Meeting (December) questions regarding what are the Sp. Ed. reforms as well as will D75 be dismantled. The council was informed in the Sp Ed reform that is a product of the Garth Harries recommendations there are no intentions to dismantle and do away with D75. As she and her team work on developing a plan for improvement/reform of sp ed, they know that there is a lot of expertise in the low incidents/high needs categories students who attend D75 programs. Some happen in community schools and some in self contained buildings and in the spirit in the Harries recommendations they understand that parents and students need more options.

Laura recognizes that the autism population is growing in numbers and the need to address support for students with autism. On January 14th her team will join with Superintendent Brown and her team on how d75 has worked with students with autism: who the experts are what expertise is in the system and focus on how we can expand such programs.

6. Update on 2010 Calendar Schedule & Topic

There were changes in the 2010 Calendar Schedule:

January 20th Calendar Meeting will be held at the Tweed Courthouse
February 10th has been changed to February 24th due to Winter Recess, PS 811Q: Queens High School of Teaching: Queens
March 17th has been changed to March 10th, P138M@J47M: Manhattan

7. Review/Discussion on Annual Report

Table for next week

8. New Business

I. CCSE Comments to the 5 Year Capital Plan 2010-2014

John is reviewing and identifying health violations, accessibility issues and health & safety; notably absent on the list was school P94M.

II. Review of Alternate Dates/Agenda from OFEA regarding Chancellor's Meeting

OFEA has not provided the council with an alternative date to meet with the Chancellor.

III. Candidates for Public Advocate Appointees

The council & Public Advocates Office have received two applications for the Public Advocate appointee position on the CCSE. CCSE is waiting for the Public Advocate Office to inform them of when the process to began.

IV. Other

Diana suggested that the council review the by-laws in the next working session.

John informed the council that the Chancellors purposed Regulations D-150 as written will reserve two(2) seats on the CCSE for District 75. The PEP will vote this month on the changes.

The CCSE has made the following recommendations with regards to Chancellor's Regulations D-150:

1. The present members of the CCSE were under the impression that when they were voted onto the council, during this last election, they would serve two years. The council recommended the present members serve out their term. Any vacancies will be filled with parents with IEP's.
2. Purposed Reg. D-150 calls for a CCSE to be made up of parents of children with IEP's from the Community Districts and only grantees two seats for D75 parents. The CCSE feels this is unfair to the parents and students of D75 as all the other CEC's are made up of parents from each respective CEC except D75. The council recommends a new CEC be for D75 which consists of parents from D75.
3. The council also recommends that the new CCSE work in conjunction with all the CEC's as we as the New CEC for D75.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm