Citywide Education Council

CEC District 75 Special Education

CITYWIDE DISTRICT 75 COUNCIL

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MINUTES
CALENDAR MEETING

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, **February 15, 2012** at 6:00 pm at P723X@P218X,1220 Gerard Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452. The following people were in attendance.

Calendar Meeting:
*Note: Mr. Williams, President called the Calendar Meeting to order.
Call to Order at 6:30 PM the Calendar Agenda

1. **Roll Call**

Able Alagbe	Present
Charlene Carroll-Hall	Present
Maureen Dantzler	Excused
Diamaris Magarin	Present
Gloria Ann Smith	Excused
Alicia Valeus	Present
Joseph Williams	Present
Marion R. Lopez	Present
Allison Bridges-Matthews	Resigned

Joe Williams, President of the CD75C began the meeting by welcoming the attendees to the District 75 February Calendar Meeting. Mr. Williams mentioned coming to the Bronx is like coming home and thank the Principal of the School Ms. Walsh for hosting the council.

Christine Walsh, Principal of 723X welcomed the attendees to P723X@P218X. She thanked the council for all of their support they have given her school as well as all of the schools in D75. She thanked Gary Hecht for his ongoing support and welcomed Laura Rodriquez. She appreciated and thanked the council for coming tonight.

Mr. Williams continued D75 council has been paying very close attention to the teacher's evaluation. The council will present the District 75 teacher's evaluation resolution. Ms. Lopez read the following:

Resolution #23- Citywide District 75 Council-Teachers Evaluation Resolution

WHEREAS, As part of the federal Race to The Top Funds, the State of New York is mandating a complete overhaul of its teacher evaluation procedures, which will determine how teachers are paid, promoted, trained and fired.
WHEREAS, Appropriate parameters based on individualized gains should be established to evaluate teachers of students with special needs.
WHEREAS, A comprehensive education system should respond to the distinct educational needs of students with disabilities, English Language Learners (ELLs), and improves access to high-quality instruction for all students.
WHEREAS, Parents, communities, and students should be afforded the opportunity to voice their concerns and provide their input on the teacher evaluation system as it develops.
WHEREAS, Data collected from parent and teacher surveys on school environment, climate, and other non-pedagogical aspects of teaching should be considered within the 60% being determined by the district.
WHEREAS, State test scores should not account for more than 20-25 percent of teachers' rating, as contemplated by state law.

WHEREAS, Concerns have been raised by The National Academies' Board on Testing and Assessment (BOTA) concerning value added models and proposals that have not been adequately studied for the purpose of evaluating teachers. This peer-reviewed analysis should be carefully analyzed by the Governor and Legislature before determining policies critical to the future of our children.
WHEREAS, Race to The Top stresses the importance of parent involvement in the development of the evaluation system, parents should be included in the development of such a system.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Citywide District 75 Council will work in conjunction with the Department of Education, District 75 Leadership, teachers, and other groups to ensure parents' voices are heard.

Joe mentioned, at this time we don't have a quorum so I will table that. Tonight we have a very special guest someone that just her presences lights up a room Ms. Laura Rodriquez, who's the Deputy Chancellor of Deputy Chancellor, Division of Students with Disabilities & English Language Learners.

2. **Report of the Superintendent: Gary Hecht**
Mr. Hecht welcomed the attendee and thanked them for attending. Mr. Hecht continued by informing the council that in September P240X: Resettlement School servicing K through 12 (new school). Resettlement is a community based program in the Bronx and the program will provided support to families and students as well as swimming services.

Mr. Hecht mentioned that he's been visiting schools speaking to related service providers and parents. Mr. Hecht emphasized as teachers are being held accountable for instruction in the classroom he is holding related service providers accountable for the service they provide to the students. It's the services provider's responsibilities to meet with the parent to inform them about the students accomplishments, when a student plateau at a certain age and what step will be taken. Mr. Hecht received calls from parents regarding their children who graduated and are over 21. Agencies have denied service to their child because the student has received abundance services at D75 until he/she graduated. The student at the age of 21 the agency will deny services because it was provided to them. Mr. Hecht has reinsured the parents that in district 75 were not here to dictate if the student should or shouldn't receive the services. We're here to assess by evaluation the student's performance and needs then make that determination.

Mr. Hecht continued to inform the attendees there are messages floating around that services are going to be cut and service will not be receive. He wanted to make it very clear that children in district 75 that require services we will provide those services. We will continue to assess student's performance and review with the parents the services provided to them.

The common core learning standards there is an expectation that schools will provided various information on the common core learning standards are for all students. It does not matter what kind of disability the student may have we still have higher standards for our students. The schools will provide to the parents and guardians information on common core learning, the expectations and how they can support the school. We will also meet with the principals and talk about the expectations of the chancellor and providing information to the parents.
There are a lot of good things that are happening within the district. We don't have a student wait list and I want to thank publicly the office of portfolio who is working closely with us to secure space for students. There are many challenges and I thank all of you for your support that you give me.

3. **Jesse Mojica, Executive Director Division of Family and Community Engagement**
Jesse Mojica informed the council he was unable to attend the meeting.

4. **Ruben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President**
Mr. Diaz, was unable to attend, his replacement did not attend.

5. **Laura Rodriguez, Deputy Chancellor, Division of Students with Disabilities & English Language Learners, NYC Department of Education.**
Ms. Rodriquez informed the attendees it's great to be here back in the Bronx. She spent many years teaching and her leadership within the Bronx. She is proud of the schools and children in the district 75

programs. Four district 75 high schools were selected to participate in the I-zone initiative on based on their visions for personalizing learning. I-Zone can support this vision and schools can let them take the capacity for leading this change. There is a lot of innovation going on in this initiative called the I-zone initiative. It allows students and the schools to work with technology and innovated strategies in practical ways. District 75 schools chosen are the Hospital schools, 335M, 753BK and 53BK. We should applaud the schools and the children for their leadership and I think this is really good. She suggested that Mr. Hecht should come back and talk about the progress, the participation of the schools and this initiative.

Ms. Rodriquez mentioned as we continued to focus on special education throughout the city (special education reform) one of the things I have noted is increase collaboration between the principal, the school staff in the general education schools were district 75 schools are co-locate. Over the past two and half years more evidence of inclusiveness in schools where district 75 is co-located are moving towards collaboration. The principals are working to govern the building and to maximize the use of resources. This benefits all the children in the building and it increases opportunity for diversity. Since July 2009 the reason I came to the central team to join the cabinet and the reason why a position was established was to focus on enclosing the achievement gap for all students with disabilities. That means the range of opportunities we need to create to ensure that many more students with disabilities are successful in school, get to high school, graduate; as well as have opportunities for college successful independent living and employment. The range of all of those opportunities has been something that I have been involved in. District 75 has a lot of expertise and it offers a lot expertise within the co-located schools and throughout the system. At the same time we have worked very hard to ensure that opportunities such as the I-Zone, such as the pilots for teachers effectiveness something that you were addressing in the beginning connects to that. The children in the schools, in this district, in these programs participate the same way all other networks and programs do. I've seen an increase in the successful participation of district 75. I think that comes from creating our division of students with disabilities. Students of district 75 are a very important component of it and Gary Hecht the superintendent is a member of my leadership team. All the decisions made on behalf of students with disabilities involved the voices of those who represent district 75 at many different levels. I expect to continue seeing more opportunities for students with disabilities including students who are in co-locations within district 75 programs. Where there is a diversity of students in the building where you're located; were always pushing to ensure that we give as many opportunities for students to be successful at school. Too support the student so they can get to high school, college and beyond.

The other change that I have witnessed recently is the family advocacy office headed by someone who actually comes from the Bronx Jesse Mojica, Deputy Chancellor who sits on the cabinet with us. Were working very closely with them to increase parental involvement opportunities to really create understanding about students with disabilities, that diversity is a good thing and having a disability is not a negative. We expect the students to achieve and part of achieving means that all the educators' special education and general education teachers need to learn to work together. We should use all the expertise within a school community so the children can succeed. I hope this process of greater and continued parental involvement and strengthening of the council. I supported district 75 parent council when there was a change in the legislation. That was a kind of a tough decision because on the one hand if we want to be part of that continuum we also have a citywide council for special education but because were still evolving and creating more understanding about students with disabilities it was important to keep this council. Joe thank you for your leadership as well as everyone here for all the time that you put in to bring us together.

Ms. Rodriquez continued, there are 59 networks in addition to the four networks of schools in district 75, and in these 59 networks, plus the 4 networks I scheduled in March to meet with them. I'm meeting with all of the principals within the 59 networks across the city including Dr. Lauren Katzman, Andrew Hollander and other members of the central team. We will to continue to have face to face interactions with school leaders and school staff about what to expect in the special education reform. That means we will emphasize that we expect students with disabilities to have access, equity and to achieve. Whatever that takes in each school community one by one that's the work were engaged in and the work ahead of us. Today was session number 16; I have spoken directly and have been involved in all but 2 of them (350 principals). Ms. Rodriquez attended a program called LEAP and that session today was focused on students with disabilities. In attendance were 75 teachers, guidance counselors, assistant principals, and other staff that want to become principals. Ms. Rodriquez mentioned for future

principals it's very important that we send the right expectations out for those who are developing to become the future leaders.

6. **Report of the Secretary: Approval of Calendar & Working Meeting Minutes-January 18, 2012, February 1,2012**
   The meeting minutes were originally tabled.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm