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, June 21, 2012 at 6:00 pm at 400 First Avenue, New York, NY 10010. The following people were in attendance.

*Note: Mr. Williams, President called the Calendar Meeting to order. Call to Order at 6:10 PM

1. **Roll Call**

Able Alagbe	Present
Charlene Carroll-Hall	Present
Maureen Dantzler	Present
Diamaris Magarin	Present
Gloria Ann Smith	Present
Alicia Valeus	Present
Joseph Williams	Present
Aliya Rasool	Present

2. **Appointment of Time Keeper**
Charlene Carroll-Hall, Council Member

3. **Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes**
Joe Williams called a motion to accept the following Meeting minutes (see below):
Feb. 1st –Working and Feb. 15- Calendar council decided they would like the minutes to be revised. A vote on the Feb. Working and Calendar Minutes are tabled until the next calendar meeting-July. Charlene Carroll-Hall called a motion to table the working and calendar meeting minutes, Gloria Smith seconded and all were in favor.
March 7th Working: Maureen Dantzler called a motion to accept the meeting minutes, Charlene Carroll-Hall seconded and all were in favor.
March 21st Calendar Minutes: Charlene Carroll-Hall called a motion to accept he meeting minutes, Maureen Dantzler seconded and all were in favor.
April 4 Working Minutes: Diamaris Magarin called a motion to accept the meeting minutes, Charlene Carroll-Hall second the motion and all were in favor.
May 16th Calendar Minutes: Maureen Dantzler called a motion to accept the meeting minutes, Ayiasa Rasool seconded the motion and all were in favor.
June 6th Working Minutes: Gloria Smith called a motion to accept the minutes and Maureen Dantzler, second and all were in favor.

4. **Report of the President-Joe Williams**
Welcome to the District 75 June 21st Calendar Meeting, the last meeting of the 2011-2012 School Year. I would like to thank the council members for their time and dedication, and to remind you the work you do is very important, the time you volunteer to give a voice to those that are not able to speak for themselves, is a very noble cause. As President of the Citywide District 75 Council on behalf of the parents and the children's of District 75 I say thank you.
The Council's number one objective this year was to increase parent participation within their school Community... that objective was met, in conjunction with president council and the District Office there was an increased of PTA & SLT participation within the District 75 School by more than 50%. I have been a member of the Citywide District 75 Council for the past three years and for the first time the council has received calls from General Education Schools, Charter Schools, Private Schools, City and State Agencies as well as an increase of parent outreach to the council requesting our assistance in providing information on various issues, advocating for parents, help find a positive

solution to a situation brought before us. As parents try to navigate and learn about an ever changing system we have made it one of our priorities to help them find a resolution. Finally! Everyone is realizing the great work...the hard work being done within District 75. Now that the spot light is on District 75 it places even a great responsibility on the council, which we individually and collectively do not take lightly. We will continue to work hard for our children... yes! All children who attend a D75 school or program are considered our children. I will continue to ask the parents, as I did in the beginning of the school year to support us by attending our monthly meetings, let us know how doing were. But most of all attend the meetings and the events that are held at District 75 main office and your child's school; join your PTA & SLT... don't ever think your presences is not needed and welcomed. Call us at the office... were here to represent and help you or call to say hello. As this school year comes to an end we look forward to the challenges of the new school year and we welcome and look forward to seeing you next year!

5. **Reading of Resolution and Vote for New Applicants of the Citywide District 75 Council**
Joe Williams informed the attendees, the council has three vacancies on the council and we will read the Resolution and Vote.
Mr. Williams called a motion for the Resolution to be read and for a voted:
Charlene Carroll-Hall read Resolution #22 Citywide District 75 Council Filling a Vacancy K. Oke
Charlene seconded – vote
In Favor total 4, Abstain total 2 and two members were absent during the vote.

Mr. Williams called a motion for the Resolution to be read and for a voted:
Diamaris Magarin read Resolution #23 Citywide District 75 Council Filling a Vacancy A. Dunlap
In Favor total 4, Abstain total 2 and two members were absent during the vote.

Mr. Williams called a motion for the Resolution to be read and for a voted:
Charlene Carroll-Hall read Resolution #23 Citywide District 75 Council Filling a Vacancy P. Bordes
In Favor total 5, Abstain total 1 and two members were absent during the vote.

6. **Reading of the End of the Year Report- 2011-2012**
Note: Please see attached

7. **Report of the Superintendent : Gary Hecht**
Gary Hecht welcomed the council, parents and Deputy Chancellor Laura Rodriquez to the meeting. He informed the attendees during the month of June the following items have taken place within District 75 (There are changes within D75 school organization):
   - P53K will relocate into a new building (co-located) located at Spring Creek.
   - 373R four classes located in two different buildings and will be moving into existing space within 373R.
   - 140K originally 518 called Kappa they are relocating into a new building located within 258K (DeKalb Avenue).
   - 10X will relocate into a new building located within X240 (k-5). Programs established within the building will work with parents and students after school, there is an Olympic size swimming pool for students to use and mental health agencies will be located in the building.
   - P9Q Temple Annex will relocate into a new building located at P287Q.

During the EPIC Conference in May there were over 300 parents and 175 students were in attendance. Thank you to the council for attending and informing parents about the event. It gave us all the opportunity to engage parents and students during the conference.

New Principals:
   - 754X the principal will retire next week. Completion of the Level 2 process for the new applicant has taken place and we are waiting to hear from Human Resource (July 1).
   - P721X the principal will retire. Completion of the Level 2 process, selection process and approval of Frank DeGeronimo as the new principal of P721X.
   - 811X the principal will transfer into a new position with Teacher and Effectiveness. She will continue to work with D75. We will undergo the Level 2 process next week with a selection of principals next Tuesday.
   - 17X the principal will retire at the end of August. We will undergo the Level 2 process next week with a selection of principals next Tuesday.

This summer D75 will provided professional development to our principals and assistant principals.

Graduations:

Chancellor Walcott attended the graduations at 79M and 176X. It was a delight to have him in attendance during the graduations. During the ceremony the students at 176X are part a Big Band and they performed by using their I-pads.

One of our students from 25R while attending had many issues to overcome including being bullied. In September he will be attending School of Visual Arts receiving a four year scholarship.

We have a student who attended our vision program and he too had many issues to overcome. Our vision unit worked closely with him to help him improve his academics. He had a performance at Carnegie Hall playing the piano.

We provided services to a general education student who will be attending Harvard in September.

Many of our students who have graduated are participating in gaining employment. Mr. Hecht received a call from the hospital's director of the pharmacy department who would like to expand their hiring connection with D75. The director requested to hire another alternate assessment student to work at the hospital.

Chapter 683:

Chapter 683 is a 32 day program for D75 students. It will start on July 5th until August 14th and all of our programs are preparing for the instructional program, services will be provided and we will continue to focus on the citywide expectations (Common Core Learning Standards and the Teacher Effectiveness).

Gary Hecht closed that it's been a good year for D75 and he thanked the council and was honored to work with Deputy Chancellor, Ms. Laura Rodriquez.

8. **Award Ceremony**

Mr. Williams stated tonight is a special night and Ms. Rodriquez has worked very close with my family; this is part of the agenda he was looking forward too. Mr. Williams asked for Tom Ryan, previous Council President who worked very closely with Ms. Rodriquez to read his presentation and inscription on the plaque.

Tom read the following; Laura is retiring as the Deputy Chancellor of Special Education and English Language Learner. One of the things Laura did was to spearhead the citywide special education reform which result with more students disabilities being educated alongside with their peers in general education. Garth Harries met with parent leaders, advocates including this one (when it was CCSE) regarding the recommendations on special education reform. One of the recommendations we made to Garth was to ask the Chancellor to appoint a Deputy to be in charge of special education. Chancellor Klein made a very wise decision to appoint Laura to the position. Laura also worked very closely with this council when the state legislature revisited Mayoral Control. When the CCSE was redefined D75 was in danger of losing its voice. Laura convinced the Chancellor to create a D75Council which is something that I am eternally grateful for. As we all know Laura will be retiring this year and will be missed. Tom read the inscription: Deputy Chancellor, Division of Students with Disability & English Language Learners, New York City Department of Education; in recognition for your many years of service to the children of District 75. Citywide District 75 Council, June 2012.

Ms. Rodriquez, thanked the council and said that it has been an emotional time, she is deeply touched by all and the work we did together. There are two decisions I made that were good ones. One was to appoint Gary Hecht, not only is he respectful, he is respected, his leadership, his expertise and his knowledge is recognized. We who are advocating for our children when we are not respected it's much harder to advocate for the children. It's very important who our teachers are, who our leaders are, who are our parents are and who our children are. We are trying to promote recognition of the children, of their talent, and yes recognition of their needs and supports. It's about the rigor in the curriculum and recognition of higher expectations. When Gary talks about network participating and teacher effectiveness; I can find those discussions that the teachers and the network leaders in D75 are looked up to as a model. Gary and his network are in the forefront and advocating for our teachers and students. That is one decision I can look back on and say that was a very good decision.

When I was asked directly should D75 Council exist or be integrated into a larger council. The right thing to do was to have a council for district 75 where there would be a larger voice. I am so encourage by your work and your report that you shared it doesn't mean things are perfect and rosy but we are making significant progress. It's very important that the council has a voice and that the council is recognized in so many levels. So that is the two decisions that I am very proud of and I thank you very much.

Joe Williams continued with the ceremony by introducing the previous council members:
Tom Ryan, Jr. and John Englert, previous Presidents; Charlene Carroll-Hall read the inscription: For your years of service on the Citywide Council on Special Education & the Citywide District 75 Council. Thank you for your dedication to the children of District, Citywide District 75 Council, June 2011. Joe Williams introduced Gloria Gonsalves and Charles Henderson previous Council Member and read their inscription: For your years of service on the Citywide Council on Special Education & the Citywide District 75 Council. Thank you for your dedication to the children of District 75.Citywide District 75 Council, June 2011. Diana Marenfeld was unable to attend.

The council thanked the previous council member for their hard work and service on the council.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm