



## Citywide District 75 Council

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### 08/18/2010 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, August 18, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at Tweed Courthouse, 52 Chambers Street, Manhattan, NY.

#### 1. Roll Call

<b>Able Alagbe</b> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP; Queens Representative	Present
<b>Charlene Carroll-Hall</b> , 1 <sup>st</sup> VP; Queens Representative	Excused
<b>Gloria Gonsalves</b> , Council Member; Manhattan Representative	Present
<b>Diana Marenfeld</b> , Council Member; Brooklyn Representative	Present
<b>Tom Ryan, Jr.</b> , President; Queens Representative	Present
<b>Jessica Santos</b> , Secretary; Manhattan Representative	Present
<b>Tywana B. Sharpe</b> , Council Member; Manhattan Representative	Absent
<b>Joe Williams</b> , Public Advocate Appointee; Queens Representative	Present

#### 2. Secretary's Report

A motion to accept the Meeting Minutes dated 7/21/2010 by Thomas Ryan, Jr. Jessica Santos motion to accept the minutes and Joe Williams, second and all were in favor.

#### 3. Vote: Passing Citywide District 75 Council By-Laws

A motion was made to accept the CD75C By-Laws with revisions during the Working Meeting to Section 4. Duties of Officers; 4.1 President (second paragraph) by Thomas F. Ryan, Jr. Jessica motioned to accept the minutes and Able Alagbe 2<sup>nd</sup> and all were in favor.

#### 4. Vote: Filling Vacant Secretary Seat

Joe Williams nominated Jessica Santos for the position of Secretary, no other nominations was made. A motion was made to fill the CD75C Vacant Secretary Seat by Thomas F. Ryan, Jr.; Diana Marenfeld motioned to elect Jessica Santos, Able Alagbe 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all were in favor.

## **5. Report of the President**

For anyone who does not already know, the first day of school will be Wednesday, September 8, 2010. The following two days, September 9<sup>TH</sup> & 10<sup>TH</sup>, schools will be closed for Rosh Hashanah. School will reopen on September 13.

The Girls Prep Charter School expansion, which would have displaced some of the students at P94M (a D75 School it shares space with at P188M), seems have been placed on hold.

The Chancellor has backed off an earlier decision to invoke his emergency powers which would have permitted the expansion of Girls Prep Charter to continue. By taking such action, the Chancellor would have been ignoring an earlier decision made by the State Education Commissioner, to halt any expansion of Girls Prep.

It seems that public pressure applied by local elected officials worked. On Monday, August 9, 2010 Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer hosted a Press Conference at One Center Street, across from the DOE headquarters at Tweed Courthouse, to comment on the Chancellor's decision to invoke his emergency power. Assembly Speaker Silver, State Senator Squadron, Borough President Stringer, Public Advocate Bill De Blasio, City Council Member Mendez, representatives from the CECs, CCSE and this Council roundly criticized the Chancellor's decision to invoke emergency power.

The media is now reporting that the Chancellor has backed off his decision and expansion of Girls Prep has halted.

Special thanks to Advocates for Children for filing the original complaints on behalf of two parents at P94M Jessica Santos and Linda Melendez.

This Council would also like to thank Jessica Santos and Linda Melendez for their courage and persistence to make sure the right thing was done on behalf of the children at P94. Jessica is a member of this council both are perfect examples of the type of parents the Councils needs to be successful going forward.

There will be an increase in the number of Charter Schools across the state and city. As these Charters are created, they will be taking space away from and possibly displacing an existing school. More and more it seems as though D75 schools are the target. There have been complaints regarding the fairness and sensitivity of the process, proper notifications and the DOE's inability to follow the process itself. It remains to be seen what will happen going forward and who will be affected. I urge the parents of D75 to be extra vigilant. In the event such an occurrence takes place, in your child's school, it is important for parents to organize and create a strong collective voice to prevent such displacements. It is also important to make sure this Council is aware of the issue so we can support you.

It has come to our attention that there are a number of busing issues this summer. The Council has secured Matt Berlin, Director of OPT to speak at the September 22 Calendar Meeting to be held here at Tweed. It is also my pleasure to announce that the New CCSE will be co-hosting the meeting along with us. This, I'm sure is

the beginning of a productive and positive relationship between both councils going forward. If you have any busing issues and OPT is not solving your problem, please come to next month's meeting to voice your displeasure. The squeaky wheel gets the grease and hopefully we can effect a change.

Deputy Chancellor, Laura Rodriguez spoke at this month's CCSE meeting. She spoke generally about the DOE's two year special education plan. As there are many questions regarding the specifics of the plan, Deputy Chancellor Rodriguez has promised to supply the CCSE with written materials for review. As the CD75 Council is very interested in this issue, a representative from this council will be present at the CCSE calendar meeting as well. We will keep you informed on the plan as we learn specifics.

This concludes the President's Report for August, 2010.  
Prepared and Presented by Thomas F. Ryan, Jr. President

## **6. Report of the Superintendent**

Gary Hecht provided a list of the programs that D75 will be opening in September 2010 as follows: 94M@276 Battery Park, 256@Beach Channel HS, 233@Metropolitan HS, 176X@169X, 176X@834X, 188X@Mott Haven HS, 138M@114M, 370K@163K, 752Q@GatewayHS, 723X@333X, 186X@140X, 226M@368M.

The Majority of the classes will service students with alternative assessments. There are a very few programs that are opening up with standardize assessments, the majority of D75 referrals are students with alternative assessments and Mr. Hecht is happy to announce that every student has been referred to D75 this year has a seat.

At D75 Chapter 683 has ended with an attendance (round figures) of 10,900 students and began with 15,000 students. The numbers have shifted due to family personal decisions.

Mr. Hecht mentioned a great thing has happened to D75, they won the I3 Grant with 1,700 applicants nationwide and D75 was number 4 out of the 49 applications chosen by Washington, DC. It's a 4.6 Million Dollar grant that integrates art into instructional activities, content to area, working with alternate assessment in elementary. Providing to elementary students for the duration of the 4 to 5 years; the opportunity to engage communication, socialization and academic skills. The grant indicates that D75 must have a donor attached to the program to provide 20% towards the 4.6 Million. The district is currently in talks with 2 foundations that are showing interest of working with the district regarding this project. 10 schools will be involved but the district has not chosen which program as of yet.

## **7. Deputy Chancellor Marc Sternberg, Division of Portfolio**

Mark Sternberg introduced himself and he has been in his position for a few weeks as the Deputy Chancellor for Portfolio Planning, he also introduced his colleague Elizabeth Rose. Our work seeks to answer one central question, "Are our schools serving our students well?" and when the answer to that is "no" for what ever reason; we seek to pull and number of policy advisers to address it. Whether it's to phase out schools, add additional funding to schools to improve, co-locating

schools, or redistricting/rezoning schools so they better serve the needs we identify.

Prior to his role as the Deputy Chancellor of Portfolio Mr. Sternberg he conclude a year in Washington, D.C. working with Secretary Duncan on "Race To The Top" , before that was a teacher in the Bronx and became a Principal at the Bronx Lab School on the Evander Campus. Mr. Sternberg mentioned the work of Chris Martin Principal of D75 School and the collaboration they both shared. His exposure in working with Principal Martin and the students at D75 has provided him with an understanding of the needs to service the students well.

Mr. Sternberg commented, "This ruling from the commissioner has important implications for your work, before we heard from the commissioner I was given my work with D75 historically I was interested in the right way for portfolio to work with Gary Hecht, D75 Superintendent and his team I think we have a clear mandate to piece in that devolvement think about what the partnership looks like. We are eager to work with Gary and Laura to make thoughtful decisions about ever student in the city including D75 students. As we parch though what this ruling means for through a legal perspective I think we feel a clear and shared mandate to collaborate and coordinate our work and answer the same questions for D75 that we answer for ever for ever other student in the city.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm