



Citywide District 75 Council

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12/15/2010 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at John F. Kennedy Jr. (P721Q), 57-12 94th Street, Queens, NY.

1. Roll Call

Able Alagbe , 2 nd VP; Queens Representative	Absent
Charlene Carroll-Hall , 1 st VP; Queens Representative	Present
Gloria Gonsalves , Council Member; Manhattan Representative	Present
Diana Marenfeld , Council Member; Brooklyn Representative	Present
Tom Ryan, Jr. , President; Queens Representative	Present
Jessica Santos , Secretary; Manhattan Representative	Excused
Joe Williams , Public Advocate Appointee; Queens Representative	Present
Dixon Destuch , Public Advocate Appointee; Manhattan Representative	Excused
Gloria Smith , Council Member; Brooklyn Representative	Absent
Berangere Pierre-Louis , Council Member; Brooklyn Representative	Absent

2. Secretary's Report: Approval of Meeting Minutes 9/22, 10/6 & 10/20/10

A motion to accept the meeting minutes dated 9/22 was made by Thomas F. Ryan, Jr., Joe Williams motion to accept the meeting minutes, Diana Marenfeld second and all were in favor. A motion to accept the meeting minutes dated 10/6 was made by Thomas F. Ryan, Jr., Diana Marenfeld made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, Charlene Carroll-Hall second and all were in favor. A motion to accept the meeting minutes dated 10/20 was made by Thomas F. Ryan, Jr., Jessica Santos motion to accept the meeting minutes and Charlene Carroll- Hall second and all were in favor.

3. Report of the President

Ms. Cathie Black, Chancellor and Shael Suransky, Chief Deputy Chancellor, Academic Officer have been officially confirmed in their positions within the NYC Department of Education.

The council has received the Notice of Education Impact statement for the Proposed Temporary Co-location of the following schools that house District 75 programs two high schools in Queens, NY P233Q and P56Q. A Public Hearing will be held on February 3, 2011 at 6 pm located at Beach Channel High School, 167-01 Gothic Drive Rockaway Park, NY.

Christopher Columbus High School in the Bronx houses a District 75 Program p10X

Kappa II in Manhattan house one District 75 Program 138M will not be affected and will remain open. The Public Hearing will be held on January 11, 2011 at 6 pm location 144-176 East 128th Street, Manhattan, NY. The District 75 Programs mentioned will not be affected and will remain at their current sites/locations. The PEP will vote on February 1st at Brooklyn Tech High School.

The council was informed that Metropolitan Corporate Academy, that houses a District 75 program/administration office at P733K. The space will be effect and we will leave that to Gary Hecht, Superintendent of District 75 to provide us with further information.

The CD75C meet with the School Construction Authority two weeks ago to discuss the Five Year Capital Plan. The council is in the process of correlating all of the outstanding issues from the District 75 Principals and we will be sending the responses to the SCA the end of the month.

We have invited as guest speakers Leonie Haimson of Class Size Matters and Margaret Howell of Queens Community College Financial Aide Department. After their presentation I would ask if the parents would remain at the meeting. The council has formatted a District 75 Busing Survey regarding OPT. We, the council would like to hear from the parents suggestions and questions that you would like to see added to the survey. The survey will be provided/ distribute to the by the end of January 2011.

4. Report of the Superintendent

Gary Hecht mentioned for the holidays the volunteers of Operation Santa provided for the students of District 75 Gifts. The children were happy to receive their gifts and Gary mentioned how wonderful it was to experience that with the children.

Gary also informed the council that P753K at Metropolitan Cooperate High School will not be affected and will remain. Hopefully a lot of these changes will allow for greater integration and communication of our students. Many of the schools that are closing we had limited integration with our students. We are hoping that at Beach Channel High School which a big program and building we will be able to have that integration as new schools come in.

There is a new pilot program for special education IEP's called SESIS: Special Education Informational Services that provided online access. It was approved by the State Education Department and school staff will be trained on how to access and use the new program. We will accommodate parents with online access and those without access we will provide a hard copy of the IEP for them.

The Special Education Reform within the DOE we are finding general education principals are reaching out to our District 75 Principal for their input and are looking at our best practices.

Were working with OPT and it's a lot of work especially in September and October. I brought to the attention of the Director of OPT and presented to him a pilot program for the D75 School Principals to look at the travel runs within their school and develop their own travel runs to see if it would be more affective. When dealing with OPT not able to provided parents with an appropriate/quicker response when there is an OPT issue. If we're able to

have a hands on approach ourselves we will be able to provide a better response to the parents.

5. Leonie Haimson Of Class Size Matters

Ms. Haimson introduced herself and mentioned she was vocal (opposed) about Cathie Black when she was first appointed as the Chancellor. She mentioned that there are three different law suits that are filed against the appointment. The hearing will take place in Albany on December 23rd and among the issue on the law suit are two major issues:

1. It is not clear from the law within the regulations if you can get a waiver if you don't have a master degree. Ms. Black only has a BA not like Joel Klein, Chancellor who does have a master degree, law degree, no advance in any thing.
2. Ms. Black was given a waiver because the State Commissioner said she has a number two; Shael Suransky, Deputy Chancellor. Mr. Suransky who has the educational qualifications that she lacks. He has been a teacher, principal, administrative training as well.

What the lawyers (against the placement of Ms. Black as the Chancellor) are arguing in the brief the laws does not allow for you to give a waiver on the bases of someone else's qualifications. This is the first time that a waiver has been challenges in court. This is not the first time a waiver has been provided to an incoming chancellor. The first was Harold Levy, former Board of Regents member and a lawyer and Joel Klein. Before that was Robert Wagner Jr., Deputy Mayor and actually head of the board of education that had a lot of knowledge, experience and interest in education. Wagner was also denied the waiver for chancellorship.

There has never been a law suit before and there is no precedent that can be referred to that's sort of good for the complainants. Judges do not have to look at previous decisions; on the other hand judges are reluctant to get involved in these sorts of issues. So you really have to show that the decision of the admission called obituary (preciosities?) Basically they have no rational reason for doing this what so ever and it's a very high standard to prove.

Mayoral Control has provided and allowed for Mayor Bloomberg to make the decision on choosing whom ever he wants to be chancellor within the New York City School system.

Regarding the Budget Cuts within the DOE; we are facing huge budget cuts this year. The numbers have not officially been provided to the public but from what is being rumored there will be more budget cuts within the DOE.

Ms. Haimson went on to discuss charter schools, class size and her organization Class Size Matters.

6. Margaret Howell, Queens Community College Financial Aide

Ms. Howell provide the parents and council information on the Office of Financial Services is committed to helping students complete the financial aid process and get the money they need to attend college. The Financial Aide Office provides information and counseling to all students regarding the various financial aid programs (grants, loans, and work-study)

offered by the federal government & New York State, along with information on various scholarship opportunities. The college offers a "Financial Aide TV" informative on online service for students who may have questions before visiting the Financial Aide Department.

7. Busing Forum (Part 1) Parents Concerns with OPT

During the Bussing Forum parents voice concerns that still plague their children regarding busing. Pick up and drop off times were still an issue, parents voiced concern regarding OPT customer service and the time line in resolving busing issues as well as the approach and lack of communication skills. The council informed the parents of their plan to produce an Busing Survey to be distribute to the parents of D75. After the survey has been collected they will present their findings to OPT, District 75 and the parents. The council also informed the parents that they will also produce a booklet with the help of OPT for the parents of D75 as well as the general education parents. The council asked the parents to assist the council by providing/suggestion what questions should be poised on the survey. The parents provided their input and informed the council they look forward to receiving the survey and would like to know what the outcome will be.

The Calendar Meeting Concluded at 9:00 pm