



Citywide District 75 Council

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07/21/2010 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at Tweed Courthouse, 52 Chambers Street, Manhattan, NY.

1. Annual Meeting:

See attached minutes.

2. Roll Call

Able Alagbe	Present
Charlene Carroll-Hall	Present
Gloria Gonsalves	Present
Charles Henderson	Present
Diana Marenfeld	Present
Tom Ryan, Jr.	Present
Jessica Santos	Present
Tywana B. Sharper	Absent
Joe Williams	Present

3. Secretary's Report

The Meeting Minutes dated 5/19/10 and 6/16/10 were approved.

4. Report of the President

(See attached Report)

5. District 75 Superintendent's Report

Gary Hetch, Deputy Superintendent of District 75 mentioned that Bonnie Brown is retiring and that as of September 1, 2010 he will become the Superintendent of District 75. Gary wanted to ensure that he has had the opportunity to for the last four years to work with Bonnie and has learned a lot and knows what D75 needs and will continue to move in that direction. Gary has been meeting with the Office of Portfolio regarding space and he was notified that in September D75 will receive additional space located at

151st street. The building will have 10 additional classes and 5 classes to start the program in September.

Summer School has started on July 6th and we have 13 thousand students attending summer school and the average daily attendance fluctuates between 10,800 to 11,000. We are fully staffed with teachers and related services providers for summer school.

Gary thanked John Englert, the previous president and Ellen McHugh the previous Public Advocate Appointee (during Betsy Gotbaum term as Public Advocate) of the CCSE with District 75 we are very excited with the newly formatted CCSE and we fill that having two members on the new panel we will have a strong support.

As far as a wait list for September, we are pretty much set for the first time we do not have a wait list and students have been placed into their programs/school.

The new structure with the DOE parents can go directly to the District Office for placement, related services, and issues with busing, parent's issues and concerns. If there are issues the time line are as follows once sent to D75 10 days to set up the meeting, 15-20 days to get process, we schedule the meeting, meet with everyone and conclude with a resolution.

6. Santiago Taveras, Deputy Chancellor, Office of Community Engagement

Mr. Taveras of the Office of Community Engagement Office is responsible for gathering information from the DOE, community organization, community boards, advocacy groups, grass roots organizations; educational programs and filter all information to the said organizations as well as the education and parent community. Our office will not be replacing or handling The OFEA Office, it will continue to exist to handle parent issues and concerns. The Office of Family Engagement (OFEA) is under the direction of Ms. Ojeda Hall, Director replacing Martine Guerrier.

Mr. Taveras agenda for the school year will include being in every borough monthly visiting two schools per week. He wants to gather information on how the schools collaborate, talk to the principals and replicate their program/school.

In addition his office would provide information regarding the parent link, the ARIS system, accountability within the DOE or DOE policies. In addition to the community engagement office; the other piece that is part of their responsibility is the (PEP) Panel for Educational Policy and every member of the PEP this week.

There is a list of items Mr. Taveras mentioned:

- There is a new Deputy for Portfolio, Mark Sternberg
- More transparency and will improve to provided information to the community.
- Resources in closing the achievement gap for African American and

Latino males. To have the discussion at the school level to ensure that they come to school and want to attend college. We are working with CUNY and they have a black male initiative that was started in 2004 and we are establishing a relationship with the program. We also have a data share agreement with CUNY that will allow for us to follow their progress after they graduate from a NYC public school and go to a CUNY.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm

The Citywide District 75 Council

President's Report

July 21, 2010 Calendar Meeting

Prepared By: Thomas F. Ryan, Jr.

President

Per the new Chancellor's Regulation D150, there are two Special Education Councils; The Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE) and the Citywide District 75 Council (CD75C). Effective July 1, 2010, this council, formerly the Citywide Council on Special Education will now be known as the Citywide District 75 Council.

The new CCSE has been elected. There are some former members from this Council that are now serving on the CCSE; John Englert, our President, Ellen McHugh, as she did on this council, is serving as the Public Advocate's Appointee and Patricia Connelly, who served on the Council during the 2007 to 2009 term.

We have reached out to welcome the new CCSE to the community of education councils and plan to collaborate on many issues going forward.

There was a plan to relocate the Clinton Middle School, in Chelsea to J47 on E23rd Street in Manhattan. It was successfully proven that this would create serious overcrowding, especially for the D75 children already occupying the school. As I reported in May, the DOE scrapped the plan and has negotiated for space that is more appropriate for Clinton by leasing a school, located in Chelsea which was closed by the NY Arch Dioceses. This school will serve as the temporary location for Clinton until their permanent home is built.

Girls Prep Charter School has proposed an expansion of its school. Which it shares P188M and P94M (a D75 School) on E. Houston Street. The expansion will displace some of the P94 students who will be relocated to other D75 Schools in Manhattan. Some of the construction has already started.

However, not all the parents are in agreement with this plan and are trying to stop the expansion of Girls Prep. Public Advocates for Children is applying legal pressure to

stop the expansion. As we receive more information regarding this issue, we will pass it on to you.

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 the existing schools in both the Community Districts as well as D75. There have been complaints regarding the notification or lack of notification to parents. It remains to be seen what will happen going forward and who will be effected. I urge the parents of D75 to be extra vigilant if 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 issues so we can support you.

It has come to our attention that there are a numbers of busing issues this summer. I have started a dialogue with Matt Berlin, Director of OPT. If you have any busing issues and OPT is not solving your problem, please let us know. Hopefully we can effect a change.

As our name has changed, we have a new email address; D75Council@schools.nyc.gov .

Our office address remains the same: 45-18 court Sq,
Room 260, 2nd Floor
Long Island City, NY 11101

Our phone number is: 718.752.7393

And our fax remains: 718.752.7481

This concludes the President's Report for July, 2010.