



## Citywide District 75 Council

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### 11/17/2010 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at The District 75 Main Office, 400 First Avenue, Manhattan, NY.

#### 1. Roll Call

<b>Able Alagbe</b> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP; Queens Representative	Excused
<b>Charlene Carroll-Hall</b> , 1 <sup>st</sup> VP; Queens Representative	Present
<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>Joe Williams</b> , Public Advocate Appointee; Queens Representative	Present
<b>Dixon Destuch</b> , Public Advocate Appointee; Manhattan Representative	Present
<b>Gloria Smith</b> , 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

As many of you know, at our September calendar meeting, Matt Berlin, the Director of OPT, was present to speak and listen to the many complaints brought forth by both the Council and the many parents in attendance.

The CCSE will be hosting Mr. Berlin at their November calendar meeting. The meeting will take place tomorrow evening, Thursday, November 18, at 6:00 p.m. The venue is, Norman Thomas High School, 111 East 33rd Street, Manhattan, in the 2<sup>ND</sup> Floor Auditorium. I urge anyone with busing issues, which that are still unresolved, to attend this meeting, especially if the issue is a follow-up from our September.

There is a Proposed Temporary Re-siting of one grade level of students from P16Q in Corona, Queens to the P260Q Building, also in Corona, which already houses the co-location of P255Q, a District 75 school, and The Pioneer Academy. The Chancellor evoked his emergency powers to allow this re-siting to take place. The re-siting is for the 2010-2011 school year only. The Principal of P255, Richard Marowitz, has informed me that there is plenty of vacant classroom space to house the P16 students for one year as that space is earmarked for the future growth needs of the two existing schools. The Council e-mailed The Panel for Educational Policy stating it is in general support of this temporary relocation as long as:

1 - That the Parent Leadership (SLT and PTA) along with the parents are in agreement with the proposal.

2 - That the Temporary Re-siting P16's is truly TEMPORARY (The proposal calls for the Temporary Re-siting of the P16 students for the 2010-2011 school year only).

3 - Based on the fact that it is a "Temporary" re-siting of P16 students. At the very least, the DOE should provide the parents, of all schools involved, with the Proposed Permanent Plan for the re-sited P16 students. This information should be made available at the November 8 & 12, 2010 Public hearings regarding the above. This solution should not be a proposal to keep the P16 students at the Q260 building as P225 and The Pioneer Academy will have growth needs of their own in the future.

4 - All shared space Building (Gymnasium, Lunchroom/Cafeteria, Library, etc...) must be shared fairly and equitably. The D75 students must not be forced to do with out or be excluded, in any way, due to this "Temporary" situation.

The DOE will be held hearings on this temporary Re-Siting on Monday, November 8, 2010 at P16Q, 41-15 104<sup>TH</sup> Street, Corona Queens, N.Y. and on Friday, November 12 at The Pioneer Academy, 40-20 100<sup>TH</sup> Street, also in Corona. The Panel for Educational Policy met last night was expected to approve the re-siting.

The DOE has released its Five Year Capital Plan for 2010 to 2014. The D75 Council will be holding a Public Hearing at our next working meeting. The hearing on will take place on Wednesday, December 1 at the Council's office. Our location is, 45-18 Court Square, Long Island City and the meeting will be held in the in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

There is a proposed Grade truncation of P161Q located at 101-33 124<sup>TH</sup> Street, South Richmond Hill Queens. P004Q, a D75 School is co-located in the building with P161. P004's students currently attend Gen-Ed inclusion at P161. Currently serving students from Pre-K through 6<sup>TH</sup> grade, the proposal calls for the enrollment of students through 5<sup>TH</sup> grade with 6<sup>TH</sup> graders enrolling in middle schools starting the 2012-2013 school year. As this will affect the 6<sup>TH</sup> grade students at P004, these students will have to enroll in middle schools with inclusion classes. In a conversation with the Gary Hecht, he informed me that this is not an issue, as there is appropriate space and programs available at various middle schools, in the area, to accommodate P004 the students. There will be a DOE holding hearing on this matter November 30 at P161Q. The hearing will commence at 6:00PM. The Panel for Educational Policy will vote on the Proposal at its December 14 Meeting. The meeting will be held at Brooklyn Technical High School, 29 Fort Green Place,

Brooklyn, NY and will commence at 6:00PM.

A similar Proposal has been made for P139Q located at 93-06 63<sup>RD</sup> Drive Rego Park, NY. P177Q, a District 75 school is co-located, in this building with P139. Again, the proposal calls for the enrollment of students up to 5<sup>TH</sup> grade in the P139 site and 6<sup>th</sup> graders enrolling in middle school starting the 20011-2012 school year. In a conversation I had with Kathy Posa, the Principal at P177, she assured me that this presents no problems as there is appropriate space and programs available at various middle schools, in the area, to accommodate P177 the students. There will be a DOE holding hearing on this matter December 8 at P139. The hearing will commence at 6:00PM. The Panel for Educational Policy will vote on the Proposal at its December 14 Meeting. The meeting will be held at Brooklyn Technical High School, 29 Fort Green Place, Brooklyn, NY and will commence at 6:00PM.

The council is in General agreement with both mentioned proposals as long as:

- 1 – The School Administration and the Parent Leadership (SLT and PTA) along with the parents are in agreement with the proposal.
- 2 - All shared space Building (Gymnasium, Lunchroom/Cafeteria, Library, etc...) must be shared fairly and equitably. D75 students in any location must not be forced to do with out or be excluded, in any way.

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.

Finally, we are all aware, by now, of Chancellor Klein's resignation, effective January 1 and that Mayor Bloomberg has appointed Ms. Cathie Black, Chairman of Hearst Magazines, as Chancellor Klein's replacement. There has been much said with regards to Ms. Black's past management experience as well as her lack of experience as an Educator. In order for everyone to gauge where this council stands on the issue it has been decide that, after the conclusion of this report, each councilmember well voice their opinion regarding the Mayor's selection. The number of opinions for and against will be noted and posted in our minutes. As I have, in the past, done business directly with Hearst Magazines, I feel it is only appropriate that I abstain from giving an opinion.

In the event State Education Commissioner Steiner Grants the Mayor's request for a waiver and Ms. Black becomes Chancellor, we wish Ms. Black success in this new endeavor and look forward to working the Special Education reforms outlined by Garth Harries and the D75 council are implemented. We are trying to see if Ms. Black and Deputy Chancellor Rodriguez can attend and speak at one of our upcoming meetings. We will keep you informed.

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

3A. **Councils Statements regarding the Newly Appointed Chancellor Cathleen Black**

- **Gloria Gonsalves**, I would like to ask Mayor Bloomberg; would you use a surgeon who didn't attend medical school to operate on you?: Against the Appointment
- **Joe Williams**, I am against it as most parents in D75 due to her lack of knowledge within education. I drafted my concerns in a letter this Wednesday; concerned about who is surrounding her, who will advise her, what is her stance and I want to take a wait and see attitude but I can't endorse it: Against the Appointment
- **Dixon Deutsch**, Based on what I read and I read the media reports, I think I'm for it but with reservations: Approve the Appointment.
- **Jessica Santos**, Don't support it, I feel at this point there is so much we're going to lose within the next few years regarding budgeting; the federal government stimulus packet is not going to be in existing for us, there is going to be a huge deficit, we have charter schools coming in, we have a lot of schools that there is a disparity between education in certain areas. I don't feel that someone coming in with no education background and no experience in the public sector can address the needs for the families in NYC: Against the Appointment.
- **Diana Marenfeld**, I am definitely not in agreement of the appointment. I want for you to all remember who we represent; we represent those who don't have the power to voice their opinions and desires.  
I don't remember when schools became corporations, they are institutes of learning. By supporting Ms. Black we demonstrate our willingness to lie down and give up. We are failing miserably and losing our rights granted under our constitution to demonstrate and disagree. By circumventing PEP, parents, educators the Mayor has once again shown that the only people worthy of consideration are corporate heads. Why would you not find a worthy educator?  
Out of a school system of all the great schools there must be someone of equal value who would love the challenge of becoming chancellor of the largest school system in the country. I am sure there is another agenda here and just as the Mayor keeps cutting away at city service and city jobs he is cutting away at the public school system paving the way for less protesting of charter schools.  
Think back on history who does the Mayor resemble? Does Julius Caesar come to mind twice remove the crown, he stomped all over the world and claimed it in the name of Rome. Well, the Mayor seems to do the same thing; he keeps stomping around the city in the name of Bloomberg Incorporated. Remember he is the largest owner of business in this country. Corruption is shoveled and hidden away but in the end it permeates the air we breathe in NYC. So I will not agree to this appointment and do not agree to any resolution or letter to support Ms. Black.: Against the Appointment.
- **Thomas F. Ryan, Jr.**, Has in the past has done business with Ms. Black's organization Hearst Magazine and feels it appropriate to abstain from giving his opinion: Abstain

- **Charlene Carroll-Hall**, I do not support the appointment of Ms, Black because education is not a business: Against the Appointment

#### **4. Report of the Superintendent**

Gary Hecht mentioned that he has been in talks with Tom F. Ryan, Jr, President of CD75 Council regarding the meetings at the three schools and reference to were students are coming into D75 and affecting our programs. Gary mentioned his attendance at school 255Q meeting and there is space at the school. Gary has spoken to the Principals at 139,169,255 and 260 and the Principals don't seem concerned so far and they will report to him on a monthly basis regarding any changes.

Gary also mentioned the "Get Ready to Learn Program" and how parents are happy with the program. Gary also mentioned that students who participate in the program have show improvement. He and his team have been meeting with parents and collecting data. The finalized report will be provided to the DOE thus allowing the program to continue for students with disabilities.

On May 14<sup>th</sup> in Brooklyn we have scheduled D75 EPIC Conference. Gary asked the council to participate with the EPIC Conference and to work with D75 in organizing the conference.

Also in D75 there is a new program called the I-Pad program. Schools (with the help the Technology department) had to submit a proposal to participate and five D75 schools were chosen.

- 177Q will use it for their music program
- 721R 12 to1 to 4 for students to improve communication skills
- 368K 6 to 1 to 1 pop to improve math and social skills
- 188x for entire school community and develop a Mobil Lab
- 231K 12 to 1 to 1 for Comical Moods program where they focus on instruction and social skills.

D75 will establish I-Pod Labs this will primarily focus on improving literary schools for all of our students. Programs were selected based on the organization and we looked at classroom settings. The IT department in D75 looked at school, looked at the technology availability in the school and made their selection. The four schools involved in the program are: P94, P138M, 752Q, 993 in Frank Sinatra HS and 191-site. This is an opportunity to support student out comes. We see the program expanding and feel it will be great for the students and we can't allow for the students to take home the I-pad home but will be able to use it.

#### **5. YAI Link: An Informational Referral, intake & Outreach Service Programs for People with Developmental Disabilities & their Families**

Kate Macaluso, Assist. Supervisor and Michelle Lang, Intake Specialist of the LINK Department of YAI/NIPD presented information on their organizations program during the November Calendar Meeting at District 75.

YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities (NIPD) was established in 1957, as a not-for-profit health and human services agency for people with developmental and learning disabilities and their families.

The LINK Department at the YAI/NIPD Network is a source for programs and services for people with disabilities. YAI LINK provides the latest information on services and programs that make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. Their comprehensive library of resources in the greater New York metropolitan area, coupled with knowledgeable, professional LINK representatives, who understand the needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families, can help you find the right service for the goals you have in mind.

When you contact LINK, a knowledgeable referral specialist will take your call; listen to your questions and concerns. The LINK specialist will ask for certain information to determine service needs and eligibility.

**6. Resolution # 13 Filing a Vacancy**

Tom read Resolution #13 regarding the filing of a vacant seat within the Citywide District 75 Council. Ms. Gloria Smith was approved by the NYC DOE legal department, meet with the council during a working meeting and was sent a notice to attend the November's calendar Meeting as the newly appointed council member. A motion to accept Gloria Smith to the Citywide District 75 Council was made by Thomas F. Ryan, Jr., Jessica Santos second the motion and all were in favor.

**The Calendar Meeting Concluded at 9:00 pm**