



Citywide District 75 Council

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10/20/2010 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at P369K@The Academy of Integrated Learning: AIL, 283 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY.

1. Roll Call

Able Alagbe , 2 nd VP; Queens Representative	Present
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

2. Secretary's Report

The minutes were tabled until the November Calendar Meeting.

3. Report of the President

As many of you know, at our calendar meeting last month, 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. Mr. Berlin has informed me that OPT is working diligently on resolving these issues. I'd like to thank Matt for and his staff for participating in the forum. I'd also like to take this opportunity to apologize to both Matt and those who attended the meeting. My passion for improved busing, for our children, got the better of me. I was long winded when discussing the issues and too harsh towards Mr. Berlin. My actions resulted in the meeting running too long and only served to increase tensions in the room. Again to all concerned please accept my apology.

On a related note, the CCSE will be hosting Mr. Berlin at their November calendar meeting. The meeting will take place on November 18 at 6:00 PM. I believe it will be at Tweed. I urge anyone with busing issues, which are still not resolved, to attend the meeting, especially if the issue is a follow-up from our meeting last month.

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), that was placed on hold, looks like it will again propose to increase its space at that location. The council will continue to monitor the situation and keep everyone informed.

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 has evoked his emergency powers to allow for this re-siting. The re-siting is for the 2010-2011 school year only. The Principal of P255, Richard Marowitz, has informed me that there was 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 holding hearings on this Temporary Re-Siting on Monday, November 8, 2010 at P16Q, 41-15 104TH Street, Corona Queens, NY and on Friday, November 12 at The Pioneer Academy, 40-20 100TH Street, also in Corona. Both hearings will commence at 6:00 PM. Speaker sign-up will be held 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing. The Panel for Educational Policy will vote on the proposal on November 16, 2010. That meeting will be held at Brooklyn Technical High School, 29 Fort Green Place, Brooklyn and will commence at 6:00PM.

The DOE has introduced a new method of evaluating the progress of schools throughout the system. For the first time D75 schools will be included in the process. Some D75 schools were selected as test schools in this evaluation process. The Council is in the process of reaching out to the DOE to have someone present on the new process and how it affects D75 schools.

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.

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

4. Report of the Superintendent

Gary Hecth informed the council and parents within District 75 twenty-five schools were chosen for a pilot program along with fifty (co-hort) standardize assessment students allowing Tweed and District 75 to focus on standardized testing. The premises; it will be easier to track the performance of students that are involved standardize exams. Principals who schools are involved, District 75 and Tweed discussed the format of the matrix that will appropriate for district 75 Schools due to the nature of the population.

Progress Report: there are schools with 4 B's and 2 F's that concern District 75. Gary asked Donna Dimino, Director of Curriculum and Instructions to do a walk through with her team. The walk through will provided D75 with the opportunity to improve the rankings of the D75 schools.

Quality Review: Last year if you received a high score you did not have to go through a quality review. The system is changing again, the schools that were in pilot programs and did not received D's and F's they will have to go through the quality review process again. The decision will be left up to the superintendent and net work leaders to determine the additional schools to be reviewed.

Program Initiatives: A) Smile Program for children with autism and has expanded to children who are standardize assessment. B) Girls Debate Team will provided students with the opportunity to debate the current issues. C) Get Ready to Learn helps student learn how to regulate their emotions and improve their behavior.

Space: District 75 is good on space this year; they are meeting with the space planners for next year. D75 was informed another site (within a school) will open at 108th street in Queens called PS/IS148 the student will be for children with autism.

Gary met with Portfolio and expressed that his intent this year is not to move any program, student out of their building. Gary's afterthought there is a school in the Bronx-P168X for children with autism on Maryann Ave where the conditions are not safe and Gary would like to move them out of the space for the safety of the children. Gary will bring the request to portfolio regarding P168X.

5. Special Education Reform

Gary Hecht, District 75 Superintendent and Donna Dimino, Director of Curriculum and Instructions explained that the NYC Department of Education implemented the "Phase 1" pilot program of the special education reform. The pilot program will target two hundred and sixty-five NYC schools. The DOE will review students within special education and will assess if it's appropriate to move a student out of their zone schools or to provide the student with the opportunity to remain within their zone school with the appropriate supportive services. District 75 role will be to provide their expertise after a school has exhausted all of their services by reviewing the situation and providing a resolution as well as professional development to the school regarding student services, support and intervention.

District 75 currently has a team of clinical staff members who are part of a program called STOP: Strategies, Techniques, Opportunities Prior to Placement. The team will work with the school staff, parent and develop a plan for the student. The STOP team will track the progress of the student within the course of the year. If there are no improvements the student will be placed within a D75 program. Last year the STOP Team worked with one hundred and ten students out of the one hundred and ten, three students went into a D75 school and the rest remained in their zone school. Part of "Phase 1" D75 will be involved in that capacity as well as transition planning for students. We work closely with the State Education Department on transition. We are working with Tweed to develop a standard operation procedure manual and to help with the professional development.

6. Resoultion#12 Vote

Tom read the Amendments for Resoultion#12 Citywide District 75 Council 2010-2011 Fiscal Budget. Tom made a motion to accept the amendments to Resolution #12, Charlene Carroll-Hall to approve the amendments to the Resolution and Joe Williams seconded and all were in favor.

The Calendar Meeting Concluded at 9:00 pm