Joint Calendar Meeting of

Citywide Council for Special Education(CCSE)

Citywide Council for English Language Learners(CCELL)

Thursday, January 23, 2020

52 Chambers Street, 2nd Fl Conference Room, (Tweed Courthouse) New York, NY 10007

Business/ Calendar Meeting Minutes

Meeting starts 6:18pm. GC calls meeting to order. Motion for the approval of December 19, 2019 minutes by GS. MW 2nd, all attending members approved.

1. Co-President Report

* EM-Annual Report should be ready by Feb 1 to submit to grant writer
* Governor threatening cuts to Special Education. EM advocates to contact your local Senator, Assemblyperson, Congress rep to vote against the changes. Each politician’s office should have a staff member that deals with Special Education Legisilation
* EM attended the Bylaws workshop. So far, our Council has been following parameters
* IEP Conference in planning stages. All IEP reps on the CECs are invited.
* GC-Contacted by Bronx Borough President to create parent forums on Special Education needs and supports. GC asked for Council support in attending these forums

2. Members Reports

* NG-Reported on ECC meeting. Highest attendance to date(27 out of 32 CECs represented)
* Resolution passed to change term limit parameters affecting parents of students graduating mid term to maintain their positions
* Mayoral Commission Committee set up to hit on Mayoral control of our schools
* Busing was discussed with the focus on reducing travel time.
* Deputy Chancellor Goldmark spoke about Charter Schools. Open Charter school forums are next week
* EM- OPT also is looking for parent feedback on the roll out of VIA
* GC- Paras are being barred rom taking students off the school buses. Admins were forced to escort students off the bus instead. Where the directive is coming from is unclear.
* PH-Update on District 20. Attended CEC20 meeting where School Construction Authority presented on another newly acquired location(6740 3rd Ave) Made a point in public forum to bring up the concern for Special Education accommodations in the new elementary with the increase of Turning 5 referrals children will need more supports and appropriate settings going into kindergarten. SCA promised to look into trends to see how they can accommodate.
* A meeting with Vision Futuro yielded a request for more Parent resources(workshops explaining the different programs i.e. NEST, Horizon, ACES, AIMS, D75)

3. Presentation made to honor Deputy Chancellor of Special Education Corrinne Rello-Anselmi an award recognizing her years of service the children of NYC. EM presented on behalf of CCSE. Many speakers took turns honoring her with various glowing testimonials and anecdotes. Corrinne spoke about leaving parents in good hands with the staff she leaves behind. Space issues will be addressed by the DOE. Stressed the importance of our children having full access to their communities and that every child will be valued.

4. GC presented Resolution 001 for budget re-allocation is presented. Recognized error made and was tabled to February’s meeting for vote.

5. NG stepped down from his position as Council Treasurer. EM/GC nominate Cynthia to take the post. MW 2nd the nomination. Rose performed a roll-call vote. All present voted yes.

6. Rose spoke to SGO regarding the repayment of Monica Young reimbursement for the previous term. GC made a motion to allow reimbursement payment of $103 to be taken from this year’s budget. AF 2nd. Rose performed a roll call vote. All present voted yes.

7. AV updates edits made to working draft of Annual Report up until the portion on SESIS. Tentative scheduled working meeting for February 5 at Tweed at 6pm.

8. During public forum, parents expressed concerns about having to transfer their children from various schools in order to get the appropriate setting, services, supports. Parents feel like school admins and instructors are pushing their children out of the schools based off of their disabilities. This pertains to both public and private school settings. A suggestion was made to create a Q+A reference cheat sheet to help parents understand their rights. Christine Foti suggested adding the special education complaints email(specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov) to the bottom of the CCSE agendas and website going forward to allow more accessibility to resources.

9. February combined Business/Calendar meeting moved to 2/06/20 at Lehmans HS in lieu of holding it during Mid-Winter recess.

10. TP updated on April 23 joint meeting with D75 at PS 176. Concerns were expressed about the relevance of having it at a school that did not house a D75 program and the topic of assistive technology may not appeal to the parent population there. TP was contacted by PS 176 Title 1 Chairperson about possibly changing the topic to understanding the IEP process and/or Advocacy rights. GC also reminded everyone to wear light blue for the April meeting in honor of Autism Awareness month.

11. AV proposed inviting Tim Castanza from Bridge Prep for the May 21st meeting.

12. PH updated CEC15 reached out to MS 88 for March 19 joint meeting. EM expressed concern it was too far from public transportation. CV wants to confirm location so she can invite a speaker who specializes in dyslexia programs.

13. Calendar is discussed and changed. Upcoming dates are as follows

* Feb 6 @ Lehmans HS(combined business/calendar meeting)
* March 5 @ Tweed(business meeting)
* March 19 @ MS 88(joint calendar meeting with CEC15 on literacy)
* March 21 IEP Conference @ Tweed
* April 2 @ Tweed(business meeting)
* April 23@ PS 176(joint meeting with D75 Council on IEP/parent rights)
* May 7@ Tweed( business meeting)
* May 21
* June 18(combined business/calendar meeting) possibility of having meeting with Parents for Inclusive Education(PIE)

Possibility of holding a meeting at PACE or CUNY on the topic of services provided in higher education. Will table for September of the next term. PH suggested a Transition Committee. AF and MW volunteer to chair.

14. MW spoke to her estate/trust contacts about presenting at the IEP conference about protecting your child’s government funding. CV suggested having someone from the DOE speak to the new dyslexia pilot screening. GC updated the CEC 7 have a new IEP council member.

PH made a motion to adjourn. GC 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.