

Citywide Council on Special Education

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Business Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Co-President Ellen McHugh at 6:12 pm.

Roll Call

Julie Barreto	Present
Sanyi Beckeles-Canton	Present
Wenming Chen	Present
Heather Dailey	Present
Artelia Flowers	Present
Paullette Healy	Present
Ellen McHugh	Present
Erika Newsome	Present
Joseph Xing	Present

Co-Presidents' Reports

Ellen McHugh

- Attended a meeting (???) and there was a discussion on what will happen with school opens. Will students be in pods, will they be able to do three or six feet distancing? What's going to happen at the high school level, will there be a remote option?
- Attended a meeting with Tom Sheppard – Panel on Education Policy. The Chancellor was also in attendance.
 - There was a lot of discussion on how schools will open. There will be other issues around head start and special education students who need a remote option because of a medical need.
 - A discussion on funding to schools
 - No clarity on the differences between recovery services or compensatory services for individuals with disabilities. Compensatory services are services a student may have missed because of COVID or that the service provider was ill. Recovery services are services provided to students who have graduated or about to graduate and want to spend another year school.
 - Busing is still an issue

Erika Newsome

- Attended the Bronx Forum with the Chancellor, parents and representatives from the DOE and Special Education Department. The major concern out of this meeting was what will happen when schools close and the parent who works full-time receives a notice that the school is closed for 10 days.
- Met a young special education teacher who developed a program to enhance communication with parents and children. Use the program for her and her child with positive results. Would like to possibly have her as a presenter for a future meeting.

Members' Reports

Paulette Healey

- Attended a City Council Oversight Hearing and it was announced that there will be no social distancing on school buses.
- Attendance Hesitancy – students and parents would not be punished for not attending school. However, the Chancellor said ACS will be notified if a child goes several weeks without attending school. The concern is that schools are not prepared to open because of recent hurricane flooding and not enough school buses. How are students going to get to school?
- Attended a SESIS meeting where there was a discussion on changes needed.
- Attended press conference with Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Councilman Mark Treyger and Manhattan Borough President Gail Brewer. All are advocating for more testing and to restore the remote option.
- Noted that parents are still concerned that there is no appeals system for medical accommodation application process.

Heather Dailey

- Attended same oversight meeting as Paulette Healy. Felt there was no clear answer on whether there would be synchronous learning for middle and high school students if they have to stay home.

Joseph Ng

Reiterated that his district is still concerned about remote learning not being available.

Presentation

John Hammer - Deputy Chief Executive Director - Special Education Office, Division of Specialized Instruction and Student Support

Special Education Update

- Expects schools to provide all mandated services as outline on IEPs.
- If there are quarantine and school closures, they will be short term.
- Parents will receive notices on Special Education Recovery Services. It will outline what additional services students with IEPs will receive. Principals will work with families to schedule programs for after school and Saturdays.
- Encouraged families to apply for Medically Necessary Instruction if they believe their student needs it.
- Schools are safe and ready to go. The staff has received vaccination, and mask and testing protocols are in place.
- Regarding Nurses Shortage – School Health is working with the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene to address the situation and come up with solutions to make sure students with nursing services on their IEP will get it.

2021-2022 Meeting Schedule

Open Meetings Law has been extended to allow CEC's to meet virtually until January 15, 2022.

Council meetings will continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays. Topics will come up as parents voice their concerns.

There was a discussion about having the IEP Conference in person or virtually. Paullette Healy moved to open the discussion and Dr. Sanyi Beckeles-Canton seconded. The pros and cons were addressed and the Council decided on two options – virtual or hybrid.

Ellen McHugh moved and Heather Dailey seconded to vote on which option to use. The majority chose the hybrid option.

Julie Barreto	Hybrid
Sanyi Beckeles-Canton	Hybrid
Wenming Chen	Virtual
Heather Dailey	Hybrid
Artelia Flowers	Hybrid
Paullette Healy	Virtual
Ellen McHugh	Hybrid
Erika Newsome	Hybrid
Joseph Xing	Hybrid

Meeting Time

There was a brief discussion to move the meeting time to 6:30 pm. The bylaws say meetings are to start at 6:00. The discussion will be added to the next meeting agenda.

CCSE Vacancies – Members & Student

So far, only two applications have been received. The Chancellor's Reg says that the position has to be filled with 60 days and our deadline in September 13. Another announcement will be sent out. Cristina Foti, Head of Special Education, will appointed the student member.

CCHS Representative

Ellen McHugh moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the applicants. Joseph Xing seconded. There was a roll call vote.

Julie Barreto	Yes
Sanyi Beckeles-Canton	Yes
Wenming Chen	Yes
Heather Dailey	Yes
Artelia Flowers	Yes
Paullette Healy	Yes
Ellen McHugh	Yes
Erika Newsome	Yes
Joseph Xing	Yes

The Executive Session ended and Ellen McHugh moved to adjourn the business meeting and Joseph Xing seconded. The Council voted to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:36 pm