

# Citywide Council on Special Education

Thursday, August 18, 2022

## Business Meeting Minutes

### Call to Order

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Co-President Erika Newsome at 6:13 pm.

### Roll Call

Francine Almash	Present
Cynthia Arbulu Vacca	Present
Sanayi Beckeles-Canton	Present
Carolyn Castro	Present
Wenming Chen	Present
Heather Dailey	Present
Artelia Flowers	Present
Paullette Healy	Present
Lauretta Joseph	Excused
Ellen McHugh	Excused
Erika Newsome	Present

A quorum was present.

Interpreters introduced themselves.

Council Members introduced themselves, their district and child's special needs category.

Francine Almash was appointed Timekeeper.

### **Approval of Minutes August 4, 2022**

Paullette Healy moved and Cynthia Arbulu Vacca seconded to accept the August 4, 2022 minutes as written. There were some corrections to the minutes. Cynthia Arbulu Vacca moved and Wenming Chen seconded to accept the minutes with the corrections. There was a roll call vote – eight members voted yes, two were excused absences and one was not able to vote because of technical difficulties.

## **Co-President's Report**

Erika Newsome

- A number of parents have requested that CCSE to address the after school options or lack of for D75 students as well the lack of support. Hope to have a future meeting/presentation.
- In the process of scheduling a joint meeting of CCSE and CECD75 with Chancellor Banks. The meeting is to address recent comments about students with IEPs during a C-PAP meeting. Will share date once available.
- Rebecca Daverin has requested representatives from CCSE and CECD75 to participate in the interview process to replace Jose Rios.
- CEC Presidents will meet with Deputy Chancellor Blackburn on September 12.
- CCSE received and addressed some concerns from parents regarding the summer program. If you or you know of a parent who has a concern, please send to CCSE ([ccse@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ccse@schools.nyc.gov)) or Special Education ([specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov)) email addresses.

## **Members' Report**

Paullette Healy

- Attended a Fair Student Funding work group meeting. We broke out into sub-groups to discuss different categories. I participated in the Special Population group where we compared and discussed the current weights, the base weights and the inequities. Will continue to update as the group meets.
- The City Council Committee on Education will hold an oversight hearing on August 20. I believe to discuss returning school cuts.
- The Panel for Education Policy (PEP) met and passed 330 million dollars in contracts, including one for ???, as a so-called "emergency" expenditure. The public and PEP members were also concerned that a representative from the vendor was in attendance to talk about their product.

Carolyn Castro

- Attended an Education Summit for city and state.
  - Four panels discussed the state of education, where want to be, the intersection between politics and education and special education and mental health.
  - There was an emphasis to connect students to a career path but very little discussion on how special education students will fit in these groups.
  - There is also a big push on the literacy initiative.
  - Keeping connected with our community to make sure that the dyslexia initiative is happening.
  - Concerned about staff shortages in the superintendent's office, especially those supporting special education. Deputy Chancellor Blackburn assured that they are working on it.

Nava Bahrapour

- Attended NYU's Tech Summit and was very impressed with the Assistive Technology (AT) booth. With AT big in the D75 community, I would like to suggest a sub-committee to focus on AT access.
- Participated in the first round of interviews for the replacement for Jose Rios.

Francine Almash

- Following up on Nava's suggestion of a sub-committee on AT. Suggested that the Council bring in someone from the DOE to present on the evaluation process for IEP students to get access to AT.
- Cynthia Arbulu Vacca and Carolyn Castro invited someone to the IEP Conference last March but they declined. Volunteered to follow up and invite them to one our meetings to talk about the AT evaluation process.

### **Special Education Update**

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

- Assistive Technology – followed up on Nava's report on AT. Would like to work with the Council to ensure that parents understand the evaluation process. Currently in the process of updating the guidelines around AT. Hope to have it ready by the start of the school year.
- Afterschool Programing – based on the success of the afterschool programs during Summer Rising - making sure that students in D75 and students with IEPs in districts 1-32 received their support services, parents are more willing to have their students participate in afterschool programs.
- Structure – Commended the Council for pushing to make sure that superintendents are setup to support students with IEPs. Vacancies are being posted and filled, especially for the role of Administrator of Special Education in each district. The Special Education office will work with superintendents to help fill in gaps and support before the start of the school year.
- New Recovery Efforts – Compensatory (recovery) Services will work differently. Not every school will be required to provide students with services afterschool or on Saturdays. The need for compensatory services will be addressed during the annual review. The IEP Team will determine the need for services during this meeting. If a parent or the school feels that a student needs compensatory services for progress not made during remote learning, an emergency meeting or evaluation can be called. Will work closely with superintendents to ensure that parents concerns around compensatory services are address and resolved.

Please refer to the recording (<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Anvfy2ZMxJdkcYxKec6z5H4gtdk?e=AVbc9D>) for the full presentation.

## **Unfinished Business**

Heather Dailey moved and Cynthia Arbulu Vacca seconded to table unfinished business until the September 1 meeting. There was a voice vote and all in attendance voted yes.

## **New Business**

- 2022-2023 Budget Resolution
  - The Recording Secretary read the resolution into record. Paullette Healy moved and Heather Dailey second to accept the resolution for discussion.
  - There was a brief discussion about allocating funds to purchase items to support the hybrid meetings – hot spots, microphones, speakers, etc. AA will follow up with the SGO to see if we can use the P-Card.
  - Once the SGO receives the resolution with the budget allocation, it will take a couple of weeks for our budget to be approved and to be able to start submitting for member reimbursements and 30 days for the P-Card approval process.
  - There was a roll call vote and there were seven yes votes and two abstentions. The vote passed.
- 2022-2023 Meeting Schedule – our next meetings are scheduled for September 1 (business) and September 29 (calendar). The remaining schedule will be completed during the September 1 meeting.

Co-President reminded that the vacancy for the CCSE rep to CCHS is still open.

Paullette Healy moved and Dr. Beckles Canton seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned – 7:26 pm