

**Citywide Council on Special Education**  
**Thursday, October 6, 2022**  
**Business Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:10 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	Present
Erika Newsome	Present

## Co-Presidents / Member Reports

Heather Daily:

- Bussing Committee reporting on Bussing Issues.
  - Bussing matrons have been dropping children off at wrong locations
  - Bussing time's - parents are reporting long bussing times for their children.
  - Managing parent expectations on complaints regarding bussing

Paulette Healy:

- City Council Oversight Hearing: Special Education Services
  - Thanks Rita Joseph for raising commentary by Chancellor Banks on accusing parents of gaming the system is disparaging to families with students of disabilities.
- Exec Director of OPT
  - Also made disparaging commentary and reported that complaints by OPT are down when in fact parents are calling schools directly. \$9 million dollars was spent on the creation of OPT's call center.
- Deputy Ketler Louissant Listening Sessions - D75
  - 15 testimonies provided by D75 family members on bussing. Noting that we are now in the first week of October.
  - Other testimonies are on children not getting mandated services. From the elementary, middle school, and high school level.
  - Asked for assistance for D75 inclusion students from DOE John Hammer / Michelle Kleinhandler.
- CCEC Meet & Greet with Antonio Reynoso.
  - Receptive to CEC presidents' commentary on asylum seeks, restorative justice work, ELL students, Language Leaders (D22) Where community provides translation services.
- Fair Student Funding Committee:
  - Public engagement beginning October 12, 13. Paulette provided link. Seeking feedback on proposed changes.

Carolyn Castro:

- Literacy initiative roll out:
  - Confusion in parent, school community on program start date and program rollout.
  - Parents believed that programming was going to begin at the beginning of the school year.
  - Schools continue to use Lucy Calkins curriculum after much debate and concern has been expressed by her models.

- Some districts thought they would be selected for literacy collaborative tier 1 rollout, but have not.

Cynthia Arbulu-Vacca:

- Also hearing issues on OPT and additional lengths of routes, particularly the mini-buses.
- Informed by bus company that they do not create the bus routes (reported home time being
- Literacy informs parents to attend SLT's and speak to principles that curriculum has not changed.
- Inquiring on curriculum changes for upper grades (grade 3-high school)

### **CCSE Vacancy for CCSE Appointee to the CCHS**

- Ellen McHugh reported 2 applicants for the position, the application was extended to October 14, 2022. The representative would be a CCSE to the CCHS and would facilitate communications between the two for better representation of students with disabilities.

### **2022-2023 Meeting Schedule**

- School selections have been identified but not enacted per current Open Meeting Laws (OML).
- Tweed would remain a backup location once OML is no longer allowed.
- Joint meeting November 10th as a result of conflicts with Parent Teacher conferences, holiday schedule (Thanksgiving).
- Combined business / calendar meeting from November 3, 2022, November 20, 2022 to November 10, 2022.
  - Paulette Healy placed a motion to hold a business / calendar meeting.
  - Cynthia Arbulu-Vacca second the motion.
  - Motion passed and meeting was combined to Nov. 10, 2022
- December Meeting
  - December 15th Calendar/Business meeting
  - Cynthia Arbulu-Vacca suggested a follow up with the Office of Pupil Transportation.
    - Regarding GPS systems and updates

### **Resolution on Retaining Laura Barbieri**

- Motion to accept resolution on obtaining Laura Barbieri as council for CCSE
  - Heather Daily placed a motion, Carolyn Castro second resolution. Carolyn Castro read the resolution.
- Erica Newsome made an amended motion to accept resolution as is with pending corrections.

- Paulette Healy accepted motion, Carolyn Castro second to accept motion. All other members verbally (voice vote) agreed in the meeting. Resolution has passed and is moving forward.

### **Charter School Resolution**

- To be discussed on October 20, 2022 meeting

### **Member Reimbursements**

- Erica Newsome reminded all members to submit all reimbursement to Rose on a timely basis.
- Heather Daily reminded all members to submit reimbursements to keep the yearly budget towards CCSE members the same and not lose amounts.
- Wen-Ming Chen inquired about the amount of reimbursement and asked if \$75 differs from the monthly budget of \$125.
- Members receive \$125 per month and Presidents receive \$200 monthly.

### **DOE Office of Special Education**

*John Hammer, Deputy Chief, Office of Special Education*

SEDMS - Special Education Data Management System

- John working with IT team to secure November 10 attendance at CCSE meeting.

Special Education Program and Services Reports on **Infohub** website.

- Website: [infohub.nyced.org/reports/government-reports/special-education-reports](https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/government-reports/special-education-reports)
- John Hammer reports that the Office of Special Education continues to make progress in the Provision of Program Reports on services rendered to students with IEP's though still not at 100%. Last year ended with 88.2% completed with SETTS, ICT, Special Class Services.
- Informed community how to view detailed report types by School District, Service Type.
- Information is substantive to have conversations with the Superintendent and local CEC's about areas where students need more assistance within a given district.
- Highlighted that District 75 schools are part of this report.
- Paulette Healy questions accountability of reports based on information that is placed in SESIS given post-pandemic services and issues with fulfillment of RSA's. Wants to know what accountability measures are in place given to ensure what is being reported is accurate. John ensures reports on RSA are accurate as services are recorded on the first encounter (A-Service)

during the school year. Note that NYSCA has information for families to log on and view for accuracy.

- Paulette Healy asks that DOE include/consider IEP members on CEC's to "check the temperature" of schools to find out issues in terms of staffing, students, and IEP services as an additional level of oversight in liaison schools.

## **Division of Specialized Instruction and Student Support (DSISS)**

*Michelle Netzler, Specialized Programs, Division of Specialized Instruction and Student Support (DSISS)*

### Specialized Programs: ASD Nest and Horizon Program

ASD Nest and Horizon programs are specialized programs where a model of support is developed around intervention strategies, Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 Supports, Individualized Supports, and where collaborative structures are built into the program with a commitment to the philosophy of inclusive practices.

#### Nest Program

- Reduced ICT program with a Special Education teacher and Gen Ed teacher;
- Students in the program are cognitively average to slightly above average;
- Focus on social communications and pragmatics where behaviors are related to autism.

#### ASD Nest

- Special class comprised of Special Education Teacher and Programmatic Paraprofessional;
- Student cognitively average to slightly below average accessing general education curriculum and on grade level, may need additional support
- Focus on social communication and pragmatics in behaviors related to autism.

Both programs focus on the whole student, socially and emotionally throughout the school day.

### Expansion of ASD Nest & Horizon Programs

How new schools were identified:

- Engaged Superintendents, Office of District Planning, and local communities.
- Reviewed data to determine where there is a need based on availability of new programs, applications and community input.

- Focused on diverse communities when identifying the students and communities most in need.

Expansion programs have been identified and occurred in Bronx, Brooklyn providing services to more students of color.

#### ASD/Horizon Middle School / High Schools

- One of DOE's biggest years of expansion to ASD/Horizon middle and High School programs.
- 7 new Nest Programs, 1 new Horizon
- More High Schools opened than middle schools (7 HS programs) as a result of many middle school students transitioning into HS.



#### Questions/Comments on ASD Nest, Horizon presentation.

- Cynthia Arbulu-Vacca asks what is the plan to adjust and increase volume in the next 3 years to accommodate the rise in autism diagnosis for students?
  - Three year or five year plan is still being fleshed out. Members of DOE encourage members of the public to continue to raise this, the Office of Special Education also continues to raise this to the new administration. Emphasis of kindergarten programming since a program that begins in Kindergarten grows with students until High School.
- Paulette Healy reached out to both John and Michelle with potential locations for consideration. Wants to remind the DOE team that they have schools interested in receiving ASD Nest & Horizon programs. Highlights lack of communications from IEP Teams within districts failing to communicate effectively to parents that their children can be considered for ASD Nest & Horizons programming. In the languages that family needs. Offers support in finding more locations for DOE staff.
- Heather Daily
  - CPSE teams: Not sure if this team is very aware of ASD Nest / Horizon programs.
  - Hears parents compare ASD Nest to Horizon programs often. States parents perceive Horizon and a precursor to ASD Nest and ask if there is a way on DOE website to clarify this misconception to most families.
  - Also wants to know what is the time between family applying for ASD Nest program to it being fulfilled.
- Ellen McHugh
  - Received repeated requests from District 17 for ASD Nest & Horizon programming from CEC 17 President.



#### Executive Session

Voice vote was placed and all members agreed. Meeting moved into the executive session.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:50 pm

APPROVED