

# Citywide Council on Special Education

Thursday, September 1, 2022

## Business Meeting Minutes

### Call to Order

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Co-President Erika Newsome at 6:09 pm.

### Roll Call

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

A quorum was present.

Interpreters introduced themselves.

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

Lauretta Joseph was appointed Timekeeper.

### **Approval of Minutes August 18, 2022**

- Heather Dailey moved and Lauretta Joseph seconded to accept the August 18, 2022 minutes as written. There was a voice vote and five members voted yes and one abstention. The vote did not carry.
- Heather Dailey moved and Lauretta Joseph moved to table the minutes until additional members arrive. There was a voice vote and all six members voted yes.
- After additional members arrived, the Council returned to vote on the minutes. Heather Dailey moved and Lauretta Joseph seconded to accept the August 18, 2022 minutes as written. There was a voice vote and six members voted yes and there one abstention.

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

Ellen McHugh

- As of today, there has only been one application received for the CCSE vacancy of CCHS appointee. Will need to make a decision to repost the announcement.
- Chancellor Banks was questioned about some ill-informed comments he made about students with IEP's attending elite public schools. He attempted an apology that was not well received.
- There have been questions about the ARP Fund – \$1.38 billion dollars allocated for missed instruction and performance and evaluation delays. Has the money been used?
- At a previous meeting, we discussed retaining Laura Barbieri as our counsel. I will draft a resolution for the next meeting.
- The CCSE has been invited to join other CECs to write a resolution requiring all CECs to allow attendees to access Closed Captioning of their Zoom meetings.
- The DOE recently hired an influx of nurses. We are hoping to get a report from the DOE as to where these nurses are stationed.
- The Disability Pride Parade is in October and Disability Awareness Week is in December. John Hammer, Executive Director of Special Education, will give us an update.

Erika Newsome

- Was able to participate, along with Nava Bahrapour, in the interview process with FACE for the replacement of Jose Rios. It was a great experience and great working with CECD75 as well.
- There is much concern about transportation for when school starts. Heather Dailey will give an update on behalf of the Transportation Committee.

## **Members' Report**

Heather Dailey

- The Transportation Sub-Committee is in the beginning stages. It's being co-chaired by Laurreta Joseph and myself. The first meeting is tomorrow at noon via Zoom. We wanted to get at least one meeting in before school starts. The plan is to meet once a month, maybe the third Tuesday. We'd also like to create an "easy guide" to give to parents who experience busing issues. We want to make sure we have a streamlined process as to how we, as a committee, can manage the requests we receive for help.
- Charter Schools have already started and there have been many emails received about busing issues. So far OPT has been quickly responding. We hope that will be the case as the numbers increase.
- A few Council Members met with Senator John Liu's office to discuss Mayoral Control.

Carolyn Castro

- There was a meeting scheduled with the DOE to discuss a curriculum and support for students with dyscalculia. Unfortunately, it was canceled.
- Trying to secure a meeting with the DOE to get updates on where the literacy program stands.
- The Literacy Committee that I've been appointed to will have its first meeting on September 20. Will be able to give an update after we meet.

Lauretta Joseph

- Trying to attend CEC meetings. Recently attended CEC13 and CEC16 and there have been no issues relating to special education that have come up. Will continue to pop into meetings just to keep up.

### **Special Education Update**

- Unfortunately, John Hammer could not attend the meeting.
- Rachel Rippey, Chief of Staff – Special Education Office (SEO) apologized on his behalf.
- Assured the Council the SEO is working hard on answering the questions sent in and setting up a meeting with Enrollment.
- SEO is moving forward with the Disability Pride Parade in October and activities for Disability Awareness Week is in December. Ellen and Heather volunteered to be on the planning committee.
- Very excited about the start of the school year and the continued recovery efforts. Looking forward to expanding the specialized programs and SEED and having more compensatory services available to students.
- Will confirm the upcoming meetings with Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor.

Please refer to the recording (<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Anvfy2ZMxJdkevGMBo29s18dRcQ?e=xovJeg>) for the full presentation.

## **Unfinished Business**

- 2022-2023 Meeting Schedule – there was a brief discussion about the meeting schedule dates and location. The Council members agreed to continue to have the meetings on the first and third Thursday with the exception of the combined meetings in December and February. The Council also agreed to secure the meeting space at Tweed for all meetings unless or until the Council decides to have a meeting at a school.
- CCSE Vacancy – CCHS Rep – as reported earlier, only one application has been received. The question for the Council is whether to repost the vacancy announcement. Carolyn Castro moved and Heather Dailey seconded to repost the vacancy announcement. There was a roll call vote and the seven member in attendance at the time voted yes.
- Annual Report Update – Gail Robinson – The report is almost finished. There are a few more sections that need to be updated or completed – Gifted & Talented, SESIS, Students in Temporary Housing and English Language Learners. Erika will forward the pieces on G&T and SESIS. Heather will work on the students in temporary housing and Cynthia will work on ELL's. The resolutions from last term will also be added. There were a few more questions that will be included in the draft document to be forwarded to the Co-Presidents. Once those are addressed and the completed sections are included in the report, Gail will send a final draft of the annual report. Turnaround time – one week from today.

Meeting Adjourned – 7:26 pm