Citywide Council for Special Education Thursday, February 4, 2021

 Zoom Video Conference with CCSE

Business Meeting Minutes

**ROLL CALL**

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| Cynthia Arbulu-Vacca | Present |
| Trisha Bermudez | Present |
| Gloria Corsino | Present |
| Artelia Flowers | Present |
| Tamara Foye | Present |
| Marissa Jones | Absent |
| Noah Gotbaum | Absent |
| Paullette Healy | Present |
| Ellen McHugh | Present |
| Erika Newsome | Present |
| Azalia Volpe | Present |
| Carmen Robles(CCHS) | Present |

DOE: Jose Rios Lua

FACE: Alexis Saub

Total # participants-23

Ellen convenes meeting at 6:08pm.

Ellen asks for a volunteer to be Timekeeper. Gloria volunteers to take on Timekeeper duties.

Ellen presents the minutes from December 17th Calendar Meeting. Ellen makes a motion approve the minutes. Gloria 2nds. Rose does a roll call vote. Minutes pass unanimously.

Ellen presents the minutes from January 7th Business Meeting. Ellen makes a motion approve the minutes. Azalia 2nds. Rose does a roll call vote. Minutes pass unanimously.

**Co-President Reports**

Ellen reported the January 27th PEP meeting where a contract for G&T testing was voted down 8 to 7 largely due to a statement by D75 student Lucas Healy. BP James Oddo fired his PEP appointee because he voted no. Encouraged by Paullette’s advocacy in D20, Ellen, in her statement during public comment, brought attention to the SCA presentation about 4 new ADA accessible school sites slated for construction in D20 which will not be accommodating D75 because “it’s too hard” and will “not be an efficient use of the school building” 8 classrooms are suggested to implement a co-location for a D75 program and because some (not all) sites were planned for 18 classrooms total the SCA presented deemed it inefficient use of space.

Ellen talked briefly about the upcoming CEC elections. There is a new process to allow more parents to vote. The DOE rep from the Intergovernmental Office referred to Councilmembers as “minor” elected officials. Regardless, we need guidance on what the rules are (how to campaign, who gets to vote, etc) and the DOE asked for some time at our February 17th Calendar meeting to have Sheree Gibson from FACE present on the updated CEC election process.

There is discussion about what to do with the rest of our Council budget. Budget modifications need to be done before the budget closes out in March. Last year, we donated to students in temporary housing. This year Ellen suggested purchasing hotspots for students living in temporary housing. Trish mentioned in the chat that service provider contracts needed to be factored in if hotspots are purchased. Ellen appealed to the rest of the members to think of other ideas.

Gloria acknowledged Lucas Healy’s contribution as a speaker at the PEP and the effect it had on the decision. She also mentioned that the Biden administration has been providing ASL during all the press conferences and announcements.

Ellen wanted to discuss the upcoming joint meeting with CCELL in March. She has been busy planning the conference for the IEP reps on the CECs. Rose asked if our members have questions for CCELL

* Paullette asked how many dual language had to close due to COVID and how many MLL who are also IEP were tracked out of the IEP pathway and whether there has been a significant change in enrollment numbers due to COVID
* Ellen attended the February CCELL and they passed a resolution for a “permanent” rep for ELL students to access and advocate for ELL students. The resolution included that ASL is a recognized 2nd language for the Regents requirement and is also used by a significant number of both ELL students and IEP students.
* Cynthia wanted to ask if any of the learning devices are equipped with translation capacity and are our MLL students using it during live instruction.
* Azalia wanted to know if there was any data on whether the DOE has complied with the OCR agreement in regards to translations to IEP compliance

Ellen also brought up the pending lawsuit in Staten Island on behalf of SWD and D75 placement. Azalia offered to find out more about it.

**Members Reports**

Azalia reported on a virtual career and transition resource fair on February 10th at 2pm-5pm. For more info contact SITCAC@schools.nyc.gov or BKTCAC@schools.nyc.gov

Paullette reported the D75 DLT was yesterday and the D75 virtual walkthroughs are still happening. Reports of problems arising at the schools about SLTs not following SLT guidelines. Parents and staff ratios are unbalanced. SLT meetings are being held at times that are not convenient for parents to attend. Some parents have been prevented from attending. Parents are being asked to sign CEPs that they have never read. IPLAN access also has not been given to parents because the DOE are changing vendor. She fears this is potential a citywide issue. Ellen mentioned this has been a subject ECC co-chair and CEC16 President Nequan Mclean has been bringing attention to defunct or SLT non-compliance for years. Ellen encouraged everyone on the meeting to report SLT issues to their Superintendents.

Paullette also reported out that this was BLM in schools week of action and Lucas presented at Monday’s opening rally with Dr Shannon Waite from the PEP. There will also be a BLM in Schools You Matter Youth Summit on Saturday. Ellen read from an article “Overlook no more: a Bridge between Civil rights Movements” by Brad Lomax.

<http://www.blackdisability.org/content/overlooked-no-more-brad-lomax-bridge-between-civil-rights-movements>

Carmen reported back that CCHS may have SCA coming in to do a presentation on Capital Planning t the Calendar meeting on Feb 24th. Next CCHS Business meeting is February 10th. She expressed frustration that the buildings are closed so what could they be planning for

Rose encouraged everyone to get their reimbursements as soon as they can. Cynthia reminded everyone that we all need to use the new forms with the additional line for Wifi/Data or it will need to be redone. Ellen also discussed some other CECs are adjusting their budget in order to apply for reimbursement for the data/wifi allotment for April, May and June. If our Council wanted to do that, we would need to write a resolution in order to shift the money from the budget. However, if the member had submitted the max $125 for reimbursement for April, May and June, they are not eligible for the allotment. Ellen will also ask FACE if non-members from last year are eligible for the reimbursement. Cynthia volunteered to write the resolution with Ellen. Both Paullette and Erika mentioned that they both submitted their reimbursements months ago and still have not received them. Ellen thinks the SGO files our Council’s reimbursements at the end of the month which can delay the processing.

Chancellor’s Town Hall

* Azalia wished he had spoken more about special education instead of constantly deferring to Christina Foti or Linda Chen.
* Gloria responded that you let the experts talk to what they are experts in. “You don’t ask your mechanic what the road looks like.” is how Gloria phrased it.
* Ellen had hoped he would invite the parents to bring solutions at the table.
* Cynthia said ”there is no plan” not only for our SWD but all students. It can’t be all on Christina and her team to solve all the issues. Also, the Chancellor brought in a whole fleet of Executive Superintendent to supply support and we are a mess.
* Tamara said she was in attendance with her child and he made a comment whether this was Christina’s Town Hall and Carranza was the special guest.
* Paullette wanted the Chancellor to get the other departments that are needed to support prioritizing our SWD(Learning Bridges, DIIT, OPT, Literacy Supports, etc) to do their jobs instead of Christina’s team constantly having to facilitate.

Ellen suggested all this feedback be written down in a letter to the Chancellor. Cynthia suggested adding it into our Annual report would be a better idea. Azalia agreed to add it.

Paullette shared her screen in order to go over the changes to the CCSE bylaws. The following amendments were discussed and changed.

* Amendment to add 1st vice president and 2nd vice president and responsibilities and succession order (in Article II section 1)
* Clarity about Borough Host (when in person that person was tasked for securing a location via Borough) in Article II section 3.1
* Amendments in succession portion to reflect the addition of 1st and 2nd VP under Recording Secretary and Treasurer (Article II section 3.4 and 3.5)
* Amendment to absences allowing AA to alert member after 2 unexcused absence (Article II Section 6)
* Amendment under alerting PTAs and President’s Council to Presidents and IEP members of CECs/President’s Council(Article III/Section 1a)
* Amendment to add protocols for virtual meetings (Article III/Section 1b)
* Amendment to time change for meetings to reflect meetings starting at 6pm instead of 7pm (Article III/Section 4)
* Amendment to Special meetings (Article III/Section 5)
* Amendment to Executive Session (Article III/Section 6)
* Amendment to how to present Resolutions (Article IV/Section 1)
* Amendment to public speaking time allowed (Article IV/Section 2)
* Amendment to establishing Quorom (Article IV/Section 3 sub 41) needs further discussion
* Amendment to revise the virtual voting (Article IV/Section 4)
* Amendment to Committee about appointment and/or removal (Article V)
* Amendment to Vacancies(Article VII)
* Addition of Article X-CODE OF CONDUCT

.Paullette thanks the members for the collaboration and will send out to all members. Azalia will look over the Quorom passage in Article IV to determine whether it is necessary and will review that at the calendar meeting.

Gloria asks for a motion to be made to adjourn. Azalia makes a motion to end the business meeting. Gloria 2nds. Everyone said aye. Meeting ends at 9:02pm.