Citywide Council for Special Education Thursday, April 8, 2021

 Zoom Video Conference with CCSE

Business Meeting Minutes

**ROLL CALL**

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

DOE: Jose Rios Lua

FACE: Alexis Saub

Total # participants-21

Ellen convenes meeting at 6:23pm.

Ellen asks for a volunteer to be Timekeeper. Azalia agree to the Timekeeper duties.

Ellen presents minutes from the March 18 calendar meeting. Azalia makes a motion to adopt as written. Erika 2nds. Rose does the roll call vote. Motion passes. Minutes approved unanimously.

**Co-President Reports**

Gloria reported the Equity Committee are close to finishing the code of conduct. Ellen asked why more frequent updates have not been given on the status of the code of conduct. Paullette explains that the working group submitted the draft in December and it has been with FACE and legal until recently. The Equity Committee had not met for months. Ellen was concerned because at her ECC Steering Committee, conversations was had that the Equity Committee would have a hand of in creating a council similar to the ECC but under the guidance of the DOE in order to enforce the anticipated code of conduct. Neither Paullette or Gloria are aware of such conversations.

Ellen reports that ECC meeting with the Chancellor is on Saturday April 10 at 9:30 am. It will be the first ECC with Chancellor Meisha Ross Porter.

Ellen speaks to the education policy meeting with mayoral candidate Maya Wiley. Her policy team expressed Maya looking to invest $100 million on hiring 1000 teachers, provide arts every day, AIS teams at every school and invested in reestablishing trust with our government.

Ellen talks about CFE and Foundation Aid being fully funded for the first tine in 30 years. Special education will be given an influx of $1.2 billion. Ellen had sent out recommendations for that budget from the ARISE Coalition. Ellen wanted to bring attention that in NYC the ratio for SETTS is 8:1 when the federal standard is 5:1 ratio. With the funding, attention should be paid to lowering the ratios to lessen caseload and provide more targeted supports for our struggling students and to counteract the COVID slide.

**Members Reports**

Erika reported the website is live. Paullette will send over all the minutes and resolutions to load onto the website along with resources we created as a Council so far. Erika did note that the Annual Reports are up for access. Paullette asked if we can upload the presentations, we had so far onto the website. Ellen said the IEP conference should be posted too. She also still needs profile pics for the member profiles.

Erika also highlighted that with the close work she has been doing with the Kips Bay Learning Bridges site, they are now looking to implement training specifically on what an IEP is and how to support it in the Learning Bridges setting.

Paullette reported out on Chancellor Porter verifying that a remote option will be given for summer session at this month’s CPAC meeting. Many D75 families were concerned if a remote option was not available, their child would be deprived of participating when Chapter 683 which is mandated for our children with a 12-month IEP. Reminder Chapter 683 is paid via Title 1 funding.

Paullette asked for a follow-up on the rumor that social distancing was no longer being observed on the busses. Paullette had asked Shelley Kleinberg at D75 district office to ask Jodi Sammon from OPT and did not geta response. Ellen asked Rose if she could please extend an invitation to Jodi Sammon to attend our next meeting.

Azalia asks whether a Special Master was ever selected to oversee impartial hearings. Paullette said there was very little reporting earlier this year. She would forward the article reporting that. Azalia wants to add it to the Annual report. More info can be found here.

https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2021/1/29/22256284/special-master-nyc-special-education-complaint

Carmen asked if anyone had info on the vaccines available for 16+. Erika informed that only Pfizer was offering the vaccine for 16+

Discussion was had whether to keep the CCSE Calendar meeting as April 15th. Ellen makes the motion to do a roll call whether we preferred the April 15th date or the 22nd for the Calendar meeting. Gloria 2nd the motion. Rose does a roll call vote. Motion passes to keep the Calendar meeting for the 15th unanimously.

Azalia talks a bit about COPA as an additional resource. Parents who want to join, its $95 for the year.

Ellen opened a discussion on how we felt the IEP conference went. Mostly positive feedback.

Ellen also wanted to know how the members felt about signing onto the Advocates For Children letter on providing pay parity for CBO 3K teachers and prioritizing 3k pre-K seats for students with disabilities. The deadline to sign up is today. All agreed to sign on as a Council.

Rose reminds everyone that they need to submit their reimbursements on time. There are members that are behind in their submissions.

Ellen opens the discussion on Resolution #9 on Providing Local Supports for Special Education Committees headed by the IEP members on the local CECs. Members asked for clarity on some of the resolves. Suggestions were made in the verbiage to make the resources more detailed. Paullette agreed to send out the link again for the resolution for the members to provide input to flesh out the 2 trouble areas.

Ellen spoke briefly about a meeting with Sayde Camponaour about the History of Screens and that our Students with disabilities was absent from the presentation when our students are screened every year to assess their need.

Paullette suggested under new business that we draft a letter of budget recommendations for the influx of funds in anticipation of the City Council and Mayoral City budget. Ellen volunteered to work on the recommendations with Paullette to present at the next meeting.

Azalia makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Erika 2nds. Rose does a roll call vote. Motion passes. Meeting adjourns at 8:11pm.