Citywide Council for Special Education

Thursday, May 6, 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 | Present |
| Noah Gotbaum | Present |
| Paullette Healy | Present |
| Ellen McHugh | Present |
| Erika Newsome | Present |
| Azalia Volpe | Excused |
| Carmen Robles(CCHS) | Present |

DOE: Jose Rios Lua

FACE: Sayde Campoamor, Alexis Saub, Claudette Agard

Total # participants-25

Ellen convenes meeting at 6:07pm.

Ellen asks for a Timekeeper. Gloria volunteers.

Ellen presents minutes from the April 8 and April 15 business/calendar meeting. Gloria makes a motion to adopt as written. Paullette 2nds. Rose does the roll call vote. Cynthia abstains since she was not present. Minutes approved unanimously.

**Co-President Reports**

Gloria reports back on the IEP case in D28 she had reported upon at the April meeting. Child is getting re-evaluation and a new neuropsych to get gauge appropriate supports. Parent is very happy that this was expediated so quickly and is grateful for Gloria’s support.

Ellen reports that Chancellor Meisha Ross Porter is sticking to re-opening the buildings as her first priority (Open, Open, Open)

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.

Ellen reported Adrienne Austin released a letter reminding DLT meetings are now open to the public and attendees should be allowed to participate. Language access also needs to made available for the public also.

Ellen reported out on the meeting with NYCBUS CEO Matt Berlin in partnership with ARISE. The attendees were members of NPS, Bussing advocates, special education advocates and parents. He reported that school busses should be 100% electric by 2030. Questions were raised on the conditions of the school busses(how many equipped with chairlifts, how many needed repairs, how many still need climate control)the status of the GPS platform and installation and what parent engagement actions are being taken as agreed upon when establishing NYCBUS.

**Members Reports**

Erika reported she had applied for the Summer Rising program and her child was accepted. There is not enough information about pick ups, drop offs, bussing and paras. Cynthia suggested putting out a survey to gauge concerns. Paullette will share the survey she created and sent out to her D75 community last month and between Erika, Cynthia Ellen and herself, will have a survey ready to send out by Monday.

Noah reported that NPs parents were not allowed to vote in the recent CCEC elections. He himself couldn’t vote himself as a candidate. Paullette added neither were parents with children in 4410 or 853 programs for Pre-K.

Paullette reported out on D75 SLT compliance and how the CEP do not reflect the needs of the students especially our Title 1 families. Superintendent is allowing the members of the DLT to provide more localized support

Paullette reported an update on the Citywide Equity Committee under Adrienne Austin. We are close to presenting a code of conduct to adopt into Chancellor regulations.

Paullette is working with Leonie Haimson from Class Size Matters and AQE on adopting the budget recommendations our Council released into the budget recommendations to present to City Council with Senator Robert Jackson

Cynthia reported on this morning CPAC meeting. Leonie Haimson did present and include a petition to utilize the influx of funding to lowering class size. Linda Chen said there will be recovery programs available in Summer Rising including students with IEPs aging out of the system. Many concerns that social workers, counselors and nurses will not be hired in time for the Summer Rising program.

Carmen reported the CCHS business meeting is May 12

Ellen introduces Executive Director of FACE Sayde Campoamor.

* Chancellor Porter will be holding a Town Hall with CCD75 on the reduction of social distancing guidelines from 6 feet to 3 feet.
* Paullette asked why this Town Hall is only on the social distancing guidelines when the clock is ticking on Chapter 683 and there has been no information about what that is going to look like.
* Noah asked how Sayde position is different from Adrienne Austin. Her position is a result of a merger of Community Affairs. Also looking to amplify student voice along with our immigrant outreach
* Cynthia asked if the reduction in social distancing is schoolwide, why is this Town hall addressing only the D75 community. Sayde explained that the D75 Council felt because their concerns were unique they deserved to have a special audience with the Chancellor geared towards those specific needs. Sayde did promise to reach out to us for next steps in scheduling a Chapter 683 info session.
* Ellen asked when will a student with disability be included on the Chancellor’s Student Advisory Council. Sayde mentioned a possibility of a Student Council to represent students with disabilities which we pushed back on further segregation. Jose clarified that students asked for a space where they can express the direct challenges they have navigating school.
* Paullette also elevated that student advocates who are hearing challenged needs to bring their own ASL interpreter in order to participate and DOE has ASL interpreters that need to be available for this need
* Paullette also ask that attention to be paid to training the CBO staffs partnering up with schools for Summer Rising de-escalation techniques for children who are non-verbal, on the spectrum, have behavior or sensory challenges (behavior is a language) and it needs to be implemented now since the summer rising program is less than 2 months away
* Sayde asked if meeting with those in charge of the CBOs for Summer Rising would be helpful and we agreed to meeting with the Summer Rising team along with Josh Wallack on Early Education concerns.
* Erika asked what happens if a school needs to close? What is the contingency plan for school closures for working parents?
* Erika also mentioned she invested a lot of time getting training rolled out in Learning Bridges and she wanted to know will this training be mandated going into Summer Rising/
* Ellen asked if children that were enrolled in non public schools will be eligible for the Summer Rising programs
* Gloria stressed training for parent coordinators on the IEP process. Use parents with the experience and expertise to help facilitate those connections

Jose talked about the Parent Forum the Special Education office has put together May 20th. Gloria brought up that the Sibling Support group offers scholarships for participants.

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

Under new business Paullette presented an idea for the Council to create a quick reference containing sample template/letters on common IEP issues (re-opening an IEP, rescheduling an IEP, asking for a re-evaluation) as an additional resource to our community for the website. We can start compiling letters all the members have amassed in helping parents through the process and put them out for struggling families who need support. Paullette also introduced a workshop about IEPs based around the game “2 Truths and a Lie” in order to demystify the IEP process. Ellen mentioned FACE has asked CCSE for help facilitate trainings during the CCEC orientation.

Ellen asked Marissa for an update on the re-location of her child’s program. Ellen suggested reaching out to the CEC IEP rep for Staten Island to share the info out for other parents looking for a specialized program for students that are hearing impaired. Paullette also recommended to contact the enrollment office for D75 to inform them of the new re-location.

Gloria makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marissa 2nds. Rose does a roll call vote. Meeting adjourns at 8:18pm.