

Citywide Council on Special Education

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Business-Calendar Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Co-President Erika Newsome at 6:10 pm.

Roll Call

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	Present
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.

Presentation

Alan Cheng, High School Superintendent of the Consortium, The Internationals Network, and NYC Outward Bound talked about the schools represented in his district. There are 21,000 students, 1500 teachers in 48 schools within the five boroughs. Plus two remote school options - one fully virtual program where the teachers are going to be in the building, but the students are going to be participating remotely and a hybrid program where students are going to participate in person for half the day. Students will either attend a morning session or afternoon session. Please refer to the recording (<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Anvfy2ZMxJdkayoNvXl1TeqliUA?e=YF9PKS>) for the full presentation.

Dr. Sanayi Beckeles-Canton moved and Cynthia Arbulu Vacca seconded to adjourn the business meeting. There was a roll call vote and the nine members in attendance voted yes. The business meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Co-President Erika Newsome called the calendar meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

Roll Call

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	Present
Ellen McHugh	Present
Erika Newsome	Present

A quorum was present.

Nava Bahrapour was appointed Timekeeper.

Approval of Minutes – May 19 and June 2, 2022

Ellen McHugh attended a PEP meeting where the members used the “voice vote” to approve minutes instead of a roll call vote. She suggested that the CCSE incorporate that procedure in approving the minutes. Heather Dailey moved and Ellen McHugh seconded to use voice vote in approving minutes. There was a voice vote and all in attendance voted yes and the motion carried.

Heather Dailey moved and Dr. Sanayi Beckeles-Canton seconded to accept the minutes of May 19 and June 2, 2022 and submitted. There was a voice vote – there were nine yes votes and one abstention. The motion carried.

Co-Presidents’ Reports

Erika Newsome

- Summer Rising is in full swing and working great. In some areas though, there are concerns about transportation. Some students have been bused to the wrong school or haven’t been picked up at all. Over all on the positive – parents and students are happy that the student can participate in the fun activities after academics before the bus picks them up.
- The CCSE website is back up a running and will continue to be updated with minutes, resolutions and other resources.

Ellen McHugh

- Attended with the Comptroller's Office where funded cases were discussed for schools that serve students with special needs.
- Attended an online meeting with PIST (Parents to Improve School Transportation) who are working on a Parents Bill of Rights for busing. Once completed, will share and upload to website.
- Attended a PEP meeting. Concerned about some of the contracts presented on funding for Three K Programs. Federal money will run out at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Will need to create working group to work on creating a policy program for the Division of Early Childhood Education.
- There is a working group on Digital Learning that will begin in September. The group will be focused on access to digital learning.

Member Reports

Paullette Heally

- Also attended the PEP meeting and reiterated what Ellen McHugh said about the contracts discussed, the need for more transparency. Concerned that the vendors contracted won't be able to service students with special needs.
- Working with Sara Catalanoto of PIST and Rima Izquierda of the Bronx to find alternate options for D75 and Summer Rising students after a Consolidated bus accident that happened in the Bronx where 36 Consolidated Bus staff workers were injured. There were major delays, rerouting. And because of the heat, many students arrived at school sick, dehydrated. Parents had to come and pick up their child.
- OPT (the Office of Pupil Transportation) was invited to tonight's meeting but unfortunately was not available however, will attend our August 4 meeting.
- OPT launched an online complaint form to help alleviate some of the complaints coming into the Call Center. Still working out some of the kinks. Encouraged attendees, if they submit a complaint via email to copy the CCSE and Special Education inboxes.

Nava Bahrapour

- Attended a SEED event at the UFT headquarters
- Will be working this summer with Christina Foti and Rebecca Daverin on a project surrounding language, terminology and inclusive terminology
- Working on a new initiative that will be included in the magazine I'm writing, that will launch this fall. The initiative focuses on social exclusion and isolation for girls on the spectrum. Social exclusion, especially for young women is the leading cause of mental health issues, low self-esteem, depression and trouble socially integrating. Would like to propose a virtual support group for young girls to address this issue.

Dr. Sanayi Beckles Canton

- Visited the Capital, along with other parent leaders who support dyslexia, to discuss the 21st Century Dyslexia Act Bill some senators are trying to pass through federal congress. If passed, the bill will take dyslexia out of the IDA, which defines it as a special learning disability and give it its own definition. Some concerns with the way the new definition is constructed is that it would open the possibility of some children not getting the services they require. Another concern is that the research/studies done to help define the new definition did not include families of color or other ethnicities or backgrounds. Advocates are asking to include in the definition that dyslexia is neurobiological. That would insure that all children, regardless of socio-economic, race or background, public, private or charter school, would get the services they need.

Heather Dailey

- There is a voucher available for students who are participating in Summer Rising until 6:00 pm and have busing on their IEP. The vouchers are through Uber and a Driver Co-op. You can get the code through your child’s NYCSA account.
- Attended the Disability Unites Festival in Central Park. There were a lot of agencies represented handing out information and resources. Will put together a list to have uploaded to our website.

Financial Report

The final financial report for the 2021-2022 was shared. Because we were not able to complete the printing and mailing of the annual report or utilize the funds in the available in supplies and training, we were \$6,117.27 under budget and unfortunately, had to return the remaining. We should be able to use all of the funds available for the 2022-2023 budget.

CCSE Budget as of June 30, 2022			
Program	Budget Amount	Used	Available
Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Meeting Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$172.36	\$327.64
Non-Contractual Services (Gayle Robinson)	\$ 3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Member Reimbursement	\$ 15,600.00	\$14,604.82	\$995.18
P-Card	\$ 4,400.00	\$1,055.55	\$3,344.45
Training	\$ 1,000.00	\$50.00	\$950.00
	\$ 25,000.00	\$18,882.73	\$6,117.27

Unfinished Business

Annual Report Update – Gail Robinson is working on the last minutes additions to the annual report. The resolutions completed by the Council this term are being added. Once completed, the report will be available via hard copy, digital and on the website.

Special Education Update

Christina Foti and John Hammer

Summer Rising Program.

- Everything is going well.
- Also visited some sites to troubleshoot concerns the CCSE brought attention to. Specifically the transition of DOE to the CBO programing.
- Students with 12 month IEP's were participating with the extended programing.
- Parents are also utilizing the ride share.
- Offered more training to Paras and CBO staff.
- Overall the program going well but there is always room for improvement.

Related Services

- Operating five of the ten SEED sites this summer.
- The 24 related services sites across all boroughs are up and running. Each site is co-located with the summarizing program except for the one exception on Staten Island.
- The summer evaluation sites are open and will remain open until August 19
- Currently working with superintendents and preparing for school opening to ensure that students with IEPs will receive their services.

Please refer to the recording (<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Anvfy2ZMxJdkayoNvXI1TeqliUA?e=YF9PKS>) for the complete Special Education update.

New Business

CCSE Vacancy

- The Council received a resignation from Francine Almash, the CCSE Representative on the CCSH. The official announcement of the opening for this position will be announced tomorrow.
- The CCSE filled the vacancy left by a member at the end of last term. Francine Almash has been selected to fill that position. Heather Dailey moved and Cynthia Arbulu Vacca seconded to accept Francine Almash as a new member of the Council. There was a roll call vote and nine of the ten members voted yes. Because of technical issues, we were not able to record the vote of the tenth member.

Resolutions

Hybrid Meetings

Heather Dailey moved and Cynthia Arbulu Vacca seconded to discuss the proposed resolution on hybrid meetings. After a lengthy discussion and update the Council voted. Cynthia Arbulu Vacca moved and Dr. Sanayi Beckles Canton seconded to accepted resolution as amended. There was a roll call vote and the 10 members in attendance voted yes.

Bylaws

The Council reviewed the proposed resolution to the bylaws regarding hybrid meetings. After discussion and update, Paullette Healy moved and Cynthia Arbulu Vacca seconded to accept the resolution to amend the bylaws as written. There was a roll call vote and the nine members in attendance voted yes.

Public Comment

Ellen McHugh recognized Ryan Fratello, representative from Senator ??? office. Mr. Fratello addressed the attendees saying that his office is committed to ensuring that schools are effectively run and will be sharing the information learned by attending the education meetings with his office.

Stephanie Sandeus – Congratulated Francine Almash on joining the CCSE and asked who will be replacing her as the representative on CCHS. She was informed that the search will begin tomorrow with the announcement of the vacancy, application and interview process.

Effi Zakry - Expressed a concern about small class size and that it will affect students with disabilities. Asked the opinion of the Council. The Council believes that small class sizes are beneficial to students with disabilities in that it provides students with individualized and targeted services. Teachers are able to focus on the student. The concern is more on whether small class sizes will be used or if there will be enough space to accommodate since the DOE has been faces with overcrowding in the past.

Heather Dailey moved and Carolyn Castro seconded to adjourn the meeting. There was a voice vote and all in attendance voted yes.

Meeting Adjourned – 10:04 pm