

Citywide Council on Special Education

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Business/Calendar Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Mark Gonsalves at 6:39 pm.

Roll Call

Diana Abrams	Present - Virtually
Sanayi Beckles Canton	Present - Virtually
Carolyn Castro	Present
Heather Dailey	Present
Mark Gonsalves	Present
Lupe Hernandez	Present
Tamaira Reid	Present
Maggie Sanchez	Present

Presentations

Jolan Nagi, Director of Youth Support Services, Office of Safety and Youth Development
Respect for All

Kalima Mckenzie-simms (she/her) Manager of LGBTQ+ Programs
Jude Schoenfeld (they/them) Coordinator of LGBTQ+ Programs
Office of Safety and Youth Development
LGBTQ+ policies

Please refer to the recording ([12-14-23 CCSE Business-Calendar Meeting.mp4](#)) for the full presentations.

Co-President Gonsalves called for a motion to adopt the agenda with the changes. Dr. Sanayi Beckles Canton moved, and ??? seconded to adopt the agenda as changed. There was a voice vote and all members in attendance voted yes.

Heather Dailey was appointed Timekeeper.

Vote for Treasurer

Heather Dailey moved and Tamuria Reid seconded to open the nominations for Treasurer. There were no nominations so the voting for Treasurer was tabled until next meeting.

Public Comment

Erica Kendall - a parent in District 17 brought up a concern that students in the black and brown communities are not having their needs met and have to travel to other districts to get the services they need. Part of the reason is schools are not receiving the funding needed to provide accessible buildings. Here this discussion in it's entirety at the 01:17:51 point of the recording ([12-14-23 CCSE Business-Calendar Meeting.mp4](#)).

Francine Almash voiced a concern about (01:24:37) the process for students with IEPs receiving accommodations for College Board and other college admissions exams administered. Asked if the CCSE could look into this.

Heather Dailey moved and Tamuira Reid seconded to adjourn the calendar meeting and take a five minutes break before the business meeting. There was a voice vote and all members in attendance voted yes.

Business Meeting

Roll Call

Diana Abrams	Present - Virtually
Sanayi Beckles Canton	Present - Virtually
Carolyn Castro	Present
Heather Dailey	Present
Mark Gonsalves	Present
Lupe Hernandez	Present
Tamuira Reid	Present
Maggie Sanchez	Present

The business meeting was called to order at 8:20 pm by Co-President Gonsalves.

A quorum was present.

The minutes of October 19 20 and October 27, 2023 were approved.

Co-Presidents Report

Carolyn Castro – will submit a written report. However, wanted to announce that IncludeNYC is having its Annual Fair on Saturday, February 10 and would like the Council to consider having a table.

Member Reports

Lupe Hernandez

- Attended the UFT parent leadership dinner and President Mulgrew and UFT Parent Rep. Nicholas Cruz shared some of the plans the UFT are working on. They talked about the class size mandate and how it's going to be implemented. Will discuss during new business if the Council would like to adopt a resolution about the mandate.
- They also discussed Mayoral Control and updated parent leaders about upcoming hearings. Also encouraged parents to attend these hearings as issues regarding class size mandate not being funded by the capital plan (overcrowding), non-compliance of IEP (as a result of overcrowding) are also being discussed.
- There were also hearings today with NYC Reads and DYCD that will be discussed later in the meeting.

Heather Dailey

- The same complaint was escalated to the Federal Department of Education and Civil Rights. We heard back from the legal team that put the complaint together. They met with New York State, who is currently investigating the complaint. The investigation is coming along, but it will be a while before we see real results. They will reach back out in early 2024 with next steps. Asked if any other parents would like to sign on to the OCR complaint, to please reach out to us ASAP.

Maggie Sanchez

- Attended the Queens Disability Council meeting where they discussed the 853 and 4410 programs and the funding structure. Will provide a complete report at the next meeting but informed that the New York State Education will be scheduling meetings in the future to gather input from the community on what's happening with their schools.

Committee Reports

Communications – The Communications Committee met this week.

- We are still working on updating the website.
- Reminded members to submit a short bio and photo for the website.
- Created a shared calendar that will include local events that the public should be aware of
- Currently working on a YouTube channel adding content. Once ready, will send out links to our network

District Support Committee

- Because of a scheduling conflict with New York City Reads, the District Support Committee had to reschedule its meeting from December 14 to December 20. Notice and links will be emailed.
- The Committee has been communicating with the District 75 Presidents Council, who has agreed to partner with us. CECD75 is in the process of discussing joining us also. If they agree, then this will be a “joint” committee with CECD75.
- The topics of discussion for the committee will be
 - Parent-facing IEP supports and helping to cultivate parent advocates
 - Filling the 15 vacancies for the D75 parent advocates on the local CECs
 - Budget cuts

IEP Conference

- The Committee met this week. There were several topics discussed. The next steps will be to pick a date, determine if the conference is going to be hybrid or remote and narrow down the topics. The Committee plans to meet in January. Announcement will go out shortly.

Bylaws

- There's nothing currently to report. If there are any requests to amending the bylaws, please submit and the Committee will meet to discuss.

Annual Report

- Azalia Volpe was the annual report chair but she resigned from the Council because of family reasons. We wish her and her family well. Although Azalia resigned, she did offer to help but we still need and will be looking for a chair over the next month or so to take the lead. If anyone in the audience is interested or know someone who would be interested in helping, please let us know.

Unfinished Business

- 2024 Meeting Schedule (meeting topics, locations) – The Council hopes to bring our meeting the outer-boroughs. We've asked John Hammer for suggestions for programs
 - There was a brief discussion on topics for Jan. – Mar. The Council agreed on the following:
 - January 18 - Office of Language Access and Capital Planning
 - February 15 – Substance Abuse
 - March 7 - Travel Training
- There was a suggestion that the Council start to look into presentations on early intervention/Pre-k programs and what services are available for families. There is a crisis happening in this demographic – students are very delayed and not receiving their services.
- CCSE Vacancies – The Council announced the CCSE/CCSE D75/CCHS Rep. vacancies. The notice will go out shortly.

New Business

- Dr. Beckles Canton moved and Tamaira Reid seconded to table the new business until next meeting. There was a voice vote and all members voted yes.

Meeting Adjourned – 9:28 pm