

# Citywide Council on Special Education

Friday, April 29, 2022

## Calendar Meeting Minutes

### Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Co-President Ellen McHugh at 6:20 pm.

### Roll Call

Cynthia Arbulu Vacca	Present
Julie Barreto	Present
Sanyi Beckeles-Canton	Absent
Carolyn Castro	Present
Wenming Chen	Present
Heather Dailey	Present
Artelia Flowers	Absent
Paullette Healy	Present
Ellen McHugh	Present
Erika Newsome	Present

A quorum was present.

Interpreters introduced themselves.

Nava Bahrapour was appointed Timekeeper.

Council Members introduced themselves, their district and child's special needs category.

Paullette Heally moved and Laretta Joseph seconded to table the agenda and let the presenters speak. There was a voice vote and everyone in attendance voted yes.

### **Presentation – 2022 Summer Rising Program**

John Hammer, Division of Specialized Instruction and Student Support

There was an overview presentation of the Summer Rising Program which is a partnership with the DOE and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). Highlights include:

- Enrollment is currently open and filling up fast.

- The program is six weeks long and will begin on July 5 – August 12. Students in grades K-8 will attend Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. 8:00 – 3:00 will be academics and social emotional learning with extended day of enrichment activities until 6:00 pm.
- Students with IEP's or special needs will attend a 6 or 6/12 hour day, Monday - Friday (8:10 am – 2:40 pm). Students will have access to enrichment activities throughout their daily schedule.
- Enrichment activities include field trips, art activities and outdoor recreation and will be planned by the school principals and community-based organizations (CBO's).
- High school students will attend Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. High school students will have opportunities in summer work and career development through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), completion of graduation requirements or attend academic acceleration or college prep classes.
- All students who require additional supports to participate in the summer rising programs will receive those supports.
- The DOE and DYCD will be offering additional training to the CBO staff focused on supporting students with disabilities.
- Transportation Options
  - Eligible students will receive busing daily from July 5 through August 12, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Eligible students must enroll in the Summer Rising Enrollment Portal by May 22 in order to receive a bus route in time for Summer Rising. (Eligible students in 12-month Extended School Year and D75 Ch. 683 programs do not need to use the Enrollment Portal to participate in summer programming. They will be routed for busing by their schools.)
  - Students eligible for transportation include
    - Students with IEPs that recommend busing
    - Students in grades K-6 in shelters
    - Other students in temporary housing or foster care in grades K-6 with an approved exception for busing
    - Students who received stop-to-school busing based on grade and distance during the school year
  - Students who were assigned MetroCards during the school year can receive a MetroCard at their summer site and can use these MetroCards to go to and from Summer Rising at the program start and end times (8am and 6pm). Students receiving stop-to-school busing based on grade & distance will also be provided a MetroCard to use at 6pm
  - Still exploring options for students eligible for busing who plan to stay for the enrichment activities until 6:00 pm. Also, looking into options for students with a curb-to-school bus route (transportation from in front of their home or shelter, not from a bus stop), due to their IEP recommendation, temporary housing, or foster care status. These options may include busing or prepaid rideshare/taxi which will require an adult (parent or guardian, family member or family friend) to accompany the student.

Ellen McHugh moved and Erika Newsome seconded to table the Co-Presidents' and Members' Reports. There was a voice vote and everyone in attendance voted yes.

### **Approval of Minutes – February 23, 2022**

Carolyn Castro moved and Paullette Heally seconded to approve the minutes of February 23, 2022. There was a voice vote and everyone in attendance voted yes.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Annual Report**

- Co-President Newsome asked that everyone turn in their section of the annual report by 3:00 pm on Saturday so that she can send it to Gail Robinson for editing and proofing.

#### **Meeting with Chancellor Banks**

- Although there was a brief discussion, there is still confusion about the meeting with the Chancellor and FACE's involvement. The discussion will continue off-line.

#### **Remaining Meeting Schedule**

- Laretta Joseph moved and Wenming Chen seconded to have a combined business/calendar meeting on June 2. There was a roll call vote and the nine members in attendance voted yes.

#### **Member Reimbursements**

- Members were reminded to submit their reimbursements.

### **New Business**

#### **Meeting with City Hall Recap**

- Some Council Members were encouraged by the support from the Mayor's Office.
- There is concern about the partnership with CBO's (Community Based Organizations) and the history of not including students with disabilities in the after school programs.
- Concerned about the lack of training for staff who work with students with disabilities. The use of SYEP students without proper training working with students with disabilities.
- Would like to be part of the training. Have input or give suggestions on what to include in the training.

#### **Crip Camp Screening**

Paullette Heally was approached by a colleague for support from CCSE in co-sponsoring the screening of Crip Camp. Crip Camp is a documentary that tells the story of Camp Jened and its impact upon the

disability rights movement. Heather Dailey moved and Carolyn Castro seconded to have the CCSE Co-sponsor the screening. There was a voice vote and everyone in attendance voted yes.

Francine Almash announced that she is part of a team of teachers putting together a curriculum on NYC Disability History for students from 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Hopefully to be implemented by the DOE. Looking for disabled adults, disabled students and parents of disabled student to share their story.

#### Public Comment

- Parent Stephanie Sandeus had a question – What about SERS (Special Education Recovery Services) for charter school students? It was suggested that the parent to gather from the charter school, the dates and times that her child did not receive services, take to the District Office and let them know that she needs compensatory services.
- NeQuan McLean – a parent of a student with a disability in high school, expressed his concern about how the CCHS Representative for the CCSE (Francine Almash) is being mistreated, disrespected and not being heard. Therefore, families and students with disabilities are not being represented at the CCHS (Citywide Council on High Schools). Asked that the CCSE send letters (to Chancellor and Mayor) or pass a resolution to hold the CCHS accountable.
- CCSE has already expressed their concerns to CCHS as well as escalated the complaint to Adrian Austin and Christina Melendez. There have been conversations with CCHS about their behavior but to no avail.
- There is also concern that this type of behavior might spread to other CEC's where the IEP representative will not be able to speak on behalf of students with disabilities in their districts.
- Action Items
  - Draft Resolution – Equal Representation
  - Draft Letter to Chancellor and Mayor Regarding CCHS
  - Draft Open Letter Regarding CCHS

**Meeting Adjourned – 10:03 pm**