

Citywide Council on Special Education

Wednesday, September 23, 2021

Calendar Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Co-President Ellen McHugh at 6:13 pm.

Roll Call

Julie Barreto	Present
Sanyi Beckeles-Canton	Absent
Wenming Chen	Present
Heather Dailey	Present
Artelia Flowers	Present
Paullette Healy	Present
Ellen McHugh	Present
Erika Newsome	Present
Joseph Xing	Present

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

Joseph Xing was appointed Time Keeper

The minutes of August 5 were approved – six yeses and two abstentions.

Co-Presidents' Reports

Erika Newsome

- Met with FACE to coordinate CCSE Check-in meeting schedule
- Still trying to correct busing issues
- Issues with schools only serving cold lunch
- In the process of updating the website

Ellen McHugh

- Attended a meeting with ECC & Adrienne Austin
 - Biggest concern is busing.
 - School enrollment is very low – will affect funding.

- Discussed the complaint out of D21 of a parent complaining about their child having to sit by a student with a handicap.
- Professional Development – Parent University is still available for CEC members to review and refresh their skills.
- Still concerns about the lack of nurses.

Members' Reports

Paullette Healey

- Issue about the D75 School in D21 using a TCU – Temporary class Unit off school campus.
- First school closure – D75 school P79 in East Harlem.
- Met with Senators Lui and Jackson to release a bill to mandate school districts to restore remote learning option if school has more than 1 million students.
- Attended a rally with City Workers to provide safe option for remote workers.
- Mentioned the Vaccine Mandate for DOE teachers and staff.

Artelia Flowers

- Received a call about a power shortage in a school. Will get back with the name of the school.

Heather Dailey

- Has been working with parents with busing issues and working with Jodi Sammons and Kevin Moran to rectify problems.
- Suggested that there should be a better process for parents to submit a complaint. Currently there is a 2-3 hour wait or parent is transferred to a supervisor or call is dropped.
- Concerns about COVID Safety Protocol on buses. Mixed grades sharing same bus.

Joseph Ng

- Reiterated same busing issues.

Presentation

John Hammer - Deputy Chief Executive Director - Special Education Office, Division of Specialized Instruction and Student Support.

Special Education Update

- Vaccine Mandate deadline for teachers and staff is September 27.
- The new special education data management system to track the provision in special education services to our city. It's a replacement for SESIS.
- Discussed a brief overview of the academic overlap and academic recovery. Offering a broad set of supports to ensure successful homecoming. Screening for social emotional learning and literacy.
- Conducting system wide training on evidence, based in ELA and math interventions for every DOE school.
- DOE has released an SAM (School Allocation Memo) academic recovery program with a total allocation of 350 million dollars across all schools which provides funding for common planning time to assess and plan for students. And that includes students with IEPs and includes planning and preparation for "targeted" special education recovery services.
- Overview of Special Education Recovery Services.
 - Specialized instruction and related services through an after school or Saturday program
 - Launching Sensory Exploration Education Program
 - Training for at least two individuals in every DOE school in literacy and math interventions to students with IEP
 - Expand the Beyond Access Series, which will launch the 2021-2022 school year on October 5. The first event will be on Special Education Recovery Services.
 - Funds to provide support for eligible students 21 plus for continued instruction towards their diploma or plans for college and career readiness.
 - All students with IEPs will have access to special education recovery services this school year.
 - Provided schools with a report to help them stagger the prioritization of students with IEP's for better implementation of special education recovery services. This includes identifying which students should receive the service first – students who have regressed during the pandemic.
 - Launching Sensory Exploration Education Program (SEED) – a 10-week program offered after school hours Monday – Thursday and Saturdays over the course of the school year. There will be two SEED sites in each borough. Each site will be led by occupational therapists and supported by special education teachers.

Resolutions

- Paullette Healy moved and Artelia Flowers seconded to discuss Resolution on Remote Learning in School Year 2021-22. There was a brief discussion and amendments to the resolution. Paullette Healy moved to accept the resolution with the changes and Joseph Ng seconded. There was a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.
- Heather Dailey moved and Paullette Healy seconded to discuss Resolution on Appeals to the Denial of Remote Option. After a brief discussion and amendments, the Council voted to accept the resolution with changes. There was a roll call vote. Seven yeses and one abstention.

Bylaws Amendment

- Erika Newsome moved and Paullette Healy seconded to table the bylaws amendment until next meeting. Motion passed.

CCHS Representative

- Ellen McHugh moved and Erika Newsome seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss the applicants for the CCHS Representative.
- Council Members returned from Executive Session. A roll call was taken. A quorum of seven were present. Artelia Flowers had to leave.
- Co-President Erika Newsome thanked all of the applicants and wished them continued success in their advocacy journey. The Council chose Francine Almash as the CCSE Representative on the CCHS.

Ellen McHugh moved and Paullette Healy seconded.

Meeting Adjourned – 9:36 pm