

Citywide Council on Special Education

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Calendar Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Co-President Ellen McHugh at 6:06 pm.

Roll Call

Francine Almash	Present
Cynthia Arbulu Vacca	Present
Sanayi Beckeles-Canton	Present
Carolyn Castro	Present
Wenming Chen	Present
Heather Dailey	Present
Artelia Flowers	Excused
Paullette Healy	Present
Lauretta Joseph	Present
Ellen McHugh	Present
Erika Newsome	Excused

Co-President McHugh announced that Co-President Newsome would not be in attendance because an EMT co-worker was killed in the line of duty and she would be part of the team escorting the body.

Since a quorum was not present, the speaker presented first.

Presentation - Overview of Literacy Initiatives

Jason Borges, Executive Director of the Literacy Collaborative

- Discussed the Literacy Collaborative Office Structure
- Presented an overview of the literacy plan and how they are organizing efforts to improve literacy instruction across schools and districts.
- Briefly discussed the Dyslexia Initiative
 - ❖ Develop knowledge and awareness of dyslexia
 - ❖ Build training programs
 - ❖ Collaborative partnerships
- Next Steps

Please refer to the recording (https://1drv.ms/v/s!AtzWPqmXwkYpaphME_twXHR_AEM?e=RdotF9) for the full presentation and discussion.

There was a second roll call and a quorum was present.

Interpreters introduced themselves.

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

Lauretta Joseph was appointed Timekeeper.

Approval of Minutes September 1, 2022

- Dr. Sanayi Beckeles-Canton moved and Carolyn Castro seconded to accept the September 1, 2022 minutes as written. There was a roll call vote with six yeses and two abstentions. The vote carried.

Co-President's Report

- No Co-Presidents Report

Members' Reports

Francine Almash

- Co-President McHugh recently helped me with an issue with my son, who is in a D75 HS, not receiving regular MetroCards. We resolved the issue for my son but the issue still remains for all D75 Students. Although the distribution of MetroCards to D75 students is restrictive and a complicated process, because of the different student needs, Ellen and I will continue to advocate for them to come up with less restrictive and more individualized process.
- My second son started with the Harbor School on Governor's Island, and although the school is welcoming, there is a delay in him receiving his IEP services and I just wanted to know if other parents are dealing with the same issue,

Paullette Healy

- The MetroCard issue also affecting the general school population. Several middle and high schools have not received their MetroCards. Recently helped a middle school get 300 cards that they were missing. Encouraged parents who are experiencing the same thing to reach out to the Office of Pupil Transportation.

Nava Bahrapour

- Have been a little busy applying for college but will continue to work with the Council and DOE.
- Currently working on the Language Campaign – a campaign to push for the inclusive language of students with disabilities. Working to replace certain terms that can create a culture of exclusion.
- Still working on the SEED project
- Want to learn more about Assistive Technology and how it helps students with non-speaking autism. Hope to work with the Council to learn more.

Heather Dailey

- The Busing Sub-Committee has been meeting. Currently working on issues that are happening at the beginning of the school year. Members from D75 and PIST are also participating. We are also brainstorming issues we'd like to address throughout the school year. The Committee's meeting is on Tuesday, October 11 at noon.
- The Disability Pride Parade was canceled because of inclement weather predicted.
- Some parents and schools are unclear about the food allergy policies. A parent reached out with concerns that her child and two other students are seated at separate lunch tables and that the kids will feel isolated because of their food allergies. Just something to keep our eye on.

Unfinished Business

CCSE Vacancy – CCHS Rep

- Co-President McHugh gave a brief description of the requirements and responsibilities of the position and announced the deadline to submit application is October 14. Two applications have been received so far and another announcement will be sent out tomorrow.

Annual Report Update

- Putting the final touches on the report. Just have to provide Gail with a few more items that she requested.
- 2022-2023 Meeting Schedule – postponed to next meeting

New Business

- Resolution on Retaining Laura Barbieri as CCSE Counsel – postponed to the next meeting. Will be rewritten.

Member Reimbursement

- Co-President McHugh reiterated what members are allowed to request for reimbursement and the maximum amount, which is \$125. Also looking into getting an increase from the DOE. Waiting for feedback.

Announcements

AA Rose Morgan announced that she will not be in attendance at the October 6 meeting and Carolyn Castro will facilitate the Zoom meeting and Anthony Aguilar and Juliana Federoff will manage the interpretation lines (if provided).

Student Member Nava Bahrapour announced that she will also miss the October 6 meeting because she is interviewing for college.

Co-President McHugh announced Anthony Aguilar as our new FACE Liaison. Mr. Aguilar spoke briefly introducing himself and pleasantries.

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

Meeting Adjourned – 8:29 pm

APPROVED