

Citywide Council on Special Education

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Calendar Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Diana Abrams	Present
Francine Almash	Present
Sanayi Beckles Canton	Present
Carolyn Castro	Present
Heather Dailey	Present
Mark Gonsalves	Present
Lupe Hernandez	Present
Tamaira Reid	Present
Maggie Sanchez	Present
Shannon Terrell	Present

A quorum was present.

Interpreters introduced themselves.

Members introduced themselves.

Carolyn Castro was appointed Timekeeper.

Presentations

John Hammer Deputy Chief Executive Director - Special Education Office presented a Special Education update

Vadim Gellerman, Val Kleyer and Konteint Redmon presented the SEDMS status update

Please refer to the recording ([10-19-23 CCSE Calendar Meeting.mp4](#)) for the full presentations.

Minutes of September 20 and October 5, 2023

It was moved and seconded to table the minutes of September 20 and October 5 to the next meeting in November. There was a voice vote and all members in attendance voted yes.

Co-Presidents' Reports

There no Co-Presidents reports

Member Reports

Carolyn Castro

- **Literacy Advisory Council (LAC)** - LAC has held two meetings this academic year though due to conflict in time I have not been able to attend. Last term, many of the meetings were held at the same time as our Council Meetings, as is the case this year. However, this year's meetings are in person with no hybrid model. As a side, LAC is offering Office Hours every Wednesday for members to get caught up. I will attend and report back more information next month and we will likely invite LAC to speak at one of our Public meetings. Information will be shared in the chat on Information was dropped in the chat on the Literacy Collaborative (<https://sites.google.com/schools.nyc.gov/nycpslc/home>), LAC - Middle school / High School Zoom Sessions - October 25th (6:30-8:00 PM): - Register https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0035-0011-1E44FD071F534F0187C120CD05762A2F, October 30th (6:30-8:00 PM): Register https://reg.learningstream.com/s_reg/reg_registration_maintenance.aspx
- **AT Pilot**
We are in the process of re-engaging conversations with the Office of Special Education to bring an AT pilot to the Harbor School, and hopefully follow this up with a middle school pilot. As of today we are looking at the second week in November.
- **Middle School Admissions**
 - Middle school applications are open now through December 8, 2023
 - Applying families can start this process by creating a MySchools account.
- **By-Laws Committee**
The By-Laws Committee has two new volunteers from our Council, Sanayi Beckles-Canton and Mark Gonzalvez. I am going to schedule a meeting with the committee members as well as open this up to members of the public to join if they choose too. Given communications, I'd like to focus on specific areas like code of conduct, meeting times and date, and executive roles.
- **District Support Committee**
A survey has been created and shared with the members of the District Support Committee and is in review. The responses to the questionnaire will help narrow our goals for the year while connecting localized CEC parent reps with their district leadership teams. A primary goal of this Committee, in conjunction with working as a collective on SPED issues is to promote a culture of parent led advocacy on all levels. We will have our first scheduled meeting before our November meeting.

Heather Dailey

- Announced that CED75 has several vacancies and if anyone in the audience is interested to fill out the application. Will drop the link to the DOE website.

Diana Abrams

- Attended the dyslexia webinar called Effective Practices to Support Students with Dyslexia and I just wanted to highlight a few items covered. They discussed how to educate parents and teachers on what to look for in identifying where a student is struggling. Areas of concern are phonological awareness, morphology, syntax and semantics. The focus will be on direct, explicit and systematic instruction for the student with immediate corrective feedback to identify where the student is struggling.
- They also talked about the future of supporting students with dyslexia with a Tier System
 - Tier One – general education (basic instruction)
 - Tier Two – supplemental intervention (progress monitoring)
 - Tier Three – intensive instruction (if a student is still struggling)
- Provided additional resources also shared in the chat.
 - Resources: National Center for Improving Literacy www.improvingliteracy.org, Renaissance www.renaissance.com, International Dyslexia Association www.dyslexiaida.org

Heather Dailey – Hearing

Lupe Hernandez

- There will be a hearing on Wednesday, October 25 with the Committee on Education and Public Safety. It's the oversight for new safety initiatives in New York City public schools and the police department's response to students in emotional crisis in public schools. Most of the students in these emotional crisis are students with disabilities not receiving their services end up in these situations where they need to be disciplined. Want to encourage the community to be the voice and advocate for our students in this regard.
- I've been sitting on the task force that is addressing transportation for our students temporary housing since December. However, I've been advocating for this for years. Many families suffer when shelters close down and communication is difficult between Dept. on Homeless Services and Office of Pupil Transportation. Asking the public to continue to speak up and voice your concerns.

Unfinished Business

- 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule (meeting topics, locations)
 - Since the Council voted to have combined meetings, the meeting scheduled had to be updated. Heather Dailey moved and Shannon Terrell seconded to accept the calendar schedule as discussed. There was a voice vote and all members in attendance voted yes and the motion passed.
The Council voted on the following dates:
November 30, 2023, December 14, 2023, January 18, 2024, February 15, 2024, March 7, 2024, April 4, 2024, May 2, 2024 and June 20, 2024.
 - The Council discussed the meeting topics for November and December and voted on Admissions for November and Bullying for December.

- Lupe Hernandez moved and Diana Abrams seconded to table the rest of the topics until next meeting. There was a roll call vote and all in attendance voted yes and the motion passed.

New Business

- CCHS Vacancies/Candidates – Co-President Beckles Canton reached out to the four candidates and they are still interested. AA will schedule a special meeting for the interview.
- CCSE Member Vacancy – Instead of making a vacancy announcement, the Council has been given approval to select a candidate from the recent interviews to fill the vacancy. Since the new members were not on the Council at the time of the interviews, they will receive the applications and video recording of the interviews to review.
- Dr. Beckles Canton moved (suggested) that the Council select a date for a special meeting to interview the four candidates for the CCHS. There was a brief discussion on whether this was a “special” meeting to be held in-person. Daina Iqbal, our FACE Liaison, explained that since this is a meeting to interview candidates, it can be held remotely. The Council will only need to have a special meeting to vote on the candidates. Heather Dailey moved and Diana Abrams seconded to create an Ad Hoc committee to interview the candidates. There was a voice vote and all members in attendance voted yes and the motion passed. Heather Dailey volunteered to chair the committee. The Council chose Thursday, October 26 at 6:30 for the interview. AA will schedule a special meeting for the interview and reach out to the candidates.
- Town Hall with Chancellor – Diana Abrams moved and Shannon Terrell seconded to table the town hall discussion until the next meeting. During the discussion, the Council was reminded that the item has been moved on the agenda a couple of times and a date needs to be selected so that the Chancellor can put it on his calendar. There was a voice vote and all in attendance voted no to tabling the town hall date. There was a question as to whether or not the town hall meets once a year or once every term. The answer was once every term. However, at the last meeting, the former FACE Liaison said every year. Daiana Iqbal explained that the law says that the Chancellor will meet with each council once every term. Carolyn Castro moved and Diana Abrams seconded to table the discussion on the town hall meeting. There was a voice vote and of the 10 members in attendance, seven voted yes, two voted no and one abstained. The motion passed to tabling the town hall date.

Announcements

Co-President Francine Almash announced that she was stepping down as co-president effectively dissolving the current presidency of Francine Almash and Dr. Sanayi Beckles Canton. First Vice President Carolyn Castro will step up as acting president until the Council has elections to vote new Co-Presidents.

It was noted that Committee Reports were accidentally skipped on the agenda. Unfortunately, time is running out. Maggie Sanchez moved and Carolyn Castro seconded to table the committee reports until the next meeting.

Tanuria Reid moved and Shannon Terrell seconded to adjourn the meeting. There was a voice vote and all in attendance voted yes.

Meeting Adjourned – 9:07 pm

DRAFT