

Citywide Council for Special Education Thursday, October 21, 2021
Zoom Conference
Calendar Meeting Minutes

Attendees(CCSE): Ellen McHugh, Artelia Flowers, Erika Newsome, Paullette Healy, Heather Dailey, Francine Almash, Joseph Ng, Wenming Chen, Julia Baretto (late)

DOE: Rose Morgan

Absent: Sanayi Beckles- Canton

FACE: Jose Rios Lua

Translation available in Spanish and Mandarin

Meeting called to order at 6:40PM

Introduction of council members:

-members introduced themselves and their connection to the special education community as well as their district.

Appointed a time-keeper: Francine Almash

Co-president and Member Reports

Ellen McHugh:

Attended a meeting hosted by Tom Sheppard of PEP, lots of introductions of new people to councils.

Issues that came up:

-bussing has been an issue to this day

Attended Beyond Access about academic screenings. Described how academic screenings will be utilized for recovery student identification. Available on youtube to view.

Attended briefing with Deputy Chancellor Adrienne Austin, CPAC, ECC

Discussion:

-Gifted and Talented

-remissions issues

-Recovery and Bussing

-in depth discussion of attendance

-Homeless attendance is very low.

-Staffing Shortages

-remote learning

-\$4mil to support ELL and families

-180,000 students have not shown up for school which can effect funding

-Families need to be engaged in the process of how to spend money.

Attended Beyond Access about Assistive Devices (on Youtube)

- Instructional Vs. Assistive technology

- Process to access is different for each type

CATTEAM@schools.nyc.gov to inquire about Assistive Technology

Paullette Healy:

Attended PEP meeting

-Many families came to share their bussing stories.

-students still waiting for busses and have not received supplemental supports across the board

-bussing contract was voted on and passed.

-NYCBUS has still not been finalized

-CEO of NYCBUS attended our August meeting and there has been no progress or questions answered.

-Reliant was given another \$6 mil contract despite poor service.

-PEP members were sympathetic

-Encourage parents to reach out to your district and schools about what is happening with bussing.

-Citywide bussing Town Hall is in planning with PIST group.

-Kevin Moran was there and said they hired more staff for the OPT complaint department to alleviate long wait times.

Attended 3 CEC 20 meetings

-discussed the Brilliant NYC program

-no discussion about new schools opening, D75 etc.

-Planning a Town Hall for Recovery Services townhall

Ackerman Institute is offering a free workshop on de-escalating tantrums in Nov.

NY State is looking for feedback on Emotional Disturbance as a classification

Healing Centered Schools partnering with DOE for Wellness Ambassador Training. Links provided to training.

Joseph Ng: Had no report backs.

Heather Dailey:

Contract meeting for PEP

Paullette covered most of the contract information above

-Bus drivers are penalized for late busses when OPT set up impossible route, and then the driver gets penalized

-Want to add that PIST and Comite Timon and Protect SPED have planned a haunt OPT for

Halloween and Trick and Treat for bussing. Fliers are being finalized.

-Have been fielding lots of emails about bussing and continued issue with bussing.

-Some students still don't have bussing

-Staff shortages, so schools are missing related service providers

-Parents have lots of questions about Recovery Services

-Concerns about SERS not starting on time because they don't have guidance, and staff.

-Barrier is that they are only allowing Certified Special Education teachers to teach SERS.

-Area Specialist are not able to participate

-They need to think creatively, MTA, Access-A-Ride drivers maybe.

Francine Almash CCHS report Back

-Laura Siciliano was there to get info on staffing shortages, nurses. She said schools are staffed 99% with nurses

-People were there from enrollment to ask questions about Special education in enrollment for high school. D75 schools will be included in the book to select, but not clear on how students can request them when they apply.

-CCHS started with special education students sitting for specialized high school exams. Issues with making accommodations for them.

-Stated there is parent engagement at homeschool office but this engagement is not happening.

-President of the council did not feel like the meeting was the right space to discuss the needs of special education students.

-Francine asks that parents attend the CCHS meetings and support the concerns of students with IEP.

Erika Newsome co-president report:

-States that Dis 8 have kids arriving to school 9:50 for school that start 8:20

6000 test positive for COVID

-one child has died since school started

-same students are tested every week for COVID as low consent return for testing

-Schools concerned with overcrowding and parents are requesting limits to co-located D75 and charters over concerns for space.

-Got a neuropsych within a week

-Parents asking about the child that died but don't have any details

-concerns about consent, parents are giving consent but it is not mandatory so very low percentage of kids that are consented so the same kids are being tested over and over

-concerns about schools being forced into remote because they don't have 10% of students consenting to testing. Jose reports that no schools have been transitioned to full remote due to lack of consents.

-Paulette brought to light that parents might not realize that last year's consent has expired. Schools have not been diligent about getting consents signed. 40% of students don't have a NYCSA account and schools are not back packing consents.

-School testing has not been consistent, some schools are not getting random weekly testing.

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Resolutions to Appoint New Members:

Resolution 3 to appoint Francine Almash

Ellen McHugh read the resolution

Motion to Vote on Resolution: Paultette Healy - Second: Heather Dailey

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Ellen McHugh	Yes	Artelia Flowers	Yes
Paultette Healy	Yes	Julia Barretto	Yes
Joseph Ng	Yes	Wenming Chen	Yes
Erika Newsome	Yes	Sanayi Beckles Canton	Absent
Heather Dailey	Yes		

Resolution passes unanimously.

Resolution 4 to appoint Carolyn Castro

Ellen McHugh read the resolution

Motion to Vote on Resolution: Paultette Healy Second: Joseph Ng

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Ellen McHugh	Yes	Artelia Flowers	Yes
Paultette Healy	Yes	Julia Barretto	Yes
Joseph Ng	Yes	Wenming Chen	Yes
Erika Newsome	Yes	Sanayi Beckles Canton	Absent
Heather Dailey	Yes		

Resolution Passes Unanimously.

Carolyn introduces herself to community.

Resolution 5 to appoint Cynthia Abrulu-Vaca

Ellen McHugh read the resolution

Motion to Vote on Resolution: Paultette Healy Second: Joseph Ng

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Ellen McHugh	Yes	Artelia Flowers	Yes
Paultette Healy	Yes	Julia Barretto	Yes
Joseph Ng	Yes	Wenming Chen	Yes
Erika Newsome	Yes	Sanayi Beckles Canton	Absent
Heather Dailey	Yes		

Resolution Passes Unanimously.

Cynthia introduces herself to the community.

Discussion about member reimbursement: Rose Reminds everyone to check emails and reminders to send re-imburements.

Jose introduced himself and his role at FACE.

His light-up Unicorn is named Bruce.

Additional Items and Requests:

Ellen McHugh: We have been asked to support or cohost with District 17, Erica Kendall Brown. Early Childhood Education will be opening schools for early childhood, mostly in Brooklyn. District 17 would like to have a co-meeting to address families receiving services, and to discuss D75 programs being added to make more convenient for parents in the district. -Discussed having a combined meeting in Nov. Paultette, Erika, Cynthia, and Carolyn in agreement.

-Ellen will be in touch with them to set-up

-Ellen has extended an invitation to do a joint meeting with the City Wide Council on High schools are there are many new members.

-We were also approach by the CCELL to have a joint meeting.

-a Request was made to have a Town Hall with the chancellor but this usually happens in year two. Would like to have a Town Hall around recovery services and assistive and instructional technology. We should discuss in our working meeting in Nov.

Public Comment:

-Erin Alexander: Has there been clear messaging by DOE on how they plan to make COVID Vaccine available for schools when it is approved?

-We have not heard anything, DOE will wait for guidance from CDC and will probably utilize the same sites again. Children must also be vaccinated with a parent present.

-Randi Gary: Asked about IEP conference and was elected as co-president of Chancellor Parent advisory Council

-Barbara Scott: 1st time attending CCSE meeting has question, her daughter has not been in school to COVID and ACS is becoming a problem. Asked about supports and academic access at home. Jose clarified that there is no remote option so a child not in school will not get instruction remotely. Jose explained the medical necessary home instruction process.

-Home instruction doesn't consistently send any receipt to parents.

-Steven Stowe- President of CEC 20, Home instruction issue and passed a resolution to expand eligibility for home instruction. Recovery Services: Spoke to a school that has Recovery Services on paper but extreme staffing shortages make the program impossible. Gen ed teachers cannot participate. Is there any initiative to expand qualifications to teach at recovery services.

Jose from FACE: have been having office hours for schools to discuss staffing shortages. They are trying to support principals. Jose provided his email address to the chat.

Erika- waiver was given last year for COVID 19 to give a certification to teachers who had not passed their exams but had met all other qualifications. There is a provisional certification that is much more complicated.

UFT delegate met last week and there was an email sent out to all members for related service providers being pulled to cover classes has now ended so they should not be covering classrooms. This was brought up to John Hammer Chief Executive Director of Special Education as they do not have enough related service providers for all schools. He was asked about incentives for hiring.

-Carolyn Castro: brought up that Related Services Assignment (RSAs) will increase due to lack of related service providers. The process is arduous for parents and it is difficult to find providers.

Jose states that someone can come to CCSE or Beyond Access to talk about RSA. RSA should be a last resort.

Anyone with an appropriate license can provide an RSA service even if they are not on the DOE list.

Jenner Choi: Want to bring observation about the transition process for high schools. Noticed that there are vocational assessments that go out, but its not an organized process. They are questionnaires and it doesn't seem like a good assessment. It doesn't assess what a person needs foundationally to be able to do what they would like to do for their vocational assessment. Like what skills do they have and are conducive to their vocational desire. There is no coordinated assessment transition process. There is no eye on quality.

Erika Newsome: There is inconsistent access to programs and resources based on school location. The assessments and foundation skills need to be built starting in middle school. Suggest parents advocate for these things so they get learning opportunities.

Jose reminds us of Training Opportunities Program runs year-long in D75 and Summer Youth Employment Program (DYCD) summer programs.

Cynthia: There is a disconnect between the transition office, parents, and schools. So students aren't being appropriately assessed and given appropriate resources.

Jenn Choi: Functional Vocational Assessments are in the IEP but checked not applicable and they are not a real assessment but a questionnaire of things you like. Parents and Schools should know if students have the skills to get to their goals.

Jose Rios Lua provided the following links of Special Education Family Resources.

Transition Planning Guide (<https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/family-guide-to-transition-planning.pdf>)

Special Education Family Resources <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/family-resources>

Special Education Contacts <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/help/contacts-and-resources>

Beyond Access Series <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHBqMuXq0pYhRiROEufCtjg>

Stephany Sandeus: Was confused about meeting times, clarified that yesterday was a special meeting. DLT representative from Brooklyn would like to link up for discussion.

CCSE@schools.nyc.gov

Reports that in the past her emails was unanswered.

Erika gave out website address CCSENYC.org

CCSE meetings are the 1st Thursday (Working) and 3rd Thursday (Calendar)

Motion to adjourn Joseph Ng Second by Paullette

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Ellen McHugh	Yes	Artelia Flowers	Yes
Paullette Healy	Yes	Julia Barretto	Yes
Joseph Ng	yes	Wenming Chen	Yes
Erika Newsome	Yes	Sanayi Beckles Canton	Absent
Heather Dailey	Yes		

Motion passes.

Meeting closes out at 8:28 PM