Citywide Council for Special Education Thursday, April 23, 2020

Zoom Video Conference with CCSE

 Calendar Meeting Minutes

Attendees(CCSE): Ellen McHugh, Gloria Corsino, Azalia Volpe, Abi Fenalon, Margot Weinstock, Paullette Healy, Cynthia Arbul-Vacca, Tamara Foye, Carmen Robles, Artelia Flowers, Noah Gotbaum

(DOE): Jose Rios Lua, Christina Foti, Kim Ramones, Sandy Ferguson, John Hammer, Peter Smitt, Shah Powell

(FACE): Shona Gibson, Claudette Agard

Gloria Corsino convenes meeting at 7:36pm. Introduces Carol Himes from Peace Institute. Her organization offers free mediation/co-parenting disputes services, tele-conferencing and special education supports. Email inquiries to chimes@nypeace.org

Ellen McHugh introduces Special education office. Christina Foti announces remote learning plans have been sent to families. Please contact your schools and the special education inbox (specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov) if you did not receive one. Related service providers have been very creative with their approach to remote video conferencing. Mobility sessions are happening virtually. Ellen McHugh opens floor to parent questions and concerns

**Concerns Expressed During Call**

1. Ellen McHugh asks for an update on how many IPads have been distributed and how many families are still waiting. When can we anticipate delivery?
2. Remote learning packets were sent home that did not match the curriculum of the student level-wise.(i.e. student is in 5th grade but reading on 2nd grade level yet learning packet the child received was 5th grade curriculum) Kim Ramones will reach out the district(in this case D31) to find out why this is happening
3. What is the status of IEP evaluations? (parent from D24) John Hammer responded that the office is looking carefully at remote evals and IEP teams will reach out to parents on what the assessments will look like. A parent made a comment that many assessments /tests are available online via Pearsons.
4. Parent asked where can info on where the Regional Enrichment Centers (REC) and Transition and College Access Centers (TCAT) were be found.
5. Guidance was given that all related service providers are required to offer tele-therapy (including video therapy). If there is information to the contrary, contact the school and email the special education inbox (specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov)
6. Parent has a situation where her 7th grader with an IEP was undergoing new evals. How does this offset high school applications? John Hammer suggested reaching out to the school psychologist to find out the status. If no response, contact the special education inbox for additional guidance and support.
7. Gloria Corsino asked why parents are prohibited from recording their child’s video therapies. John Hammer responds we are all still learning in this virtual environment but will try to find answers.
8. Question regarding Turning 5 evals and other outstanding assessments. Are they halted? John Hammer responds that no assessments have been done since quarantine but contact either the IEP team/school psychologist or CSE for a status check. Email special education inbox if additional support is needed.
9. Question made whether existing PT/OT equipment locked up in school buildings can be made available for families at home. John Hammer will look into it.
10. Parent asked what teaching platforms were available for remote learning. Kim Ramones answered Google Meets/Hangouts and Microsoft Teams are the only approved platforms so far.
11. Parent has a child who uses Assistive Technology but it is locked away at the school. John Hammer will help facilitate getting the AT device to the child.
12. Parent asked what is the current guidance given on the use of 1:1 paraprofessionals and how ICT classes are being provided? Kim Ramones responded that co-teachers and paras are suppose to collaborate on how instruction should be delivered. Co-teachers are responsible to provide their students with this kind of instruction. Paras are also expected to support their students and these teams should be reaching out to parents and work out how to provide support in the remote learning environment(language support, behavior supports, social-emotional guidance) Together with parents input there should be a clear picture of what the adaptive learning looks like.
13. Parent brought up that UFT guidance is only requiring 1:1 paras to contact students once a week. Parents also lack the training and expertise necessary to provide the modifications or adaptations needed to facilitate the remote therapies. Perhaps the DOE can provide parents access to learning these modules. Christina Foti responded that her office will provide schools guidance and to continue emailing the special education inbox with our concerns.
14. Parent asked if a child has received an additional diagnosis not included on the child’s present IEP what should she do? John Hammer suggested contacting the school psychologist and teacher and ask for their guidance. Email special education inbox if additional support is needed

Paullette Healy mentioned OPWDD is offering virtual webinars for those who need Front Door sessions. Go to opwdd.ny.gov for calendar.

Jose Rios Lua will send chat to Paullette to transcribe for the meeting minutes.

Gloria made a motion to adjourn. Margot Weinstock 2nd. Meeting ends 8:42pm