Citywide Council for Special Education Thursday, May 21, 2020

Zoom Video Conference with CCSE

Calendar Meeting Minutes

Attendees(CCSE): Ellen McHugh, Gloria Corsino, Azalia Volpe, Abi Fenalon, Margot Weinstock, Paullette Healy, Cynthia Arbulu-Vacca, Tamara Foye, Erika Newsome

DOE: Jose Rios Lua, Christina Foti, Kim Ramones, Katie Maro, Rebecca Daverin

(FACE):Claudette Agard

CEC/Other: Carolyn Castro(CEC11), Grisel Cardona(CCD75),Celia Green(CCHS), Jan Atwell(City Council)

Ellen McHugh convenes meeting at 7:38pm.

**President’s Report**

Ellen discusses ECC resolution on upcoming elections. New format needs to be opened to all parents to vote.

ARISE Coalition is drafting a letter to the state to allow students aging out another year of school to make up for the regression experienced due to deficiencies in remote learning.

New grading policy is causing controversy among different districts.

City Council Oversight meeting on remote learning 5/27/20

Proposed date for D75 Summer session program is July 2

Gen ed summer school starts July 14

Parents who feel their children would benefit from summer session should contact teachers to discuss.

Ellen attended the What About Inclusion summit hosted by PIE(Parents for Inclusive Education) and the DOE. Heard stories from students about their inclusive education experiences.

Bus advocates group looking for feedback on the clean air initiative.

Christina Foti address 683 program (summer session) and ESY(extended school year) acknowledges pre-recorded programs will not work for our children. There will be live direct instructions focused on decoding, phonics, comprehension programs. Hoping to have it ironed out by next week. Gloria expressed great emotion while discussing the great loss she is witnessing in her own children. Plans are being made without talking to parents but it’s the parents experiencing the fallout from that.

**Members Reports**

Azalia reported updates on Staten Island Borough President office letter to the DOE asking for access to the Regional Enrichment Centers to be used as hubs for D75 students. Azalia also asked whether summer sessions will be available to ALL IEP students.

Christina answered she is pushing for live instruction to address the gaps that are now apparent during the assessment of remote learning with emphasis on life skills and foundation skills. Parent materials will hopefully available to help facilitate learning (phonics, decoding, comprehension, etc) If child is not mandated for ESY but parent is concerned about addressing gaps, talk to teachers about whether summer school would help.

Ellen asked in the past a child was allowed to attend summer school through 504 plan but not provide services or accommodations. If this applied to a child with an IEP, will the related services continue if summer school is recommended? Christina promised to get an answer next week.

Kim Ramones offers updates on more parent resources on the DOE learn at home portal. They are going to roll out lessons that engage parents and students. Flexible balance between synchronous learning and nonsynchronous activities are being discussed with the emphasis being on parent outreach and input.

DOE Calendar will update on the operation hours of the TCAT offices and will offer professional learning along with NYU Supports Autism Parents Workshop series.

**Concerns Expressed During Call**

1. Parent addressed the abundance of materials locked up in the schools and how can the same level of services be provided without the same materials in the home.
2. Parent asked if LBLD issues need more supports and can parents get training provided to help better compensate for the absence of an in person service provider.
3. Parent suggested trainings on curricula sources(Wilsons, OG, etc)
4. Parent asked how could they go about asking for summer instruction without a remote learning plan.
5. Parent asked if live instruction can be added to an existing remote learning plan.

Christina stated that DOE is tracking whether remote learning plans are being rolled out to families. Please email the special education inbox if that is not the case. Jose encouraged parents to sign up for the Beyond Access Series presented by the DOE all summer.

Paullette presented minutes from March 26 for approval. Tamara and Erika abstain from voting because they were not there. Margot points out item #5 needs clarification which she provides. Paullette agrees to make the proper adjustment. Ellen makes a motion to approve. Margot 2nds. Minutes passed

Paullette presents minutes from April 2 for approval. Ellen make a motion to pass. Margot 2nds. Minutes passed

DOE asked our Council to organize a Town Hall with the Chancellor. Ellen asked CEC15 and ECC co-chairs to partner up in order to garner a broader audience. Gloria suggested reaching out to every IEP member on the CECs for feedback on what concerns are popping up in their districts. Discussion was had on format, translation services, introductions and number of questions per Council and order.

DC Austin asked for our help to organize representation at the upcoming Boro Parent Forums on enrollment. Breakdown becomes SI-Azalia, Bx-Gloria, Qns-Tamara, Man-Margot, Bk-Ellen. Everyone else can jump in whenever needed.

Ellen presents ECC Resolution on extending CEC elections for 2022. Margot asked if this includes elections will be opened to non-public and charter school parents to be allowed to vote. Ellen says as of now they are not eligible but will ask for clarification. Also allows Council members graduating out to maintain the post till the end of the term. Azalia asks if money was already set aside for the elections.

Ellen doesn’t know but suggests a roll call vote on the resolution to extend elections. Resolution passed unanimously.

Reimbursements were discussed. Constance Adieu from CCD75 talked briefly about P-EBT and the ECC was hosting a webinar with Lunch4Learning about it. Another stimulus bill is up for Congress but has encountered push back.

Erika brings up a situation at a REC center in the Bronx. Reported a REC attendee told a child to “shut the f\*\*\* up” . The staffing has been a “mixed bag” of DOE employees that are not trained on our students in special education. Parents and children temperatures are taken and masks are being worn.

Azalia makes a motion to adjourn. Abi 2nds. Meeting adjourns at 9:40pm

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