Citywide Council for Special Education Thursday, June 25, 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, Noah Gotbaum, Artelia Flowers, Carmen Robles

DOE: Jose Rios Lua, Christina Foti, Katie Maro, Rebecca Daverin, John Hammer

(FACE):Claudette Agard, Shona Gibson

CEC/Other: Tom Sheppard, Theresa Roberts, Carolyn Castro(CEC11), Grisel Cardona, Amy Tsai (CCD75),Celia Green(CCHS), Marta Torres(CEC16),Kim West(CEC29), Jan Atwell(City Council), Laura Timoney(SI BP Oddo)

Total participants: 42

Ellen McHugh convenes meeting at 7:36pm.

**President’s Report**

Ellen discusses open PEP application must be completed and handed in by June 19. Once elected by CEC presidents (Citywide are not eligible to vote) PEP member will sit on the panel for one year.

Chapter 683 summer session will be offering up to 2 hours of synchronous learning for grades K-2 and up to 4 hours for grades 3-12.

DOE says no in person services but are working towards the possibility of offering OT, PT and speech at the REC centers.

Single Shepard Counseling program has been defunded and staff has been re-dispatched to other programs. THRIVENYC is supposed to supplement 20% of school staff. The staff under Single Shepard fall under most vulnerable therefore may not return.

**Members Reports**

Azalia reported updates on FOIL request submitted to THRIVENYC. May not receive info until July.

**DOE Report**

Christina Foti updates the fight for in person services are ongoing. Students aging out will be given transition supports. DOE will be in contact with parents whose children fall under this category. Transition and College Access Centers (TCAT)will offer summer transition supports. The office is working with State Senators to get additional funding to continue supports. Parents can advocate for the same.

Ashley Grant from Advocates for Children offered a presentation on extending eligibility for students aging out. Included slide recommending parents of SWD can request an impartial hearing to the chagrin of DCOA Foti. Foti feels parents should focus on collaborating with schools and escalating when necessary to the Special education office instead of choosing impartial hearing since backlog on hearings are at an all time high and other options may be more efficient.

**Concerns Expressed During Call**

1. Celia Green (CCHS) asked if students with IEPs in HS inclusion programs were eligible for the summer extension. Foti said she would look into it and circle back to her.
2. Tom Sheppard (CEC 11) asked for further clarification on the status of in person services. How else is the DOE prepared to address the regression our students have been facing and going to continue to face in the coming year? Will be in the same situation next year with students on the verge of aging out.
3. Paullette spoke about the in person services provided by private agencies for families who can afford to pay. Highlights inequities based on income. Also thousands of initial assessments still on hold. In person evaluations needs to be priority to ensure proper supports are in place for the start of the new school year.
4. Parent asked whether devices needed to be returned to the school and whether the free internet offers will be extended to the summer. Jose confirmed that students hold onto devices until they return to school. Licenses are expiring soon and no new information is available.

Ellen makes a motion to adjourn. Gloria 2nds. Meeting adjourns at 8:50pm