

Citywide Council on Special Education

Friday, October 27, 2023

Special Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President Carolyn Castro at 6:20 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.

Members introduced themselves.

Mark Gonsalves was appointed Timekeeper.

Maggie Sanchez was appointed Chair Pro Tem to facilitate the election of officers

Prior to elections, Dr. Beckles Canton moved to discuss changing the bylaws to reflect the CCSE having one President instead of two Co-Presidents with the First and Second Vice Presidents assuming more responsibilities in support of the President. Reasoning is that if the Co-President don't get along and one decides to resign, it will affect the presidency of the other as they were voted on as a slate.

There was no second and the motion failed.

Diana Abrams nominated Carolyn Castro and Mark Gonsalves as Co-Presidents. Each candidate accepted and expressed their gratitude and looked forward to working with the Council members. There was a roll call vote and of the nine members present, eight voted yes and one abstained.

The election process was turned over to newly elected Co-President Mark Gonsalves.

The First Vice President position is now open (Carolyn Castro is former FVP). Nominations for FVP were accepted. Maggie Sanchez nominated Heather Dailey as FVP. Since Heath is the current Second Vice President, she resigned and accepted the nomination of FVP. There was a roll call vote and of the nine members present, eight voted yes and one abstained.

Francine Almash nominated Diana Abrams for SVP. Diana accepted and there was a roll call vote, and the nine members present voted yes.

Carolyn Castro nominated Shannon Terrell for Treasurer. Shannon accepted and there was a roll call vote, and the nine members present voted yes.

CCHS Request –

The CCHS requested a recommendation from the CCSE from the three candidates they interviewed to fill their open position for Bronx representative. Prior to the meeting, Council members viewed the interview video. Heather Dailey moved and Francine Almash seconded to open the discussion about the candidates. The Council discussed Anna K. Powell Davis. The Council felt that she would make a great member to the CCHS because of her knowledge of the special education community and well as being a parent of a D75 student. Francine Almash moved and Diana Abrams seconded that the CCSE send a letter of recommendation to the CCHS recommending Anna K. Powell Davis to fill their open position for Bronx representative. There was a roll call vote and of the nine members present, eight voted yes and one abstained.

Executive Session

Heather Dailey moved and Shannon Terrell moved to go into executive session to discuss the candidates interviewed for the two positions open on the Council – CCSE member and CCHS representative. There was a roll call vote and of the nine members present, eight voted yes. Dr. Beckles Canton abstained and removed herself from the executive session.

Special Meeting Resumed

CCSE Vacancy

Co-President Gonsalves opened the floor to vote on the candidates to fill the vacancy on the CCSE. These candidates were previously interviewed and were being considered for the position vacated by Mohammad Alam. Francine Almash moved and Heather Dailey seconded to open the vote on the candidates. The AA read the name of the candidates. There was a roll call vote. Eight members voted for Azalia Volpe and one voted for Carmen Figueroa.

CCHS Representative

Francine Almash moved to re-open the application process for the CCHS representative. Dr. Beckles Canton asked for a point of clarity as to why the motion to re-open when the Council went into executive session to discuss and appoint a representative. There was a discussion and explanation that the members felt that neither candidate could represent the CCSE on the CCHS. However, Dr. Beckles Canton felt that the Council should still vote on the candidates in an open forum. Dr. Beckles Canton stated, “If we are making a recommendation to reopen the appointment for CCHS. I thought when we created the special meeting it was to appoint the CCHS representative from the interviews that we had.” The motion to re-open the application process was withdrawn. Heather Dailey moved and Diana Abrams seconded to vote on the CCHS candidates. There was a roll call vote and eight voted no to

both candidates and one voted for candidate Artelia Flowers. The application for the CCHS will be re-opened.

Co-President Castro announced that due to a resignation effective October 31, the CCSE will have a vacancy. This vacancy will be for a D75 parent on the CCSE. The announcement will go out immediately.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:56 pm

