

**Citywide Council for Special Education**  
**Thursday, October 7, 2021**  
**Zoom Conference**  
**Working Meeting Minutes**

Attendees(CCSE): Ellen McHugh, Artelia Flowers, Erika Newsome, Paulette Healy, Heather Dailey, Francine Almash, Sanayi Beckles- Canton, Julia Baretto, Joseph Ng,

Absent: Artelia Flowers, Wenming Chen

FACE: Jose Rios Lua

Meeting called to order at 6:15PM

Erika Newsome co-president report: hearing concerns about covid testing. Schools have low consent numbers CEC 15 and 22 passed resolutions on testing. If a student is found positive the classroom doesn't close. Parents concerned about being informed about contact with positive cases.

Questions about HIPAA concerns when disclosing COVID positivity.  
Ellen suggests the situation room come and clarify policy.

Paulette stated that CEC 4 also passed a resolution about COVID testing. Has met with the situation room

Jose states that he will try to get a staff from the Situation room to come and speak with us at the Oct 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Heather: Can they disclose if there has been a positive case due to public health. Jose clarifies that parents will be alerted that there is a positive case at the school. If child is a close contact then parents will be alerted.

-Joseph stated that prior that parents were alerted when there was a positive in classroom but not identify the student.

-Changed from every parent being informed to only close contacts will be informed.

Heather: relies on schools to be transparent about their COVID protocols. Compliance is difficult and this policy asks the schools to disclose where they are failing COVID protocols.

Joseph: Concerned about how absences are counted due to quarantine.

Erika states that they are coded as medical excused. A child must test positive and be quarantined to be coded as excused.

Paulette states that parents have reported that they are not getting educational support and are being marked absence.

Heather reports that principal stated an absence is an absence.

Erika: This causes concerns for educational neglect and ACS. Special code should not trigger educational neglect alert.

Ellen: Arise committee meeting

-confusion between recovery services and compensatory services. Folks are getting mixed information.

-If child is out how will they receive their services due to quarantine.

-child in most need will start Recovery Services in November.

- They are screening children over several days and teacher assessment will determine who needs priority for services.

Brooklyn North had a Town Hall

-Did not discuss high school kids with special needs

Francine: chimes in that parents are looking for clarity for how compensatory services should take effect. Do parents have to request. Home school parents need outreach. CCHS needs to do outreach. Parents are stating that outreach is not happening.

Mental Health Issues Collaboration to decrease arrests in schools due to mental health issues.

-schoolwide integrated framework.

-How do we get schools to implement

-Nelson Marr started this idea and is part of Healing Center Schools and Bronx access equity model. Stated that it is hard to get folks to recognize mental health. Developing Parent Ambassadors which they will receive a \$500 stipend for their work supporting parents with kids with mental health.

-Pathways to Care connects schools to H+H for mental health treatment. Stigma is a barrier  
Specialized Designed Instruction: Anita Archer I do , We DO, You DO,

Zoom 10/1 Policy on School Closure: Everything has changed since the zoom. Policy changes all the time. Questions about synchronous and asynchronous learning. Some schools aren't sending anything, some schools are giving packets, Some are doing a mix of things. No consistency. Parent was upset that DOE kept stating "Our Children," because DOE is not recognizing that parents are not engaged in educational policy. Discussion about mayoral control and state budget.

Budget from the state: How will recovery money be spent, no transparency. How much money is being spent well as far as assessments? Children have extensive losses and there is concerns about how much money is being spent on very simple assessments.

Heather: Assessments are all academic, and many students with disabilities have other regressions, like behavioral, social emotional, non-academic. IEP goals might not even be accurate to what they are dealing with right now.

Sanayai: Brought to the table that schools are conducting IEPs without parents. As been reaching out to see what to do about it, but DOE is not addressing only case by case and brushing issues under the rug. Blaming pandemic. Happening District 8 and District 17,14,20,21, and 22. Happening everywhere. Systemic push by the city to meet deadlines. If we allow this to go on it will become normalized. How will the CCSE address it?

Heather: Families also don't have access to language services at their IEPs. Heard that one IEP had a gym teacher translating at an IEP.

Paulette: Has been brought to special education office last year when they saw a huge spike in compliance in traditionally non-compliant districts as it was suspicious. We know from parents that students were not getting their services. Every CEC has an IEP rep that can facilitate this advocacy.

CCSE crafted a short Bill of Rights for parents to give information about IEP, with an ACRONYM guide.

We need IEP rep contact information.

Oct 5 meeting recovery program:

Concerns about access to programs, busing will be an issue.

Stated that kids can get a metrocard which is an issue for students with disabilities.

There will be 10 centers in each borough.

Parents could be engaged while students are participating in services.

Oct 5, Budget hearing.

Oct 6 , City Council meeting about COVID

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> PEP meeting voted on 2 contracts DYCD, and DECE, there was no mention in the contracts for 0-5 about students with disabilities. DYCD and DECE is not prepared to take on children with disabilities after experience with Learning Bridges and Summer Rising. Don't expect different experience with this contract.

Paulette:

- At Oversight meeting City Council: Attendance is an issue. DOE won't disclose actual enrollment and attendance.
- Families still waiting for home instruction to be approved.
- Parents are getting ACS visits.

District 75 leadership meeting:

-superintendent still did not have answers for the council, but he committed to a pilot program for sub-paras for transportation and medically fragile children.

-OPT is still a mess, families a month into school do not have a bus.

-Limosys is still available. But some schools still do not know about it and Limosys is not a great service.

-Shortages for staffing: related services are not being given as staff are covering classrooms.

-Classes are being combined self-contained into ICT classes.

Francine:

-Travel Training program. Gave an overview of the program. Available to any student with an IEP 14-21 to train them to use Public Transportation. But was suspended last year. The program has not been put back in service. Students left for busing, or taking transportation on their own without training.

Equity Issue

Jose: DOE ensures that travel training will remain at DOE. Working on getting it up and running.

DOE can't continue to dip into SPED programs to staff their other programs.

Proposed a white paper to distribute.

Julie should go to D75 leadership meetings.

Tom Sheppard: Concerned by Dr. Canton's concerns about parents being left out of IEP conversations. Can we summarize so PEP and look at Chancellor's regulations in order to hold DOE accountable. Needs to be specific, wants specific asks. Open the door for comment on new SESIS planning.

**CCHS representative resolution:**

Heather reads the resolution

Motion to accept resolution: Erika Newsome

Second Joseph Ng

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

7 yeses, Motion passes unanimously.

**Resolution on Pupil Transit Demands**

Heather reads the resolution

-took out advocacy for Union issues.

-add the law that is broken when turnstile jumping.

-It is long but necessary.

Motion to accept resolution:

Motion to vote: Paullette Healy

Second: Heather Dailey

Name	Vote	Name	Vote

Ellen McHugh	Yes	Artelia Flowers	absent
Paulette Healy	Yes	Julia Barretto	yes
Joseph Ng	yes	Wenming Chen	absent
Erika Newsome	yes	Sanayi Beckles Canton	yes
Heather Dailey	yes		

Resolution passes unanimously.

Julia: brought up concerns about GPS on the bus and accountability when issues happen on the bus.

Open Vacancies: Ellen:

- rejection letters went out, letters for interviews will go out tomorrow.
- if Rose is out, how will we facilitate interviews on Monday.
- Jose will set us up on the zoom and then leave.
- Flier will go out tomorrow.

Discussion about process to change by-laws.

Ellen states that she got an email from Craig Spencer to do a joint resolution on how districts should announce emergency closures. Outline how parents are notified in emergency, fire, shooter, COVID closures. Clarify the ask. Is it how to notify parents or what justifies a closure. District 75 Council should write resolution. The council wants a resolution to inform the council when a D75 school closes under an emergency.

Think about beginning the annual report and IEP representative conference.

Last year we received a grant for space rental, food, honorarium, and travel reimbursement. Proposed a meet and greet with Special Education staff as there are many new faces at the division.

Heather reached out to The Door but did not hear back.

Dr. Canton reached out to Riverside Church, but needs more info on hybrid.

Announced the passing of Rose's brother. Proposed taking a collection for her.

Motion to adjourn Paulette, Second by Ellen.

Motion passes.

Meeting closes out at 8:40PM