



# CITYWIDE DISTRICT 75 COUNCIL

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## MINUTES CALENDAR MEETING

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, **October 17, 2012** at 6:00 pm at P721R@The Hungerford School, 155 Tompkins Avenue, S.I, NY. The following people were in attendance.

\*Note: Mr. Williams, President called the calendar meeting to order.  
Call to Order at 6:30 PM the Calendar Agenda

### 1. Roll Call

Able Alagbe	Present
Charlene Carroll-Hall	Present
Maureen Dantzler	Excused
Diamaris Magarin	Present
Gloria Ann Smith	Excused
Joseph Williams	Present
Aliya Rasool	Excused

### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

No quorum: the minutes will be voted on at the next Calendar Meeting in November.

### 3. Reading of the Resolution: Citywide District 75 Council 2012-2013 Fiscal Budget

No quorum: the resolution will be read and voted on during the next Calendar Meeting in November

### 4. Reading of the Two Resolution: To Fill A Vacancy

No quorum: the resolution will be read and voted on during the next Calendar Meeting in November.

### 5. Report of the President

Joe Williams, the President's report is to inform the parents of what's happening within the district and with the council. I would like to thank the Chancellor for Parents and Partners Week and would like to embrace his initiative to invite parents this week. This is one of the first things he did when he became chancellor. The kick off began in Staten Island and tomorrow parents in Partner week will be in Brooklyn. We in D75 embrace parent involvement; the parents really want to be a true partner at all levels. I can say with this chancellor we have had the opportunity to do that. If you want to attend the Parent and Partner week in Brooklyn you're more that welcome to attend and it will be held at 510 Claremont near the new Brooklyn stadium. Last year our initiative was to get the parent involved. We have in that audience Ray Velez from the District Office; out of the 56 schools that does not have a functioning PTA. Last year the numbers were 17 schools without a PTA. We were involved with the PTA and SLT's. Meet with your principals, school staff, visits the schools to see what's going on and about Related Services. There has been a lot of misinformation regarding related service and it would be a good idea for you to visits your child's school.

### 6. Report of the Superintendent

Gary Hecht, Superintendent of D 75 welcomed the parents and council he welcomed the parents and council. He mentioned that there are great things that are happening within Staten Island. Parent issues have come across Ray Velez, District Family Advocated as well as Mr. Hecht's desk and they are working hard to resolve the issues. Some issues may not have the results that the parties involved

agree upon but we need to discuss, be respectful and figure out what is best for your child. We will do that no matter how long it takes.

Some good things are happening with our schools in Staten Island 721R opened their eco farm they will grow their own vegetables. Students will use the vegetables in school it will allow the students to will not only participate in their content area -sciences but it will allow them to socialize and inter act with each other. They will learn about fruit and vegetables thus teaching them to be independent in the choices of the items when purchasing them at the supermarkets.

District 75 was the first to use technology with the use of the I-pad as a teaching method and students has excelled with its use. The first project was students with autism that helped our students excelled with their communication skills. 37R will be involved with a very exciting technology program called the I-pad project. The project involves four cluster teachers, working in classes serving the whole building and sites. The teachers will provide instruction using the I-pad. We at district 75 will continue to fund and support technology projects similar to this.

25 R is a K to 12 program, this past school year 30 students graduate. Nine of them graduated with a regent's diploma and 21 with a regular high school diploma. The students are also involved with a work study programs. C Tech communications program with the college of Staten Island and UPC's E Secure Doc, secure documents by storing information on to a disc and shred the sensitive documents.

Get Ready to Learn is a yoga program brought to District 75. The program is having a positive effect on the students by helping decrease students behavior and enhances their learning. NYU hear about the program and asked to do a research project on the program. With the approval of the DOE NYU proceeded with their research a presented a favorable report on the program. CBS also would like to do a segment on D75 and its programs and the success of the Program.

#### **7. Transportation Services: OPT, Alexandra Robinson, Executive Director**

Ms. Robinson mentioned that she is the Executive Director for Opt and previously worked as the Director of Transportation, San Diego and Transportation, Florida. She started out as a Special Education Teacher, SED Teacher and a Behavioral Therapist. Ms. Robinson believes that the school bus is an extension of the classroom and what happens on a school bus can make or break the child. There are hundreds of thousands of students with an IEP in the city but were not transporting all of them. We transport students that are eligible or students who are related service students to get to and from their program. Since January 3, 2012 changes and improvements at OPT are:

- Divided by Borough
- Borough Directors in each borough
- Account Managers under the Borough Directors
- One point of contact-Borough Directors
- Metro-Card division serving half a million students
- 80 customer services operators
- Staff training in Student characteristics i.e. IEP, Related Service
- Retraining Drivers and Inspectors

#### **8. Related Services**

The council sent out invitations to Related Service Officials within the Department of Education at Tweed and District 75. The officials were not able to attend due to scheduling. Gary Hecht, Superintendent of District 75 gracefully answered questions from parents during the meeting.

Mr. Hecht opened the dialogue by mentioning, District 75 is responsible for the supervision of related services, this past school year the public education came to district 75 and other providers and said you're not following the protocol that was established many years ago. The DOE hires Related Providers who are staffed within schools. At D75 Programs we have over 630 speech teachers and over 600 OT/PT, well over 1200 hundred providers. We hire every single day. It's not about money it's about the supply and demand; there are not enough providers nationwide. District 75 works with the

local college and universities that provides tuition to those programs who will work in a school but still there is a shortage. The schools are responsible to inform the DOE-District 75 so we can locate an agency that provides the service and the agency has 24 hours to contact the District. On October 15<sup>th</sup> Mr. Hecht contact the Deputy Chancellor to inform her that he is still receiving calls from parents whose children are not receiving services. By this Friday if your child is not being serviced RSA Letters will be generated to the parents.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm**