



# Citywide Education Council for District 75



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**Executive Officers:** Gloria Smith, President & Public Advocate Appointee / John Camacho, Vice President

Diane McNeil, Recording Secretary / Anthony Caponera, Treasurer

**Council Members:** Hasan Sonny Dibra / Craig Spencer / Amy Ming Tsai

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## Committee on Busing and Safety

Date: October 11, 2017

Time: 6:30pm to 9pm

Location: Queens Borough Hall

120-55 Queens Boulevard

Kew Gardens, NY 11424

Attendance: Anthony Caponera, Chair (A.C.)

Gloria Smith, President/Committee Member (G.S.)

John Camacho, Vice President/Committee Member (J.C.)

Diane McNeil, Recording Secretary/Committee Member (D.M.)

Amy Ming Tsai, Council Member/Committee Member (A.M.T)

Craig Spencer, Council Member/Committee Member (C.S.)

Rebecca Green, Invitee (R.G.)

Pamela Conford, Invitee (P.C.)

## A.C. Introduction

Opening remarks

Explanation as to why the committee is in Staten Island:

1. Fact Finding
2. Gathering Information
3. Established Panel of Professionals

## Attendees:

Ayaan Ansari - Parent

A. Child is six year old

B. IEP Medical – Time Limits on school bus

C. Urinary accidents on school bus

D. The route was changed five times

E. No A.C. on school bus

F. Parents have emailed OPT regarding incidents

G. Bus company, driver or matron doesn't notify parents of late arrival

H. Bus company: Little Richie

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James Thorbs- Principal, 75Q Ridgewood (serves eight school- sites)

- A. Busing is a travesty
- B. Positive beginning by council start fact finding regarding busing
- C. School buses are hours late
- D. Lack of communication
- E. Bus drivers should understand as well as convey occurrences
- F. Schools are held accountable but has no control over busing
- G. Meetings are scheduled to meet with staff regarding busing

Parents/OPT

- A. Parents have complained to the schools the fear of retaliation from drivers and matrons
- B. Complained of children having seizures on school buses due to travel delays
- C. Bus drivers and matrons should have a command of the English language
- D. Overcrowded buses
- E. Mixing Ages: H.S. students riding with M.S. students and or Elementary age students
- F. Children arrives with unexpected injuries

Vanessa Murray, PC P4Q

- A. Parent of a special needs child
- B. Bus matron disrespectful towards staff
- C. Child IEP Mandated to have Nurse on the school bus
- D. There is no nurse traveling on the bus
- E. Bus matron is confronts parents
- F. Language barrier
- G. Driver and matron needs intense training
- H. Mandated recertification is needed
- I. Ongoing issues with busing for years and hasn't improved

Note: Parent coordinators training (scheduled for 10/20/17) will take place at the District Office 400 first Avenue, Manhattan. Council President, Gloria Smith will attend and speak to the superintendent, Ketler Louissaint

Robert Lopez – Principal P256 / Representing CSA  
Attending on a fact finding mission on behalf of CSA

Milagra Cancel – Parent

- A. Transportation needs improvement
- B. Biggest concern the students from P.R. coming to NYC and facing the same issues
- C. Same yearly issues with the DOE & OPT nothing is done to fix the problem
- D. Bureaucracy does not work

P.3.

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Sarah Catalinotto – Parent to Improve School Transportation

- A. There needs to be a School Bus Bill of Rights
- B. Her advocacy group has formatted and pushed the School Bus Bill of Rights

Maria Izara- Parent P290Q

- A. Bus driver argued with her son and pushed him
- B. Drivers and matrons should receive training
- C. Bus has no A/C during summer
- D. Bus Company: Little Richie