

Citywide Council for District 75

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 2, 2020 **Time:** 6:30 PM – 9:00PM **Location:** Virtual Meeting: Zoom

MEETING CALLED BY	Shamel Lawrence and C.E. Spencer , Co-Presidents
FACILITATOR	Shamel Lawrence and C.E. Spencer , Co-Presidents
ROLL CALL & NOTE TAKER	Patricia Jewett , Recording Secretary
TIMEKEEPER	Shamel Lawrence , President
ATTENDEES	Shamel Lawrence , Co-President-Present, Craig E. Spencer , Co-President-Present, Grisel Cardona , Vice President- Absent, Debra Altman , Treasurer- Excused, Patricia Jewett , Recording Secretary & Public Advocate Appointee- Present, Amy Ming Tsai , Parliamentarian – Present, Andrea Daniels , Council Member-Present, Constance Asiedu , Public Advocate Appointee, Present and Tiesha Groover , Council Member-Present
MEETING START & ADJOURN	Start: 6:42pm Adjourn: 9 pm

- 1. Call to Order:** S. Lawrence, Co-President opened the meeting by informing the attendees the meeting is open to the Open Meeting Law. This meeting is being recorded. Please also note everyone is visible during the meeting and is subject to the council’s discretion.
- 2. Roll Call:** P. Jewett, Recording Secretary
Note: S. Lawrence informed the members if any members join in the meeting, he will ask for a redo of the roll call (attendance).
- 3. Timekeeper:** A. Daniels
- 4. Moment of Silence:**
- 5. Review Meeting Date:** C.E. Spencer, Co-President provided future Business & Calendar meeting dates and time for the remaining part of the term that ends on June 30, 2021. All of the council’s meetings are from 6:30pm to 9pm virtually unless otherwise stated. Joint meetings are scheduled from 6pm to 9pm. The Town Hall tentatively is from 6pm to 8pm and will be announced at a later date.
 - Calendar Meeting: Monday, December 21st at 6:30pm
 - Business Meeting: Jan. 6th
 - Calendar Meeting: Jan. 27th
 - Virtual Town Hall with the Chancellor: Wednesday, Feb. 3rd
 - Joint Business/Calendar Meeting: Feb. 10th
 - Business Meeting: March 3rd
 - Calendar Meeting: March 24th
 - Business Meeting: April 7th
 - Calendar Meeting: April 28th
 - Business Meeting: May 5th
 - Calendar Meeting: May 26th
 - Joint Business/Calendar Meeting: June 16th

S. Lawrence asked C. Asiedu if she had any dates to share. C. Asiedu requested a vote on all the changes by the council for the meeting dates and calendar meeting (next calendar meeting, December 2020). S. Lawrence asked the following members if they had any dates to

share: T. Groover, P. Jewett and A. Daniels did not have dates to share, A.M. Tsai agreed with C. Asiedu. S. Lawrence reiterated what C. Asiedu and A.M. Tsai said regarding the vote and C.E. Spencer agreed.

- 6. Town Hall Prep for the 2nd Wednesday in January:** S. Lawrence introduced Alexis Suib of FACE to elaborate. She informed the members there is a town hall prep being proposed for the second Wednesday in January (13th of January). It is with Learning Times, which is the online platform (their own platform) that works the Chancellor's town halls. They will do a run through of the town hall, it is scheduled for an hour, it can take up to half an hour to an hour, and they will answer the members questions. Once the members inform Ms. Suib if the members are still open to the Wednesday, she will schedule with the Learning Times and once the meeting is confirmed they will send a link to the council. C.E. Spencer asked is 6pm ok for the 13th of January and Ms. Suib will confirm.
- 7. TCAC Presentation Special Meeting:** C.E. Spencer mentioned TCAC is a transition organization like OPWDD. Mr. Jose Lua Rios, Director of Family Empowerment & Communications added Jackson Center -Transition and College Access Center. C.E. Spencer and S. Lawrence was informed by Claudette Agard on the 17th of November the Brooklyn Representative would like to schedule a presentation for the council. C.E. Spencer asked the council to decide if they would like to vote on a date and time to meet. T. Groover suggested she and A. Daniels, Co-Chairs on the Committee of Transition meet with the representative instead of the council members on behalf of the committee. Mr. Rios informed the members Transition and College Access Centers (TCAC) are borough based which really helps students plan for the transition into adult life after they leave school, whether that's college career or independent living. They work closely with Natalie McQueen, Director of Transition for District 75. TCAC is the work-based learning programs who help facilitate the training opportunity program so top and the summer youth empowerment program SUYP that provides paid work-based learning for our students with disabilities.

C. Asiedu stated the presentation should be presented to the council and not under the committee the presentation for everyone under D75. P. Jewett agreed it should be opened to everyone and wanted inquired can the council invite someone from Access VR attend the presentation. Her experience with the agencies transition counselor has been favorable.

S. Lawrence asked the other members of the council and they agreed with C. Asiedu and P. Jewett's statement.

Mr. Rios offered his assistant in contacting TCAC on the council's behalf. He suggested if the council will hold a special meeting and the topic is transition and invite different organizations and we can work with Chairs on the committee on transition. The Co-Charis and C.E. Spencer meet with Mr. Rios and Ms. Agard and would like to set a date for the third/forth week of January 2021. A.M. Tsai suggested the meeting should be a series due to the number of the organizations C.E. Spencer mentioned to invite. It may be overwhelming if its one meeting.

S. Lawrence suggested to let the Committee on Transition organize the meeting with Mr. Rios and Ms. Agard, come back to the council with the plan and the members can vote on it if they agree on the dates and time and it was agreed Committee on Transition will plan the event.
- 8. SCA Presentation Based on the 11/30 Workshop:** S. Lawrence informed the members C.E. Spencer, A.M. Tsai and A. Daniels was in contact with SCA and on the 30th of November and C.E. Spencer provided the following:

- He forwarded the email he received to S. Lawrence and inquired if A.M. Tsai and A. Daniels if they received the email to attend the meeting scheduled last Monday? A. Daniels didn't receive the email in a timely manner and was not able to attend. A.M. Tsai arrived late during the presentation however she is familiar with the format and asked C.E. Spencer to resend the email.
- C.E. Spencer attended the Monday's meeting with SCA and they did not provide the deadline however they did provide detail information on the process and at the end of January 2021.
- C. Asiedu interjected by mentioning it is not normally at the end of January. Normally SCA gets the proposal in the beginning (first week) of January not the end.
- C.E. Spencer stated D75 doesn't have a representative with SCA. How they work with D75 which is co-located during the workshop they recommend to work with the District representatives where the school is located in terms of concerns for that particular school.
- They also recommended to work with the deputy facilities managers within the borough's to bring to their attention any school concerns.
- In reference to the Capital Budget SCA is independent from the DOE. Principals should contact the council members regarding the schools needs and the council in turn will submit the gathered information.
- C.E. Spencer asked A.M.Tsai and A. Daniels to take the lead with SCA and provide what they gathered to the council during the December 21st Calendar Meeting.
- A.M.Tsai mentioned SCA priority due to COVID they are focused on ventilation within the schools to have them remain open.

9. Parent University Presentation: Shona Gibson of FACE reached out to C.E. Spencer to offer to have a presentation for their calendar meeting. C.E. Spencer asked Mr. Rios to assist in providing information on the Parent University. Mr. Rios informed the council Parent University is an initiative the Chancellor is pushing forward and being handle by FACE. He mentioned his department contribute content on special education. There are some recordings it is all of the content from the beyond access series and they are tied to NYC School. Laura Agrusty of FACE is leading that charge. C.E. Spencer mentioned since Ms. Gibson is not present during the meeting it will be hard to do it this month. Hopefully, Ms. Gibson can attend the 21st of December's Calendar Meeting and provided the council information. This will provide the members to make a decision during the meeting or in January 2021. C.E. Spencer will reach out to Ms. Gibson to see if she can attend the December's Calendar Meeting to provide the council with how the presentation is going to be.

➤ **Item not on the agenda:** S. Lawrence informed the council this item is not on the agenda and asked C.E. Spencer to share with the council. Sunday Morning, S. Lawrence, and received a call I from Mr. Rios, to give us a heads up. The Mayor said testing will have to be done weekly. There are three options parents will have to have their kids tested in the school by the nurse, the other two options are disability and medically based. Parents can ask for an exemption not to be tested within the school. The parameters are there is a language barrier, behavioral issue, whatever physical or mental or the parent may want to be with their child when they get tested. A parent or guardian can request the disability-based exemption for being tested in school. He shared the link via email to the members. Mr. Rios informed the council he can share his screen on how to get to the link.

C.E. Spencer continued with if you're going to go with the disability exemption, you're going to either be tested by the child's doctor or go to an H&H testing facility which Dr. Ted Long presented at the end of October on he forecasted that would that's what he would see happen. Where there are centers equipped to have special needs, children get tested were a parent can be there. The third exemption the doctor provides a letter for medical reasons. The exemptions are determined and approved by the onsite school psychologists. They also abide by the HIPPA laws.

A. Daniels mentioned another exemption for students who cannot wear a mask while riding school buses. S. Lawrence mentioned he and T. Groover attended a school walk through and she raised the question about the mask exemption with the principals and they are aware of the exemption. Mr. Rios proceeded to share the website information.

10. Review Meeting Minutes:

11. Discuss Committees Meeting Dates: P. Jewett, Chair of the Bylaws Committee as a point of information informed the members, she, and S. Lawrence are compiling the important transcripts that need to be present and everyone needs to have a copy of in order to address the bylaws that were voted on during the August 17th meeting. She and S. Lawrence is hoping to get the meetings transcript by next week.

- G. Cardona was absent during the meeting and C.E. Spencer said what he wanted to comment on a major part of Outreach with what he sees he is kept in contact with Sacha Ingles in terms of the members meeting with Superintendent Louissiant. The last time they met was in August. They have borough family forums in reference of outreach that can discuss transition.
- A.M. Tsai mentioned thins are on pause due to covid-19 regarding the busing committee. Until restrictions are lifted, she will be able to address with the District the next steps.
- T. Grover informed the council she wrote down the safety committee dates for scheduled for the 16th of every month. She also inquired about the testing and parent consent for testing, school visits and hearing from the DOE.
- P. Jewett suggested transition and curriculum should work together.
- The members continued to talk about remote learning and their concerns with teachers not having videos on during remote learning in individual classrooms.

12. Discuss Next Meeting Agenda: S. Lawrence mentioned there are items that still need to be addressed and will be moved over to the next agenda. He will ask for someone from the DOE to attend the meeting to address the protocol on testing and remote learning.

13. Remarks from Council Members: The members of the council brought to as well address an array of issues concerns and findings during the meeting, ratifying the council meeting dates including committee meeting dates. Also added to the agenda remarks and co-presidents report.

14. Remarks from Co-Presidents: C.E. Spencer stated IncludeNYC will host the festival on January 30th. He connected with Ms. Jordan from Senergia. Mr. Spencer would like to work with them in the near future by inviting them during a meeting to speak to the constituents and how their origination can benefit them. ECC business meeting this Friday from 6 to 8 pm and Saturday the 12th with the Chancellor. If the members have questions for us to ask the Chancellor, please send to the co-presidents by the 8th.

S. Lawrence mentioned on Monday he's restarting his service with the military base he's assigned to and at the base they will be providing food for families. He asked parents to email

the council with a list of needs and he will assist. The initiative will begin on Monday and Wednesday. He is also working on asking the newly elected Queens Borough President, NYPD, US Marine Corps to have a virtual winter for our children. If parents who are interested in the list of events, please email the council. Mr. Lawrence mentioned parents need to also focus on self-care and please take care of yourselves.

15. Motion to Adjourn:

◆ ACTIONS:

VOTES	Motion made	Voice –Vote Tally
<p>C.E.Spencer called for a motion. A motion was made to meet with Learning Times tentatively on January 13, 2021 at either 5pm or 6:30pm with the Chancellor.</p>	<p>P. Jewett made a motion and A. Daniels second</p>	<p>S. Lawrence-Yes C.E. Spencer-Yes G. Cardona-N/A D. Altman- N/A P. Jewett-Yes C. Asiedu-Yes T. Groover-Yes A. Daniels-Yes A.M. Tsai-Yes 7- Yes Votes</p>
<p>Motion to adjourn</p>	<p>C. Asiedu made a motion P. Jewett second</p>	<p>All agreed</p>