



CITYWIDE DISTRICT 75 COUNCIL

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MINUTES CALENDAR MEETING

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, **January 18, 2012** at 6:00 pm at P753K@Brooklyn School for Career Development, 510 Clermont Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237. The following people were in attendance.

Calendar Meeting:

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

1. Roll Call

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| Able Alagbe | Present |
| Charlene Carroll-Hall | Present |
| Maureen Dantzler | Present |
| Diamaris Magarin | Present |
| Gloria Ann Smith | Present |
| Alicia Valeus | Present |
| Joseph Williams | Present |

2. Report of the President: Joe Williams

Joe Williams informed the invited guest, parents and council that this year he went to the Superintendent of District 75 and asked if it was possible if the council could move into the District office. The superintendent with opened arms and welcomed us. The purpose for the request was to make the council more accessible, accountable to the parents and we are able to address parents concerns rapidly. If there is a problem that comes up, at times there is misinformation pushed out to the public. Gary's office is always open, I can walk into his office and address the concerns and other information to him and it will be straighten out. I appreciate Gary Hecht's help as well as his staff in District 75.

Going forward what we need, is more parents to get involved. We have 3 open positions on the council. I have been meeting with PTA's, parent coordinators, President's Council to help us attract parents who are willing an able to be on the council. This is your council; this council can only function by having the parents being participants within D75. This year Ray Velez, District Family Advocate for D75 and I have been in school within every borough. We have attended every SLT/PTA meetings the purpose of the visits is that everyone that is sitting here is a parent, grandparent of a child in district 75. We freely give up our time and we want to make a difference in the children's life in district 75. If we can help one child this is important to us. The parents serving on the council find their positions rewarding to all of us. Parents please join your PTA's/SLT's, Presidents council and the CD75C. Please get involved with your child's school. Joe mentioned that being in the building with Gary it has inspired him to do more and he thanked him for being so accessible to him.

3. Report of the Superintendent: Gary Hecht

Gary welcomed the council and parents to the meeting. Gary mentioned that all of us in this room do what we do whether it's our child or not because we want to improve the outcome for our students. We know we will not be around all of our children's life. Your children are our children and we take that very seriously. So we need to spread the word it is important we fill the vacancies on this council. This council shows the department of education that we're a collaborative organization. Although we may

have some disagreement we're respectful to each other. I hope you're able to spread the word out to the parents. Joe is there everyday at the council's office; Joe will visit my office and if there is an issue we able to talk about it, resolve it and move on to the next issue. It is wonderful to have Joe and Ramona at the district level. I can walk downstairs and ask a question and resolve the issue. Joe thank you and Ramona pleasure having you both at the district office. Gary mentioned to Laura Rodriguez, Gary's boss that the council is moving to the district office. Laura was surprised at the move and Gary mentioned that the council and the district are working together.

Gary stated that he wanted to go over some of the minor issues and concerns. The NY State Regents okayed new rules for the IEP diplomas in the year 2013-14 there will be no more IEP diplomas. Students will receive credentials that reflect that they completed their IEP goal and objectives. What has happened over the years is that the IEP documents were referred to as a diploma and it gave a false impression to the parents and students. Because the document stated that the particular students mastered their goals that he/she is eligible for specific opportunities outside of the DOE. When students left school, we as a system was not transparent to parents and students to let them know that the document you were receiving was not a diploma but a certificate we were not clear and kind of gave a false impression to the parents and students. The NYS Department of Education thought that this was concerning so in 2013-14 students will receive a certificate. This does not mean that any services will be deleted for any students it will continue to receive the same services and given the same opportunities.

The district has been working closely with the DOE central office. We have been looking at some of the programs that central office has. Central has a program called Science, Technology Engineering and Math. For the last few years they have taken departments and combined it because they saw the importance of technology and how it is incorporated in everything a student does in all content areas. We did that about two years ago and they have been talking about the opportunities that students have with the STEN project. District 75 has decided to have a STEN project we will now have the science, technology, engineering and math together. We will have one department to cover all of the content areas I just mentioned. The department is much stronger and knowledgeable in all areas and we're excited about the outcomes and the department reaching out to the schools visiting our school administrators and working with school staff to provide positive student outcomes. This new initiative, the experts are in place and look forward to the positive outcome for our students.

We have several schools that received there quality review those schools that received their quality review are the following:

- 176X in the Bronx received Developing Review Score.
- 231K in Brooklyn received Developing Review Score. I spoke to the Principal last night who received the score and they will be appealing the Score they received.
- P721X in the Bronx received Developing Review Score
- P10X in the Bronx received Proficient Review Score.

It's a difficult process that schools need to go through it has been approved by the DOE and some of you know the process by being in your child's school. It is daunting when you receive a Developing Review because it is under developed, developed, proficient or well developed. I believe our schools will always be Devolving Review Score because we have new programs, students and new staff who come in. but the way the system has rolled out the quality reviews they have not made developing a favorable response. The system provides a Developing Review they are hurt, upset and angry, I understand because they work hard. There is appeal process and we encourage it. Last year two of our schools receive developing they appealed and they received proficient.

We have new programs and changes in our organization that will be occurring in September we will have at P140K who is I.A. Principal Roderick Palton. The environment in the school is not very nice. The building is not clean and lacks the opportunity to have integration and the students are on the top floor. We have been there for many years. After the conversation with Roderick, the DOE and the District; it has been agreed upon that the entire school will be moved to K258. The new location is a nice huge building and students will have access to the buildings library lunchroom and gym. P169 in Manhattan has an offsite at 155. They are on the third floor of the building which houses kindergarten and elementary students. There is a new building opening at 46th street between 1st and 2nd avenue. We were told we will have space in that building and the entire site will be moving into the building.

53K it was an old building, not accessible for students in the building it will be closing at the end of the year the school will be relocating to Spring Creek building past Striate City. Their main head quarters-main site will be at IS88 in park slope. They are very happy and they have two off site programs at 296 and 384. They will divide site 296 and will move into site 384.

We opened a new building we had so many children on the wait list in queens we have a new site; we opened the program last week. In September 277Q in district 28 is slated to open.

4. School Safety Procedures & Regulations As It Pertains to Children with Special Needs:
Mary Mason Simpson Regional Safety Administrator

Ms. Simpson mentioned not only does she works for District 75; she is a parent of a student of D75. Her child has been with district 75 since he was 4 years old and now he is 18. Prior to her son coming to D75 we had him in a school and we noticed that there were different behaviors than her previous children. She remembered when she took him to his regular examination with his doctor. The doctor said he is your last child, he is youngest one and don't worry about it he will grow out of it. A friend of her husband suggested that her son gets evaluated and she and her husband contacted the CSE and they looked at her son in his natural settings. CSE called them back to a panel discussion and she and her husband was told that her son is Autistic on the spectrum. She was fearful that her son would be institutionalized. She was informed that we have a district that specialized with children with your sons needs. We went to District 75 and her child went to the school in the Bronx at 177X. She met the Principal ensured her that there was hope and the staff was supportive. She sees that her child has improved and grown. I was involved in my child's school and willing to help. Ms. Simpson worked in a school were the kids with serve behavior issues and wanted to join gangs. When they saw the consistency and structures the children change. They wanted to learn and know that they were more than their circumstance. We had a career day where former students attend and we had colleges and companies who had applications for the children to fill out. Not only having the privilege of working in d75 schools she worked in the gen. education schools helping to change the mind set of D75 that it was doom and gloom. D75 is not a punishment we are the specialist. So when she speaks to her associates and has professional development, she likes to remind them that they are the specialist. The tool kits have to be filled with every type of strategy you can think of so that every child is successful. At district 75 we are champions in professional development in specific areas. So now the collaboration and partnership in general education, private sector and even the university contact d75. In the USA we receive calls from all over the world. We are the only district that do what we do and are specialist are what ever the need are with the child. At d75 we research, developing and field test different suggestions presented to see if it will work. I am very proud of my department; it is a combination of three: a) the office of school safety, b) the office of positive behavior interventions and support and c) the office of social emotional learning. They all specialize in these key areas to help impact change inside the schools to help make the schools a safe environment for the staff and students. How do they go about making these changes? You develop a positive school cultural you need o know the needs of the staff and students. You need to build it from a tier 1 level to a tier 3 level. When we are looking at the school environment in tiers were looking at the whole school and breaking it up into where the needs are and how we are supporting them. RTI; response intervention, how do we respond to intervention? What are we doing as a school, as an organization, what are we doing as a school and educator to be able to help every single child? What tools do we have, not only in academics but what do we have in place for social emotion, what does behavior look like in a school? What resources do you have in place? PBIS: Positive Behavior Intervention and Support so with PBIS we have in our department how we do on a universal level address the needs of the school environment. To make it a safe environment for all the constituents even the parents? So the parents can feel that they understand how that child is learning and who do I contact? On a weekly, monthly what ever the school has there system put in place. How do I receive feed back about my child; not only that the parent received a phone call about Mary's behavior? What is some of the things she is doing correctly, what is her progress looking like? How is the school progress monitoring Mary? How am I part of that loop? So that some of things we are doing on the universal level with in the schools. We are staying in contact with the parents on an on going basis. In addition to that what we are also doing in my department we have five professional developments within d75 thorough the school year. We offer professional development throughout the DOE so they may have the resources and tools to help the students in their classroom. The one we pride ourselves in the most is therapeutic crisis intervention. That is a partnership with Cornell University. With therapeutic crisis intervention it is a resource and tool that

once the staff is trained in therapeutic crisis, they are certified. Once you hear therapeutic that makes you feel what...relaxed? How do we safely help teach and educate the student how to self regulate, to deescalate and to understand what their trigger and emotions are in a safe and calming environment. How do we going about doing that, to recognize the child's behavior? We want to teach the alternative, how the student can develop their coping skills in a safe environment. The courses is a four day course and the staff is certified.

5. **BCID: Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disable: Raphael Rivas, Outreach & Information Specialist**

Raphael Rivas, Outreach and Information Specialist of the Brooklyn Center for the Disable mentioned to the attendees that Maureen Dantzler, Council Member has been a member, has participated and attended meetings and been on committees at the center for many years. Currently Maureen and Joe serve on the 3rd Annual Brooklyn Parent Center Conference Planning Committee Meeting. The conference will be held Friday, June 1st at the Long Island University Brooklyn Campus.

Raphael informed the attendees that Brooklyn Parent Center has a list of Workshop Topics:

- An Overview of the Special Education System-Laws and Advocacy
- An Overview of individual Education Programs (IEP): including the New IEP
- Pupil Transportation
- Parent Involvement in Schools
- Stress Management
- Evaluation/Placement
- Helping Parents and School Districts Become More Effective Partners

The mission of BCID is to improve the quality of life for Brooklyn residents with disabilities through programs that empower them to gain greater control of their lives and achieve full and equal integration while removing communication barriers. Assistance is offered to all regardless of race, age, religion and national origin.

Raphael also informed the attendees that BCID staff is culturally diverse and provided service to the disability community in:

- Information and referral resources
- Benefits and entitlement counseling
- Housing advocacy
- Peer support Group
- Political advocacy advisement and mediation to promote systemic change
- Community Education and outreach
- Deafness advocacy and integration Service. Tuesdays Walk-In Day. ASL Interpreter is Present
- Youth Transitional Service
- Youth/College Advocacy Services
- BCID's Parent Center-provides workshops, information and strategies for parents/guardians of children with disabilities.

6. **Report of the Secretary: Approval of working & Calendar Meeting Minutes-December 7, 2011**

Joe Williams called to order to accept the December 7, 2011 Working & Calendar Meeting. Gloria Smith, made a motion to accept the December 7th meeting minutes, Charlene Carroll-Hall second the motion, all were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm