



CITYWIDE DISTRICT 75 COUNCIL

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MINUTES CALENDAR MEETING

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, **December 19, 2012** at 6:00 pm at P186X@Walter J. Damrosch, 750 Jennings Street, Bronx, NY. The following people were in attendance.

*Note: Mr. Williams, President called the calendar meeting to order.
Call to Order at 6:50 PM the Calendar Agenda

1. Roll Call

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

Glome Corcino Present
Jackie P. Louis Present

- Appointment of time Keeper: Charlene Carroll-Hall

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Joe Williams called a motion to accept the September 19, 2012 Calendar Meeting Minutes, Charlene Carroll-Hall motioned to accept the minutes, Diamaris Magarin, second and all were in favor.

Joe Williams called a motion to accept the November 28, 2012 Calendar Meeting Minutes, Aliya Rasool motioned to accept the minutes, Gloria Smith, second and all were in favor.

Joe Williams called a motion to accept the December 5, 2012 Working Meeting Minutes, Gloria Smith motioned to accept the minutes, Aliya Rasool, second and all were in favor.

3. Report of the President

As we approach the end of another year the council has taken time to reflect on the events of the past year.

Topics that include:

1. Common core standards
2. Special education reform
3. Co-locations
4. 1115 waiver
5. And many other important topics.

These items in many ways has changed the way special education is delivered; in many ways for the better. That's why we as special education advocates have to stay involved in our children's education community.

The purpose of district 75 council and many other parent advocate groups is to keep other parents informed of the many changes within the field of special education.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge all parents to attend and participate in their children's school community by joining the PTA, SLT and the CCEC's: Community Education Council's and become and advocate not only for your child but for all children with special needs.

I would like to wish you and your family the best during the holidays as well as a safe one.

4. Report of the Superintendent

Gary Hecht, Superintendent of D 75 welcomed the parents and council he continued by mentioning the school year started off well. Busing for the most part has been good for the students in the district. His office has not received many complaints and that it's a good indicator.

Apple did a video shoot featuring D 75 and they are interested in the district daily use and education instructions with students using the I-pad. The shoot provided us to speak about the opportunity for us to use I-pads to enhance instruction and also to improve communication with students. It's a great opportunity to showcase D75 best practices on technology.

D75 host a meeting for our administrators on August 29th and the educational guest speaker was from Apple. Were supportive of working with Apple and they are with us in sharing best practices.

We will be having 27 quality reviews this year, we haven't resolved which schools that will be involved but it will be at least half of D 75 schools. When we get a list of the schools up for review I will let you know. All schools will receive a progress report; we have approximately 23 schools that will receive a progress report. We don't have any final information but when the schools receive their information we will share with the council.

We have several new principals located in D75 programs in the Bronx at 811X, 754X, 17X and 721X. Instruction has started off a great. D75 is working with Tweed with the citywide great expectations; our departments have focused on instruction which is the common core learning standard. It gives us opportunity to work closely with the staff at central. Some of the staff at the district has been selected as common core learning fellows. They are part of an initiative that is being rolled out by central focusing on come core learning standards in all of the schools.

There are no major issues with placement this year. All of our students were placed as they were articulated into D 75 and we worked closely with parents for the school year. Inclusion seats we did have some problems and worked closely with our staff to resolve issues.

5. Related Services: Helen Kaufman, Administrative Assistant Superintend, District 75

Ms. Kaufman welcomed the parents and was glad to be in attendance. She informed the parents and council we have spent in the last two years a tremendous amount of time hiring people. We now have 633 speech teachers that work in district 75 alone. We have 389 occupational therapists and 289 physical therapists including our vision, hearing teachers and counselors. Through the five boroughs that we serve we have the greatest difficulty hiring people for the Bronx. Generally it has more to do with where they live than what has to do with the Bronx. It's just the proximity they don't want to cross the bridge from Queens to the Bronx. What we have done very well in the last several years in staffing our schools we have more people working in the Bronx and we have a strong commitment to this borough. One of the things that we are trying to do in bridging the gap is work with more contract agencies and independent providers. This year we have established a new system of contracting for those students who remain underserved. It has to do with primary agencies, secondary agencies and the new term for us tertiary agencies. Once we reach out to the primary and secondary agencies we can send reach out to other agencies for providers. We are still working with our independent providers in truth what we do say is that we believe that the DOE provides students with the most and best service that we can supervise. We talk about the units of study, core curriculum and instruction and our goal in all of our related services is to support the instruction and program for the children. Related Services in and of themselves have meaning. Children are in school to learn the moment they enter the door at 5 years old our goal is to have them learn curriculum, take their place in society and to be able to be a member of their community. Ms. Kauffman informed the parent in the schools they want to collaborate and incorporated practices in daily activities. The providers do not use the medical model any longer we use instructional model and have had the greatest results.

6. **Overcome Your Busing Concerns-Part 2 The Bronx, Seth Brown, Bronx Borough Director, OPT**
Seth Brown informed the parents that he represented as the Bronx Borough Director of OPT. He has been with the DOE for 15 years and was the Director of Account Management. As the Borough director of the Bronx, he oversees busing for general and special education students. Mr. Brown informed the parents that year and a half ago OPT reorganized and now has a director representing each borough. The reorganization was good for busing-special education because it has five directors focusing on and identifying the needs related to busing-special education. The biggest problem that they are aware of at OPT is communication; mass communication out to the schools and the parents. OPT is trying to work on improving communications. Mr. Brown informed the parents, if you're not getting the letters from your school or call backs from OPT he would like to know about it. Mr. Brown after his segment proceeded to speak to parents about their concern and gather their information and promised to contact them with a resolution.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm