



CITYWIDE DISTRICT 75 COUNCIL

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CEC District 75
Special Education

MINUTES CALENDAR MEETING

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, **February 15, 2012** at 6:00 pm at P723X@P218X, 1220 Gerard Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452. 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

Able Alagbe	Present
Charlene Carroll-Hall	Present
Maureen Dantzer	Excused
Diamaris Magarin	Present
Gloria Ann Smith	Excused
Alicia Valeus	Present
Joseph Williams	Present
Marion R. Lopez	Present
Allison Bridges-Matthews	Resigned

Joe Williams, President of the CD75C began the meeting:

Welcome to the District 75 February Calendar Meeting. Coming to the Bronx is like coming home. I wanted too thank the Principal of the School for hosting us tonight and if she would like to say a few words.

Christine Walsh, Principal of 723X: Hi, I want to welcome you to P723X@P218X. I thank the council for all of their hard support they have given our school and off all of our schools and I would like to thank Gary Hecht for his on going support. And I would like to welcome Laura Rodriquez to the school. So thank you for coming tonight I really appreciate it.

Joe mentioned thank you Ms. Walsh, were going to start tonight the District 75 council has been taken very close in the teacher's evaluation but before we do that I'm going to have Charlene (Carroll-Hall, Council member, Queens Rep.) call the roll. Charlene proceeded to call the following names: Joseph Williams, Able, Maureen, Allison, Gloria, Alicia, Marion, Diamaris and myself (see the Roll Call
Joe continued, were going to start this meeting tonight, time check, does someone have the time check; 6:35pm. Joe asked Charlene will you be the time keeper. Charlene responded, sure. Joe informed the attendees, as I was saying D75 council has been playing very close attention to the teacher's evaluation and tonight were going to put forth the District 75 teacher's evaluation. I will have Marion (R. Lopez, council member, Bronx Rep.) read the resolution. Marion R. Lopez read the following:

Resolution #23- Citywide District 75 Council-Teachers Evaluation Resolution

WHEREAS, As part of the federal Race to The Top Funds, the State of New York is mandating a complete overhaul of its teacher evaluation procedures, which will determine how teachers are paid, promoted, trained and fired.

WHEREAS, Appropriate parameters based on individualized gains should be established to evaluate teachers of students with special needs.

WHEREAS, A comprehensive education system should respond to the distinct educational needs of students with disabilities, English Language Learners (ELLs), and improves access to high-quality instruction for all students.

WHEREAS, Parents, communities, and students should be afforded the opportunity to voice their concerns and provide their input on the teacher evaluation system as it develops.

WHEREAS, Data collected from parent and teacher surveys on school environment, climate, and other non-pedagogical aspects of teaching should be considered within the 60% being determined by the district.

WHEREAS, State test scores should not account for more than 20-25 percent of teachers' rating, as contemplated by state law.

WHEREAS, Concerns have been raised by The National Academies' Board on Testing and Assessment (BOTA) concerning value added models and proposals that have not been adequately studied for the purpose of evaluating teachers. This peer-reviewed analysis should be carefully analyzed by the Governor and Legislature before determining policies critical to the future of our children.

WHEREAS, Race to The Top stresses the importance of parent involvement in the development of the evaluation system, parents should be included in the development of such a system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Citywide District 75 Council will work in conjunction with the Department of Education, District 75 Leadership, teachers, and other groups to ensure parents' voices are heard.

Joe mentioned, at this time we don't have a quorum so I will table that. Tonight we have a very special guest someone that just her presences lights up a room Ms. Laura Rodriguez, whose the Deputy Chancellor of Deputy Chancellor, Division of Students with Disabilities & English Language learners

2. **Report of the Superintendent: Gary Hecht**

3. **Jesse Mojica, Executive Director Division of Family and Community Engagement**

Jesse Mojica informed the council he was unable to attend the meeting.

4. **Ruben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President**

Mr. Diaz, was unable to attend, his replacement did not attend.

5. **Laura Rodriguez, Deputy Chancellor, Division of Students with Disabilities & English Language Learners, NYC Department of Education.**

It's great to be here everyone, its great to be back in the Bronx, yes. I have spent so many years both my teaching, my leadership here in the Bronx. I want to start out by mentioning something that I don't if Superintendent Gary Hecht has mentioned it before. But, I want to say how proud I am of the schools and children in our district 75 programs one of the recent achievements. That our schools have achieved the fact that four district 75 high schools were selected to participate in the I-zone initiative on based on their visions for personalizing learning the accept to which that I-Zone can support this vision and that schools and can let them take the capacity for leading this change. There is a lot of innovation going on in this initiative called the I-zone initiative. And it allows students and the schools to work with technology and innovated strategies in practical ways and our schools for district 75 were chosen. Ms. Rodriguez asked Gary (Hecht) what schools were chose? Gary mentioned, Hospital schools, 335 Manhattan, 753 Brooklyn and 53K Brooklyn. I think we should applauded the schools and the children their leadership and I think this is really good and Gary I think we should come back and talk about the progress that we see and the participation of the schools and this initiative. Also I want to say that I have seen and I hope that you will agree. I have seen as we continued to focusing on special education throughout the city you know we call it a special education reform. One of the things I have noted is increase collaboration between the principals and the school staff in the general education schools were district 75 schools are co-located, am I getting some nods...I see a few nods. I see over the past two and half years more evidence of inclusiveness in those schools were district 75 is co-located more and more towards collaboration. Everyone is sitting at the same table principals to govern the building and to maximize the use of resources. I think this benefit all the children in the building, it increases opportunity for diversity and part of that is as you know since July 2009 the reason I came to the central team to join the cabinet and the reason why a position was established back in 2009 a cabinet level position was to focus on enclosing the achievement gap for all students with disabilities. And that means the range of opportunities that we need to create to ensure that many more students with disabilities are successful in school, get to high school, graduate have opportunities for college successful independent living and employment. The range of all of those opportunities has been

something that I have been involved in, Superintendent Gary Hecht, principals in this room and other school staff. Because District 75 has a lot of expertise and it offers a lot expertise within those co-located schools and throughout the system. At the same time we have worked very hard to ensure that opportunities such as the I-Zone, such as the pilots for teachers effectiveness something that you were addressing in the beginning that connects to that. That the children in the schools, in this district in these programs participate in the same way that all other networks and programs do. I've seen and increase a defiant increase in the successful participation of district 75. And I think that comes also from the fact that in creating our division of students with disabilities. Students of district 75; is a very important component of it and Gary Hecht the superintendent is a member of my leadership team. So all the decisions made on behalf of students with disabilities involved the voices of those who represent district 75 at many different levels. And so I expect to continue seeing more opportunities for students with disabilities including those students who are participating in district 75 programs. Both in those co-locations, both in those buildings. Where there is a diversity of students and also were your located outside of those buildings and the were always pushing to ensure that we give as many opportunities for students to be successful at school that supports the rights of what they gave them so they can get to college, to high school and college and beyond. The other change that I have seen more recently is that as the family advocacy office headed by someone who actually comes from the Bronx Jesse Mojica is now the Deputy Chancellor and sits on the cabinet with us and he heads up that office. Were working very closely with that office to increase parental involvement opportunities and ways that are more meaningfully working to really create understanding about who students with disabilities are that diversity is a good thing, that having a disability is not having a negative. And that we expect the students to achieve and part of achieving is means that all the educators even if they are special education teachers or general education teachers need to learn to work together so that we use all the expertise within a school community of for children to succeed in. I hope that this process of greater and continued parental involvement and strengthening of these like the council here that which I was very much supporting that there be a district 75 parent council city board council when there was changes in the legislation and you know that was a kinds of a tough decision because on the one hand if we want to be part of that continuum cause we also have a citywide council for special education and were meeting tomorrow in Queens and I will be there. But I also thought because were still evolving and creating more understanding about students with disabilities that it was important to keep this council and Joe it thank you for your leadership and everyone here and all of you for the time that put in to bring us together and unity to bring the parents together. And to keep figuring out and learning to together how we can continue to support the students and to hold us accountable those of us that have the jobs, titles that make us responsible for the success of the students. But I do see a growing of understanding. I have to tell you where I have been spending most of my time for the last few weeks. So you know that there are 59 networks in addition to the four networks of schools in district 75, networks of schools and in these 59 networks, plus the 4 networks I am scheduled I believe in March to meet with. I am personally going out to meet with all of the principals in each of the 59 networks across the city, and so is my team Dr. Lauren Katzman, Andrew Hollander and other members of the central team to continue to having face to face kinds of interactions with school leaders and school staff about what to expect in the special education reform this emphasis. That far means that were emphasizing that we expect that students with disabilities to have access, equity and to achieve. What ever that takes in each school community one by one that's the work were engaged in and the work ahead of us. So today was session number 16 and I have spoken directly because I have been involved in all but 2 of them about 350 principals at this point and about to go citywide. How many of you seen the film Including Samuel, a number of us certainly something that would be great for the council here together to see the film Including Samuel. But mid day I was doing I was with 75 teachers, guidance counselors, assistant principals, and other staff that wants to be school principals, it's called a program called LEAP and that session today was focused on students with disabilities. These are people who want to be principals of the future and it's very important that we send the right expectations out for those who are developing to become the future leaders.

6. Report of the Secretary: Approval of Calendar & Working Meeting Minutes-January 18, 2012, February 1,2012

The meeting minutes were originally tabled.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm

