

## CITYWIDE DISTRICT 75 COUNCIL

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### MINUTES CALENDAR MEETING

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, **February 27, 2013** at 6:00 pm at P138M@P030M, 144 East 128<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan, NY. The following people were in attendance.

\*Note: Mr. Williams, President called the Calendar Meeting to order.

Student Performance at 6:40PM

Call to Order at 7:50 PM the Calendar Agenda

#### 1. Roll Call

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

#### Appointment of Time Keeper:

Charlene Carroll-Hall

#### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Joe Williams called a motion to accept the December 19, 2012 Calendar Meeting Minutes with amendments, Charlene Carroll-Hall motioned to accept the minutes, Gloria Corsino, second and all were in favor.

Joe Williams called a motion to accept the February 6, 2013 Working Meeting Minutes, Diamaris Magarin motioned to accept the minutes, Gloria Corsino, second and all were in favor.

#### 3. Report of the President: Joe Williams

I want to welcome you to the Citywide District 75 Council Calendar Meeting.

First, I want to Thank Ms. Jackie Keenan, Principal of PS138 and Mr. Michael Gaffney, Assit. Principal of 138M for letting us host our meeting at their school.

The council is happy to be in Harlem hosting our meeting during Black History Month. Harlem shares in the advancement of the African American Experiences and is well known for The Harlem Renaissance. And it seems as though Harlem is having another Renaissance, so many things have changed.

Black history month is a reminder of the accomplishments of those who came before us. We should be proud of our history and it's important to research and explore what our friends, families, educators, politicians, entertainers and activists did to enhance and improve our way of life. However, February should not only be the time we reflect and honor those who came before us but a catalyst for us to want to know more and get involve with our community.

I would like to remind parents that CPAC organized Lobby Day in Albany, March 6<sup>th</sup>. The UFT will provide transportation to Albany and back to the City. For further information we have flyers on the table. We urge you to share with your friends, families and school community.

The Community Education Council's Elections application process has begun. Feb 13<sup>th</sup> to March 13<sup>th</sup> Parents who have a child in a NYC School, representing your child's district can apply. The application process has begun and will end on March 13<sup>th</sup>

You can receive the application by asking your parent coordinator or going to [www.nycparentleaders.org](http://www.nycparentleaders.org)

District 75 will host their workshops and there are flyers on the table, please try to attend and share with your school community.

Our next Public Meeting will be on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Tweed Courthouse and it starts at 6:30pm. We will send out the flyers to the parent coordinators for distribution.

During the meeting please put your cell phones on vibrate.

Tonight we will have a special performance by the students of PS138M so let the performance begin.

#### **4. Report of the Superintendent: Gary Hecht**

Mr. Hecht informed the parents and council that PS 138M had a visitor from central and he was pleased and impressed with what he saw at the school. Gary Mr. Hecht proceeded to thank the staff and Jackie Keane, Principal of the school for showcasing the best practices.

The D75 programs are growing and are receiving additional space. Two new schools are opening in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan as well as a new school in Staten Island. In schools that already exists we will have programs located at District 11-Bronx – 1 school, in District 28-Queens, District 26-Queens, District 18-Queens. It's exciting to know that we will have space to place students for September. Gary thanked the parents for supporting District 75 in their endeavors as well as for central listening and making changes for the better.

Gary wanted to clear up some misinformation that he has read and conversations over the past week regarding the Bus strike. When the strike began the first day our attendance was 49 percent and when the strike ended our attendance was 78 percent. If you compare the attendance rate to last year this time our attendance rate was 83 percent so were 5 percentage points off.

Gary read numbers to the council and parents to clear up the misinformation about thousands of District 75 students were absent or not in school. We had a register of 21, 594 students on register that come to school each day and exclude students in home and hostile. Out of all those students that take busing the number of students that were absent for the entire strike from January 16<sup>th</sup> to the day it ended the total number is 1, 083 students within that number there are 104 long term absent students. There were not thousands of students that were out of school during the bus strike only 993 that were out of school.

Conversations with central over related services, the DOE is omitted to provided related services to our students. It's not a medical model it's there to support instruction. We're not in a rehab center that focuses on the student's disability. We look at the disability and instruction. It is the responsibility of the teacher, parent and the related service provider to have a conversation about the student's performance. If there are signs of regression a meeting of all parties should be scheduled to review the child's performance and how to rectify the problem. We are following through with our commitment with related services for our students. Central is also committed that our children receive service.

**Alexandra H. Robinson, M.Ed.CDPT, Executive Director, Office of Pupil Transportation, NYC DOE**

Ms. Robinson was invited to provide the parents information regarding the outcome of the strike. She informed the parents and council as a former special education teacher it's important to have the students in school. OPT never attended for there to be a strike, we never want for there to be another one, we learn a lot of lesson. From the perspective of the DOE and OPT one of the lessons learned is how can we plan better. What can we do, how can we communicate better, how do you inform parents who don't have access to emails/computers, how do we work with parents? Ms. Jaffrey is the new OPT Special Education Compliance Liaison. During the strike students were eligible to ride with excess-a-ride and are now in the system. Students who would of not have that service before granted they needed it for the strike and will remain in the system. That will be a resource if you need to use it. Last week we treated it like a first week back to school. We had companies that were not doing things right. We had a meeting with a company to inform them of what OPT saw and will be meeting with Rainbow next week. We have a new contract manual were focusing on training and proficient in speaking English. Every driver hired by a company will be certified by OPT. We also put in the manual that is important Being Familiar with the Characteristics, Nature and Needs with Students with Disabilities; specific to their IEP. But we are always committed to answering your phone calls. Policy to me is that calls are answered within 24 hours. Even if it's to call and say were working in it; if you don't hear back please let her know.

**6. Black History Month Celebration: Performance Presented by PS138**

A performance celebrating Black History Month was provided by the students of PS138 before the meeting.

**7. Resolution-Citywide District 75 Council 2013 Fiscal Budget Modification**

After the calendar meeting the council discussed the budget modification and made changes to meet the deadline.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm**