



Citywide Council On High Schools

Citywide Council on High Schools 45-18 Court Square, 2nd Floor Long Island City, NY 11101
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Calendar Meeting Wednesday, April 6, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Brooklyn Representative	Mohammad Akram	ABSENT-Excused
Brooklyn Representative	Marianne Russo	Present
Bronx Representative	Cynthia Robinson	Present
Bronx Representative	Vacant	
Manhattan Representative	Monica Bajraktarevic	ABSENT- Unexcused
Manhattan Representative	Zoe Foundotos	Present
Queens Representative	Mona-Lisa Chandler	Present
Queens Representative	Michelle Gebrail	Present
Staten Island Representative	Vacant	
Staten Island Representative	Vacant	
Public Advocate Appointee	Lisa Lewis	ABSENT-Excused
CCSE Appointee	Neyda Franco	Present
CCELL Appointee	Ulan Kuchukov	Present
Student Representative	Vacant	
Superintendent Liaison	Karen Watts	Present

Attendance

A quorum was present. Mohammad Akram was sick and Lisa Lewis was absent due to a death in her family, excused absences. Monica Bajraktarevic was absent, unexcused.

CALENDAR MEETING

Ms. Franco called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Attendance and roll call was taken.

Presenter:

Joe R. Rogers, Jr. Director of Public Engagement / Senior Researcher:
Campaign for Educational Equity Teachers College, Columbia University
Resolution to Inform Families of Educational Rights
See power point.

Mr. Rogers talked about the NY Court of Appeals decision in Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) vs. State that requires the State to provide all students the opportunity to sound basic education. For HS students that means they will be able to be civic participants capable of voting and serving on a jury. Also they can obtain competitive employment: College and Career Readiness.

Each school must provide sufficient resources to all students to assist them in meeting the NYS Learning Standards. Two booklets produced by the Campaign for Educational Equity Teachers College, Columbia University provides it on their website: Link:

<http://www.tc.columbia.edu/cee/news/in-the-news/the-campaign-for-educational-equity-releases-safeguarding-so/>

- Essential Resources 2012 Booklet: Collection of educational rights
- Deficient Resources 2012 Booklet: Collection of what students have access to, and the violation of their rights.

The judge stated that HS students' class size should have between 20-23 students with average needs. But in reality, the UFT's contract has 34-35 students per class, and sometimes more.

A "Task Force," of 24 organizations signed on to express to the State that they need to have an accountability Task Force to locate and address problems in a timely manner.

Some of the problems presented are:

- The school communities are often unaware of the resources adequacy requirements.
- The lack of opportunities to participate in ongoing monitoring of school's compliance.
- Lack of easy access to relevant data.

Due to the problems mentioned, the schools needs to track and monitor the issues at the school level and citywide. There is a lack of transparencies at the schools due to the dysfunctions listed.

The following recommendations to correct the problems are:

- The state should supply SLT Teams or equivalent, user-friendly metrics/rubrics, relevant data, and training to review yearly if their school provides adequate resources for all their students.
- The state should develop a public complaint process so that all school community members, and community organizations with evidence of deficiencies can inform the principal and other officials of their issues.
- Since the school districts and state lack a defined role in monitoring the schools and districts of their resource adequacies, the district superintendent should conduct annual audits to assess if individual schools have adequate resources.
- The NYS Education Departments needs to regularly monitor school-level resource adequacy.
- The state should collect and share all their data with the public.
- The commissioner of education should give the governor, the legislature and the Board of Regents a yearly compliance report with data.
- Make the enforcement of resource adequacy in each school the responsibility of the school district officials and the state commissioner of education overseeing this process, and its

corrections of the inadequacies.

- Revise the “section 310 proceeding,” to assist the parents of students affected by the inequities, to file cases easily and timely.

Mr. Rogers talked about the “Resolution to Inform Families of Educational Rights Resolution,” and that several CEC’s and organization have signed on to the resolution. He encouraged CCHS to sign the resolution.

Brooklyn HS President’s Council President, Earline Mensah’s group signed the resolution. She would like training for the parents so they can talk to other parents about the issues, and to inform them what the minimum requirements are so they can go to the politicians to advocate for the children’s rights.

Mr. Rogers agreed that all students and their families should have equity and access to information about their educational rights. The DOE should take the lead in educating the parents but only about 3% of the parents know this information. That is why a resolution needs to pass and other CEC’s/educational organizations need to put this on their agendas.

Q&A followed.

Mr. Rogers can be contacted by email: rogers2@tc.edu and phone: 646-745-8283

Superintendent Liaison’s Report

Superintendent Watts reported results of her afterschool programs. The Saturday Academy assisted in getting the students ready for college for 2015-2016 by contributing to the graduation rate by 85%, 13 points higher than the city. College Readiness is 44% and 14% higher than the city overall.

Superintendent Mendez reported the August 4 year graduation rates 2015-2016 for his schools. The graduation rate total for all his schools was 85%, with Queens schools at 87%, Bronx schools at 83%, where the New York State graduation rate for the same time is 81% and New York City was 73%. The previous year Queens was 75%, it went up by 12%, and in the Bronx, it was 65%, it went up by 18%.

Superintendent Mendez gave the members the report with the statistics. It includes two additional columns for college readiness (teaching students how to prepare for college). One of the programs teaches students that after they learn the math concepts, they would apply it to a project. Its focus is to teach the students not only to memorize the math but to be able to utilize it in the real world.

Public Comment

None.

Announcements

Ms. Franco announced: At an April public session of the Manhattan’s President’s Council meeting the Candidate’s Forum was held. 60 candidates for the councils signed up and 20 spoke at the forum. FACE will give detail information to the schools and one parent leader about the election dates and process. If you do not have a functioning parent leader at the school contact FACE. The election begins on April 23rd and ends in May. If you are running for an office you cannot vote.

Ms. Chandler announced:

- At Ms. Chandler's school: Information Technology High School on March 31, 2017 there was a public meeting on immigration, "Know Your Rights," parent workshop. A lawyer presented at the meeting and gave a list of safe places for them.
- There was no subcommittee meeting this month, it would be moved to next month.
- At the Queens HS President's Council, 39 parents applied in Queens and 13 people spoke at the forum.
- This month Queens Borough President, Melinda Katz is having a poetry contest.

Ms. Foundotos does not have a report.

Mr. Kuchukov does not have a report.

Ms. Robinson does not have a report.

Approval of the Minutes

Mrs. Gebrail moved to approve the March 8, 2017, Calendar Meeting minutes with corrections by Ms. Chandler. Ms. Foundotos 2nd the motion. **All in favor, 6. One abstained. The motion did not pass.**

Yes	Chandler, Foundotos, Gebrail, Kuchukov, Robinson, Russo
No	None
Abstained	Franco

Mrs. Gebrail moved to approve the March 8, 2017, Business Meeting minutes. Ms. Foundotos 2nd the motion. **All in favor, 7. Motion passed.**

Yes	Chandler, Foundotos, Franco, Gebrail, Kuchukov, Robinson, Russo
No	None
Abstained	Franco

Old Business/New Business

None.

Adjournment

Calendar meeting ended at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

S. Mei Chan: Administrative Assistant

Revisions made by Recording Secretary Lisa Lewis and President:

Approved by Council vote on June 14, 2017