



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, June 8, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Brooklyn Representative	Mohammad Akram	Present
Brooklyn Representative	Marianne Russo	Present
Bronx Representative	Edward Afuakwah	Present
Bronx Representative	Constance Asiedu	Present
Manhattan Representative	Monica Bajraktarevic	Present
Manhattan Representative	Michael Kraft	ABSENT-Excused
Queens Representative	Mona-Lisa Chandler	Present
Queens Representative	Michelle Gebrail	Present
Staten Island Representative	Robin Allen	ABSENT-Excused
Staten Island Representative	Miguel Rodriguez	Present
Public Advocate Appointee	Lisa Lewis	Present
CCSE Appointee	Neyda Franco	Present
CCELL Appointee	Ulan Kuchukov	Present
Student Representative	Kara Gurl	ABSENT-Excused
Superintendent Liaison	Karen Watts	Present

In Attendance

We have a quorum. Michael Kraft was absent, excused absence. Robin Allen was sick, excused absence. Kara Gurl was absent, excused absence.

CALENDAR MEETING

Call to order by Mr. Rodriguez at 5:24 pm. Attendance and roll call was taken.

Presenters:

- High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology Jazz Band with music teacher: Jeffery Ball performed 3 songs for CCHS. They performed last year but this year they had a 22 piece Jazz Band.
- Benjamin N. Cardozo High School students: Malik Jardin played a classical piano piece of music while 2 students Amber Nagasar and Deandra King sang individual songs. Baruch College Campus HS with teachers: Elisabeth Jaffe and Melody Kwan. The school's InvenTeam presented their Team Invention: A vacuum to clean the trash on the subway tracks with a

powerpoint. They designed a working prototype with a \$10,000 grant. The members are between freshman and sophomore grades and their project was recognized by President Obama.

- New Explorations into Science, Technology and Math High School Comedy Troupe "Who We Comedy" Performance with the teacher: William Yusah. The student group performed an improvised comedy routine.

Presenters:

CCHS quarterly meeting with the High School President's Council Presidents

In attendance:

Brooklyn HS President's Council President: Aquila Jordan

Manhattan HS President's Council Treasurer: Sandra Hyatt

Queens HS President's Council President: Nance Northrop

Staten Island Federation President: Miguel Rodriguez

Bronx HS President's Council President: No representative (currently they do not have a President)

Brooklyn HS President's Council President Ms. Jordan: The Brooklyn Family Leadership Coordinator and Superintendent are not assisting her with school issues. Parents are not supported with their PA/PTA and some are not functioning. The school system needs a voice, change, accountability and support for students and parents. Superintendent Watts with her assistant Mr. Hagin and Superintendent Prayor with his assistant Moses are doing a great job but not the case with other Brooklyn Superintendents.

As Brooklyn HS President's Council President Ms. Jordan represents 160 High Schools in Brooklyn. She feels that each district has their own unique problems. All groups, including CSA/ UFT/ Parent Leaders/ Principals need to work together for positive changes, but currently participation is limited. Her attendance at the recent Principal's meeting was very positive. She would like to know what is happening to the proposed merging with Boys and Girls HS.

Ms. Franco: Do your parents take minutes of their meetings and send them out afterwards? Do they participate in the President's Council?

Ms. Jordan: The last election, it was not done correctly and FACE has denied her grievances. She would like to appeal her grievances with FACE.

Ms. Asiedu: Please send your grievances to your Superintendent Conyers and to CCHS.

Manhattan HS President's Council Treasurer Sandra Hyatt: The meetings are well attended and is growing with parent participation. At every meeting we have workshops for the parents. We are using the summer months for planning our next year's meeting agendas.

Ms. Chandler: Why was there an upswing of meeting attendance? Is it the results of outreach?

Ms. Hyatt: The Family Coordinator has helped to increase the participation. He emailed all the districts and Parent Coordinators.

Queens HS President's Council President Nance Northrop: The HS structures in Queens need to change with no more than 2 HS Superintendents. They need SSD coordinators in all the schools to assist with the testing accommodations for the special needs students. The DOE needs to have a safe field for Newtown HS. And the DOE needs to have the HS advisory group to work on better college

access for HS students.

Ms. Gebrail: The HS advisory board suggests every HS should have at least one Guidance Counselor and one College Advisor on staff to assist with college access for HS students.

Staten Island Federation President and CCHS SI Representative Miguel Rodriguez: There is a Opiates and Heroin epidemic devastating Staten Island. We are working with the Borough President and officials to help and inform HS students. Our Superintendent is also working with our Borough President. The Police Department is involved with talking to the students in classrooms, but numbers of incidents due to drugs is greatly impacting the schools. Coaches are organizing and advising parents with athletic injured students on the dangers of prescribing Opiates for pain management.

The PA council is suggesting IEP parents along with D75 parents have a seat at each of their school's PA's. Mr. Rodriguez is currently looking for a D75 parent to represent at his own committee at the SI Federation of the UFT.

Mr. Rodriguez has reached out to PA Presidents at Charter Schools to find out what is happening in Charter Schools. He would like to have a Charter School presentation once a month in SI.

Ms. Chandler: Charter Schools cannot go to the PA/PTA for their issues since they have a different set of rules. The Superintendents cannot help them.

Ms. Franco: Charter Schools have a monthly Board meeting and their own Charter rules. They need to read their school's Charters.

Superintendent Liaison's Report

Superintendent Watts said that things are on track and the year end is going very well. At the district level they had a Principal meeting. She gave a briefing about the Chancellor's Equity and Excellence Initiatives:

- College for All
- AP for All
- Computer Science for All
- Single Shepherd Program
- All these programs would start in September of 2016.

Superintendent Mendez talked about the 2016-2017 NY State Reward Schools List from K-12. It was released earlier this year with a grant given to top 20% high instructional performance schools in NY State. The following schools were rewarded:

District 24: Academy of Finance and Enterprise / East Aviation HS (CTE)

District 25: Townsend Harris HS

District 26: Scholars Academy (receiving this the 2nd year)

District 28: York Early College Academy (receiving this the 2nd year)

District 30: Academy in Career in Television and Film (CTE) / Baccalaureate School for Global Studies.

Superintendent Prayor talked about the new FOCUS schools from Pre K-College. It is a new initiative with Universities giving grants to schools. They are focusing on educating parents about what is available to their children. District 29 has discussed how to highlight the Focus program and their district with parents.

Public Comment

Ms. Lindsey as a CCHS alum thanked CCHS for inviting the talented students to perform and for a productive year. She also thanked the CCHS for assisting Brooklyn HS President's Council President Ms. Jordan with her issues at her school.

Announcements

Mr. Rodriguez: announced the recent SI Annual Scholarship Luncheon where they awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to the students. The students needed to submit an essay for the scholarships. On June 13th, they will have elections at the Hyatt Garden in SI.

Ms. Gebrail: announced the Queens HS President's Council will meet on June 13th 7pm and there is a District 27 DLT meeting on June 15th. On June 13th is the Benjamin Cardozo HS teacher appreciation dinner.

Ms. Asiedu: announced the following:

- June 9th, 6pm is the ECC General Meeting at 125 Broadway St. at the DC37 building.
- June 15th is the election at Bronx HS Federation.
- The ELL Discovery meeting in Spanish is on June 15th at the main Brooklyn Library and another one coming up in Chinese at a Queens location.
- The Chancellor's last ECC meeting at Tweed on June 18th, 9am.
- Parent Coordinator's workshop is on June 24th.
- The summer student writing workshops for Renewal Schools are from July 7-16th.
- The yearly UFT Parent Conference in Manhattan in on October 15th from 8:30am-3pm at the Manhattan UFT building.

Ms. Russo: showed the flyer of NYC collecting real time data from all city agencies across the city for residents to access at: DATA2GO.NYC

Ms. Chandler: announced the District 30 Parent Workshop for summer programs on June 20th from 6-8pm at IS 145 33-34 Jackson Heights. She is the newly elected PA President of her school, Information Technology HS. For the Lunch 4 Learning initiative, TV Chef Rachael Ray is supporting the program and the city budget recently passed without this program in place.

Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Chandler moved to approve with corrections the March 9, 2016 and May 11, 2016 meeting Calendar Minutes. Ms. Franco 2nd the motion. **11 in favor.** Motion passed unanimously.

Yes	Afuakwah, Akram, Asiedu, Bajraktarevic, Chandler, Franco, Gebrail, Kuchukov, Lewis, Rodriguez, Russo
No	None
Abstained	None

Vote on future meeting dates

Ms. Chandler moved to vote for October 13, 2016 and April 6, 2017 as our CCHS meeting dates. Mr. Rodriguez 2nd the motion. **11 in favor.** Motion passed unanimously.

Yes	Afuakwah, Akram, Asiedu, Bajraktarevic, Chandler, Franco, Gebrail, Kuchukov, Lewis, Rodriguez, Russo
No	None
Abstained	None

President's Report

Ms. Asiedu presented appreciation certificates to Superintendent Watts and outgoing CCHS Bronx Representative Mr. Afuakwah.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's report: Ms. Bajraktarevic gave a Treasurer's report, see the attachment.

Annual Report: Ms. Gebrail reported that the Annual Report writer Ms. Robinson is currently working on the final manuscript. There will be a letter from the council instead of a President's letter. She is finishing up the recommendation part of the report and will email the council the final report on June 13/14th. The members need to vote on the final report by the end of June.

Communications Committee: Ms. Asiedu said that Mr. Kraft would need members to volunteer to supervise the student intern during the summer months. But only 3 members have to time to volunteer.

Superintendent Watts has volunteered her assistant Mr. Hagin to supervise the student interns at her office. She has hired other student interns from the same HS and will give them computer access in her office with Mr. Hagin supervising them.

Bylaws Committee: Ms. Lewis would like to have the next Bylaws Committee meeting on June 21, 2016 from 10am-12pm at 100 Gold St. NYC location.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Calendar meeting ended at 9:08PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

S. Mei Chan: Administrative Assistant

**Revisions made by Recording Secretary Lisa Lewis and President:
Approved by Council vote on August 10, 2016**