



# Citywide Council On High Schools

Citywide Council on High Schools 45-18 Court Square, 2nd Floor Long Island City, NY 11101 [cchs@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:cchs@schools.nyc.gov) Phone: 718-752-7478 [www.cchsnyc.org](http://www.cchsnyc.org)

## Calendar Meeting Wednesday, March 11, 2015

### ATTENDANCE

<b>Brooklyn Representative</b>	Pamela Garcia	Present
<b>Brooklyn Representative</b>	Marianne Russo	Present
<b>Bronx Representative</b>	Constance Asiedu	Present
<b>Bronx Representative</b>	Neyda Franco	Present
<b>Manhattan Representative</b>	Monica Bajraktarevic	Present
<b>Manhattan Representative</b>	Elizabeth Veras	Present-LATE 6:30pm
<b>Queens Representative</b>	Alleyne Hughley	Present
<b>Queens Representative</b>	Michelle Gebrail	Present
<b>Staten Island Representative</b>	Andrew Dorman	Present
<b>Staten Island Representative</b>	Don McQueen	Present
<b>Public Advocate Appointee</b>	Theresa Hedrington	Present
<b>CCSE Appointee</b>	Noah Kaufman	Present-LATE 7:30pm
<b>CCELL Appointee</b>	<b><i>Vacant</i></b>	
<b>Student Representative</b>	Victoria Meyerovich	Present
<b>Student Representative Alternate</b>	Chandanie Francis	Absent
<b>Superintendent Liaison</b>	Karen Watts	Present

### In Attendance

We have quorum. Noah Kaufman and Elizabeth Veras were late.

## CALENDAR MEETING

Call to order by President Ms. Hughley at 6:17 pm.

**Choir Performance by Students of: High School for Public Service** Music Director: Eric Dalio  
The students sang a few popular songs. They delighted the audience with their wonderful talent. CCHS is happy that Principal Rice supports choir music program in his school and the music program helps to engage students and gives them a reason to have strong attendance.

**Chancellor Carmen Fariña** attends the meeting and answered a few questions the CCHS emailed to her prior to the meeting. The first item she spoke of was the *Renewal Schools* Program and that Executive Superintendent Aimee Horowitz is heading the program. She is confident that this new

program will work due to the passions of the parents and the teachers to making it a priority. They used the same principles in turning around Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn. The Chancellor just attended a meeting with all the High School Superintendents and another meeting with the District Superintendents. The main topics of the meeting are on quality instructions, high attendance and credit acumination. The DOE just created The Borough Field Offices to make it more convenient for the parents to have everything under one roof. There will be one BFSC in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, and two each in Brooklyn and Queens. BFSCs' supports for schools will include: instruction, finance and human resources, operations, student services such as health resources and counseling, supporting English Language Learners, and supporting students with special needs. Senior Executive Director of Field Support Mariano Guzmán will be in charge of the following Borough Field Support Center Directors:

**Yuet Chu** – Manhattan (Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

**Jose Ruiz** – Bronx (Districts 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)

**Bernadette Fitzgerald** – Brooklyn (Districts 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 23, 32)

**Cheryl Watson-Harris** – Brooklyn (Districts 17, 18, 20, 21, 22)

**Lawrence Pendergast** – Queens (Districts 24, 25, 26, 30)

**Marlene Wilks** – Queens (Districts 27, 28, 29)

**Kevin Moran** – Staten Island (District 31)

A new program call Pro-School would start soon. It encourages co-located schools to share their resources with each other, such as their Advance Placement classes, Afterschool Programs, and have one Guidance office in each school.

One of the questions the CCHS emailed to the Chancellor was the issue of Parent Engagements. The new CEC elections are ahead of us now with the highest number of parents participating. The new discipline code is coming out soon and the SLT needs parents to come together and discuss it. The new Discipline Code will take effect on April 13, 2015. Translated versions of the new code will be available shortly and the link: <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/DisciplineCode/default.htm>

We would like the CEC's to ask the parents what type of workshops they are interested in attending and then the DOE can facilitate it.

The CCHS asked questions about Guidance Counselors and we currently hired additional 200 counselors this year and all community schools have a counselor and a space to discuss confidentiality issues with the students and families.

Parents can also put together workshop on the College Process for other parents and they can ask Learning Leaders to come into the schools to provide additional support. And the school's College Counselors can give parents college workshops so they can also assist their children with the college process.

The CCHS is concern for school support for students. All high school intervention should be based on assessments. We need to hold the principals accountable on the teacher's implementation of what is being taught in the classroom along with targeted intervention in reading and writing.

We are currently working closely with safety officers in the schools. We want them to be more pro-active in the schools and for the Principals to have more input on the deployment of safety offices in the building. The DOE plans to retrain the safety officers to have positive an engagement with their students and to speak to them in a positive manner.

We would like to have the public schools engaged in partnering with Private Schools on best practices and give public schools access to their spaces when available.

**Deputy Chancellor Phil Weinberg** talked about CTS Technical Education High Schools. CTE schools educated high school students for the following fields upon graduation: Health Care, Computer Science, Tourism and Trade, and Food and Finance. Currently there are issues of finding the degree teachers since they do not offer that degree in that subject matter. They are working with New York State to create that degree. Deputy Chancellor Weinberg feels that there should be muti-pathways to education. They are producing teacher developments so students after graduation can get industry jobs.

Ms. Franco states that there are not enough licensed teachers at the CTE programs and when does the DOE plan to find them. The kids are waiting for these programs and in the past it was the unions whom assisted in these programs.

Ms. Franco also feels that there are not enough CTE schools for all the students who want to take advantage of the program. CTE schools need to be spread across the city so students can have greater access.

Ms. Garcia states that students go into these CTE schools but they do not always get those classes due to the lack of appropriate teaching staff and often are very disappointed once they get into these schools. How is the DOE addressing that concern?

Deputy Chancellor Weinberg is currently working hard with NYS to get more teachers' degrees in the new subjects. Just because the school's name sounds like a CTE school, it may not be so. The parent and students' needs to do the research to be aware of what kind of high school it really is. In fact the school might not teach that subject at all even though it implies that it does.

Ms. Asiedu would like to suggest to DOE that CTE students should graduate high school certified to work so that they can pay for their college education as necessary.

Deputy Chancellor Weinberg said that depends on the area of CTE. They want a license nurse to teach the CTE nursing program but they are having a hard time finding a teacher due to the way it's license to teach that course. Meanwhile it's easy to hire a chef teacher since the licensing is much easier.

Ms. Russo does not like the past or current High School Admissions process and finds the ordeal worse than applying to college. If you don't get your 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> choice then there's a big problem. The process needs to be more parent and student friendly.

Deputy Chancellor Weinberg agrees with Ms. Russo that it is a difficult process and in need of more transparency. They are working on it but want to make sure that it's a fair process for all involved.

Ms. Gebrail also feels that the High School Admissions process is very flawed. If you are placed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, the outcome is very bad for the student.

Deputy Chancellor Weinberg's advice to all the parents' they need to learn as much as possible of the whole process and then do the best as you can. All New York City's teachers' are encourage to be part of the college process, encouraging students to apply, when possible giving students information.

**Senior Deputy Chancellor Dorita Gibson** gave updated information on the new DOE changes at the CCHS meeting. When the Chancellor took over, she raised the bar for leadership. Principals are now required to have at least 7 years of full-time pedagogic experience, and superintendents must have at least 10 years of pedagogic experience, including at least three as a successful principal. All the Superintendents had to reapply for their jobs and with the assistance of consultants, some remained, some were reassigned and some were release. And all the current ones were retrained for their updated roll as the Superintendents.

**Senior Superintendent Laura Feijoo** works with all the Superintendents on a daily basis and in turn they support and work with all their Principals under their districts. The Superintendents do not go through a C-30 process and she would like to introduce to everyone at the meeting the current Superintendents and have them tell the audience information about themselves.

**Karen Watts Brooklyn/secondary and high schools in Districts 13, 14, 15, 16 & 32**

Superintendent Watts worked for the DOE for 22 years. She was a teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal for 10 years and is a Superintendent for 5 years. She is the liaison for CCHS.

**Marisol Bradbury Manhattan/secondary and high schools in District 1 and the majority of District 2**

Superintendent Bradbury worked for the DOE for 22 years. She was a teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Tweed and is a Superintendent for 3 years. She has 52 high schools that she works in partnership with them. There were 98 principals that attended today's meeting.

**Fred Walsh Manhattan/secondary and highs schools in District 2 and Districts 3, 4, 5 and 6**

Superintendent Walsh was not able to attend due to family matters.

**Donald Conyers Brooklyn & Queens/secondary and high schools in Districts 19, 23, 26, 27 & 29**

Superintendent Conyers worked for the DOE for 32 years. He was a teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal for 13 years.

**Aimee Horowitz recently appointed as Superintendent for Renewal Schools**

Superintendent Horowitz was a Principal in a Staten Island High School, then became a Superintendent for Staten Island High School and now as Executive Superintendent for 14 Renew Schools.

**Elaine Lindsey Bronx/secondary and high schools in Districts 7, 10 & 12**

Superintendent Lindsey worked for the DOE for 27 years. She was a teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal for 9 years and is Superintendent. She was a proud graduate of Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn.

**Carron Staple Bronx/secondary and high schools in Districts 8, 9 & 11**

Superintendent Staple could not attend meeting due to illness.

**Juan Mendez Queens/secondary and high schools in Districts 24, 25, 28 & 30**

Superintendent Mendez worked for the DOE for 30 years. He was a teacher for 11 years, Assistant Principal, Principal for 13 years and a Superintendent since 2010.

### **Michael Prayor Brooklyn/secondary and high schools in Districts 17, 18, 20, 21 & 22**

Superintendent Prayor worked for the DOE for 15 years. He started off as a paraprofessional, was a teacher for 1 years, Assistant Principal, Principal and a Superintendent. He takes care of 51 schools in Brooklyn.

### **LaShawn Robinson All of the transfer high school citywide**

Superintendent Robinson worked for the DOE for 40 years. She was a teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal and a Superintendent. She takes care of 53 Transfer Schools.

### **Superintendent Report**

Ms. Watts introduced her team. Mark Moses Borough Family Advocate , H.S. Districts 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22 , Sanatha Alexis Director for School Renewal and Marcell Barros Principal Leadership Facilitator in the office of Superintendent Mr Michael Prayor, Janice Ross Principal Leadership Facilitator and Joan Lacaille Administrative Assistant in the office of Superintendent Ms Karen Watts. And Corrine Mattis Borough Family Advocate, H.S. Districts 13, 14,15, 16, 32.

### **President's Report**

Ms. Hughley reports that:

- They have extended the CEC and Citywide council's application date. Please encourage others to run for the positions on the councils.
- Aimee Horowitz is the new leader of the 94 Renewal Schools
- Leslie Young and Kathleen M. Cashin have been reelected as the regent's representatives for NYC.
- Mayor has incorporate 2 Muslim holidays into the school year. Eid al-Fitr holiday in the summer and Eid al-Adha on September 24<sup>th</sup> schools will be closed.
- D75 and CCSE have a joint meeting at Dewitt H.S. on March 19<sup>th</sup> on "School to Prison Pipeline."
- Town hall meeting on the co-location of Queens H.S. August Martin on March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- There are now new Brough Support Centers replacing Enrollment Offices.
- Superintendent LaShawn Robinson was nice enough for getting a new computer to CCHS since they needed a replacement.
- March 25 the Committee on Education is to discuss the budget and "Lunch for Learning."

### **Members' Report**

Mr. McQueen reported that his twin girls will be attending the same their top choice H.S. in the fall. He is conducting information sessions on the Coast Guard Base for families with incoming H.S. students on the H.S. admissions process in NYC.

Ms. Garcia reported that she attended CPAC Lobby Day in Albany upstate NY. She also performed voter registration training on "Registration Day," with the help of high school students. Last night she attended CEC meeting and was a parent panel.

Ms. Veras reported that she is sad to learn that the Superintendent has more responsibilities than the principals. If the child in the school is not improving what is the next step? Ms. Watts' said that they can go to the principal to complain about the child's problem. Ms. Veras feels that some principals are great while others are not responsive. How does the DOE address ineffective principals? Ms. Watts' said that there is Principal Evaluations and they have the ratings of ineffective to highly effective. If they scored low, the DOE would have issues with them.

Ms. Asiedu attended the Special Education meeting and said there is a list of schedule for the CEC candidates' forum on March 18<sup>th</sup> but not for the Bronx. The Bronx date is April 15<sup>th</sup>. There is an upcoming FREE SAT prep-test by Princeton Review. She plans to attend the protest rally against Governor Cuomo on March 28<sup>th</sup>. She attended the UFT president's dinner and would like to thank the CEC's for helping to organize the protest.

Ms. Gebrail attended the Queens meeting that spoke about the CEC elections process and the responsibilities of elected members on February 24<sup>th</sup>. At Cardozo H.S. in Queens on March 28<sup>th</sup> there is FREE heart EKG screening for kids from 12-25 years old. This screening would help to detect heart problems early on so it can be treated in a timely manner.

Ms. Franco attended the rally in Albany with the Charter schools. The parents against Charter schools were very ill mannered towards the young students that also attended the rally. They behaved very badly. She also attended an hearing about a D75 school where DOE wants to bring young Charter school students into a building that houses a D75 school where they have H.S. students with severed handicaps that can pose a hazard to the young kids. She is very much against this move.

Ms. Hedrington would try to arrange a meeting with CCHS on the April CCHS meeting or another day. She attended the Mayoral control meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Lemay College. And as a reminder the Summer Youth Employment applications are out for H.S. students and the applications deadline is April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Bajraktarevic explained that the Seward Park Campus houses 5 H.S.'s and they are a model example of how all the principals can work well with each other to get things accomplished for the building. They worked together for the Capital Plan improvements and sharing AP courses with each other for their student's benefit. The Chancellor is asking for DOE to provide at least 3 times more internships and mentorships for the H.S. students, since it is much needed. There is a H.S. ambassador program for the summer in the Peace Island Institute (Young Peace Ambassadors Academy) and she highly recommends that program. She will send more information out in a later time about that program.

Mr. Kaufman announcing Career Day on March 11 and 12 at Wagner H.S. were they invited 27 adults to talk about their careers. He is concerned about mayor control and also states that there are surpluses of monies in the state budget and for parents to contact their senator and assemblyman about what to do with the extra monies. He announced the D75 and CCSE joint meeting at Dewitt Clinton H.S. on March 19<sup>th</sup> on "School to Prison Pipeline."

Mr. Dorman reported that he attended the UFT Dinner with the UFT president and the meeting on "Fiscal Equitably." He also attends Lobby Day in Albany.

Ms. Meyerovich announced that every college she applied to she got accepted. She is looking into the financial aid packages offered from the colleges to decide on the college.

### **Public Comment**

Principal William Bassell of Queens H.S. Q575 Academy of American Studies would like a new building for his high school. Currently he has 875 students in his building and they are using the campus of a neighboring New Comer H.S. where they already have 1000 students. They are using the other H.S.'s 2 floors of space and it's dangerous for the students to across the busy streets to make their next class. Academy of American Studies educates all students and has a graduation rate on 90% and attendance rate of 93%. He was promised a new building since the school's inception since 1996 and many new

H.S. have opened up nearby since then. A DOE personal said that they are working on the situation and SCA knows about the problem and is trying to resolve it.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to close this meeting. Ms. Gebrail 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Ms. Russo made a motion to have the Business and Annual Report meeting before CCHS April meeting. Ms. Bajraktarevic 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Date set for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6-9PM 2-No, 8-Yes and 2 abstain. Motion pass.

Yes	Bajraktarevic, Garcia, Gebrail, Hedrington, Hughley, McQueen, Russo, Veras
No	Dorman, Franco
Abstained	Asiedu, Kaufman

Ms. Gebrail made a motion to close the meeting. Ms. Franco 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Yes	Asiedu, Bajraktarevic, Dorman, Franco, Garcia, Gebrail, Hedrington, Hughley, Kaufman, McQueen , Russo, Veras
No	None
Abstained	None

**Calendar meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**S. Mei Chan**  
**Administrative Assistant**

**Revision made by President:**

**Approved by Council vote on JUNE 11, 2015**