



# 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 13, 2016

### ATTENDANCE

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

### In Attendance

We do not have a quorum. Mohammad Akram, Edward Afuakwah, Mona-Lisa Chandler, Neyda Franco, Miguel Rodriguez were absent due to work related reasons, excused absences. Robin Allen, and Lisa Lewis were sick, excused absences.

### CALENDAR MEETING

Call to order by President Ms. Asiedu at 6:19 pm. Attendance and roll call was taken.

**Presenter:**

Chancellor Carmen Fariña

Chancellor Fariña reported that 20,000 free tickets to the Hamilton show were donated to NYC public HS students. Today they had 1300 HS students arrive at the theater 10am and leaving at 5pm to participate in this wonderful experience. The DOE incorporated the AP History Curriculum with 6 weeks of learning with the students prior to the show. Chancellor Fariña chose title 1 schools, and co-located schools for this program.

The following are the highlights from the meeting with Chancellor Fariña:

- Leman HS has 6 co-located schools, and will have only one superintendent. They will be sharing AP classes, and other classes with each other, along with a common bell schedule. The site will have a Family Welcome Center, as well as the SING program.
- High schools with low enrollment cannot sustain themselves. They need more services to increase enrollment.
- The Chancellor's team is looking into unsustainable schools due to low enrollment, and where it makes sense, they will merge the two schools. It makes sense to have one college office in a co-located school, and one guidance counselor. In a co-located school, she would like to have a Parent Advisory Council with 2 parents representing each school.
- When choosing to consolidate a school, the DOE would like to work with the entire community.
- Most of the mergers and consolidations will be for middle schools. Currently they have identified 1 school merger, 2 school consolidations, and a truncation for 3 schools with less than 200 students. They are creating a template for the actions.
- The Chancellor does not want Phased Out Schools. Closures are the last choice for a school, and this year the DOE had 4 closures. Parents of those schools will have 3 to 4 alternative schools to send their children.
- The Transfer Schools were recently created, and they are very good schools. They should only be stand-alone schools. They want rich programs for overage and under credit students. Some of the Transfer Schools also want to be CTE schools. The Chancellor does not want to see principals using the Transfer Schools as a place to get rid of students who are overage, and under credit
- She would like DOE to recognize the licensing of teachers from other states, when hiring new talented teachers. We need more Special Education and ELL teachers, and we would like to hire out of state teachers. Parents can reach out to their legislators to push for that change.
- Queens parents would like a borough based superintendent for their high schools. They are currently working on this issue.
- She would like the Special Education personnel to follow the student's IEP's to ensure acceptance and integration into all the schools.

- New initiatives under discussion: Some HS principals would like the IEP students integrated with General Education students in Science classes, because they feel the students would learn more. And some want single sex classes.
- There is a movement to create more dual language schools in order to provide better services to CCELL students. There are 3 dual language HS's.
- They are working on getting some D75 students decertified and assisting students in phasing out their IEP's so they can move forward in their academic life. But they will not change the D75 schools, other than improving on some things.
- The DOE is not taking out metal detectors in the schools. In co-located schools the SLT's in most of the schools have to agree on removing the metal detector before they can have a conversation with DOE. Random scanning at schools is a possibility.
- HS Enrollment is getting better. They are improving the public relations in branding of some of the schools. With the Round 3 enrollment she encourages the principals to have an Open House during the school day so that students/parents can see the schools at work.
- "Giving Gems," is a new program. Each month an excellent high school that needs better exposure to attract new students will be highlighted. A form of advertising for that school to raise enrollment.
- She is aware that more parents would like more CTE programs in HS and more afterschool programs in the Arts & Sports.
- You cannot opt-out of regents testing. The DOE does not plan to phase out regents.
- New graduation requirement. For a regent's diploma, you need 5 regents or 4 regents with 1 CTE certified program instead of a regent.
- The upstate Regents removed the timed testing. The DOE teachers went to Albany to review, and write the tests. We would like to get the test results back at the end of June/July so that we can do student planning based on the results of the test and ensure these are fair testing questions.
- They are training more teachers to teach algebra to elementary school students. Studies have shown in order to have successful HS students 2<sup>nd</sup> graders must be reading at grade level. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is much too late for the students to catch up.
- Parent Engagement is very important for the students and schools. Parent Involvement is functioning well at CCHS. Ask parents what their needs are. Some of the parents asked for workshops in: financial literacy, cooking, technology, and fundraising.

- She would like ideas on: How do you help parents to be better parents? We need to find ways to support the grandparents who are raising the kids. How do we reach out to kids that are living in temporary shelters?

### **Questions asked by the council and the public:**

Ms. Gebrail would like more information on the recent Bond Act, and why in the act is there inequitable funding to the schools.

**Chancellor Fariña will look into this situation. She will discuss with the Queens Borough President Melinda Katz to fill in the gaps in the budget.**

Mr. Kraft during the CCHS Capital Plan has found that many schools have infrastructure problems. They have electrical and internet issues that affect the student's learning.

- **Chancellor Fariña** commented that most of these schools are over 75 years old, and it's very hard to renovate. The computer rooms at these schools are outdated. They should be using laptops, tablets, and cellphones instead.
- Ms. Asiedu expressed that most IEP/504 students do not know about testing accommodations for the PSAT/SAT testing. No one at their school is informing them or seems to be responsible for it. ‘
- **Chancellor Fariña** commented that she will look into this matter.

### **Superintendent Liaison's Report**

Superintendent Karen Watts has no report. The PERC Program is from her office and is considered a part of her report.

#### ***Presenter:***

PERC HS Program

**Shulamith Freedman**, Sustainability and Growth Coordinator

**Lisa Ruscigno**, Teaching Assistant Scholar Coordinator,

**Dr. Leslie Keiler**, Director of Teacher Development

**Vanessa Narain**, Junior Student at Hillcrest High School in Jamaica, Queens

### **The Peer Enabled Restricted Classroom (PERC Program)**

#### **See attached Power Point**

It started from Superintendent Watts' office, and is currently in 9 HS's. This method is used in STEM subjects' classrooms: Algebra-1, Living Environment, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, and Computer Science. It is based on a student centered classroom with TAS (Teaching Assistant Scholars), assisting the teachers in teaching the subject to their peers. There is 1 TAS student for every 4 in a group. They provide support for the TAS student so they can assist the teacher in teaching. Each participant has a role: the Student, the TAS Student, and the Teacher. College Knowledge: Choosing a college, Preparing to apply, Writing the application essay is imbedded into the program. They want the TAS student to take leadership roles, learning to teach, and care for their peers, then transfer this to the entire school community.

This program is Grant Based. They will have to apply for new Grants in order to run this program. They want CCHS to assist in communicating this program to other parents, since they are having a difficult time spreading their information to parents. And they want schools in co-located campuses to share the cost of this program.

### **Questions asked by the council and the public:**

Ms. Gebrail ask Ms. Freeman if they had reached out to Boroughs President's Council?  
Ms. Freeman's response was no.

Mr. Kuchukov would like to know how students are selected to help others.

Ms. Ruscigno said the classroom teachers are the ones that would choose students to become a TAS student. They do not target the best students in class, and sometimes they are the student who has failed, but worked very hard to relearn the subject.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Green is inviting parents to attend the IEP class to train Parent Members to participate, and support parents in IEP meetings. The workshop is for April 19, 2016 at 45-18 Court Square. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

### **Introduction of new member Ulan Kuchukov, Citywide Council on English Language Learners Appointee to CCHS**

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Ms. Asiedu announced that due to the lack of quorum they cannot vote on the minutes.

### **Announcements**

Ms. Gebrail announced:

- Comprehensive Educational Planning Conference on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from FACE.
- All Rise: Creating an Effective Organization – Run an effective meeting using Parliamentary Procedures to increase functionality workshop on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from FACE.
- Brooklyn Brough President's Open House on April 16, 2017.

### **President's Report**

Ms. Asiedu tabled her report due to the lack of time.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Bajraktarevic announced that it is unchanged from March, see the attachment.

### **Committee Report**

Mr. Kraft the co-chair of the Communications Committee that the website powered by eChalk is changing to a new platform that requires:

- New homepage and graphics
- Someone to design the website
- We can ask the school HS of Art and Design for volunteer students to assist us in designing the website to receive community service
- We would need an artist and a programmer
- Would like feedback from CCHS members

- He has suggested that Ms. Chandler's son to help with the design/programming of the CCHS website. His HS is close to the CCHS office, and he will receive community service credits for his efforts.

Ms. Asiedu announced that the Capital Plan had been successfully submitted to the School Construction Authority.

Ms. Gebrail the chair of Annual Report Committee reported:

- She received many topics for the 2015-16 Annual Report.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> draft was emailed to members to be vetted.
- The AA sent an email out to all the CEC's, Borough President's Councils, and Citywide Councils to request topics for the Annual Report. They have responded with their topics.
- Last year we had a new section in the Annual Report called "Recommendations from CCHS." We will follow up with DOE to see if the recommendations have been followed.
- This year we will make additional recommendations to the DOE in the report.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Adjournment**

Calendar meeting ended at 8:19PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
S. Mei Chan  
Administrative Assistant**

**Revision made by Recording Secretary Lisa Lewis and President:**

**Approved by Council vote on May 11, 2016.**