



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 Phone: 718-752-7478 www.cchsnyc.org

Calendar Meeting Wednesday, January 14, 2015

ATTENDANCE

Brooklyn Representative	Pamela Garcia	Present
Brooklyn Representative	Marianne Russo	Present
Bronx Representative	Constance Asiedu	Present
Bronx Representative	Neyda Franco	Present
Manhattan Representative	Monica Bajraktarevic	Present
Manhattan Representative	Elizabeth Veras	Present-LATE
Queens Representative	Alleyne Hughley	Present
Queens Representative	Michelle Gebrail	Present
Staten Island Representative	Andrew Dorman	Present
Staten Island Representative	Don McQueen	Present
Public Advocate Appointee	Theresa Hedrington	Absent
CCSE Appointee	Noah Kaufman	Present-LATE 7:15PM
CCELL Appointee	Vacant	
Student Representative	Victoria Meyerovich	Present
Student Representative Alternate	Chandanie Francis	Present
Superintendent Liaison	Karen Watts	Present

In Attendance

We have quorum. Noah Kaufman and Elizabeth Veras were late. Theresa Hedrington has unexcused absence.

CALENDAR MEETING

Call to order by President Ms. Hughley at 6:19 pm.

Performance by Students of: The Young Women Leadership School of Brooklyn

Rock Band Directed by: Ronnie Nissinboim

Eight students of the Rock Band for, "The Young Women Leadership School of Brooklyn," along with their Music director Ronnie Nissinboim performed three songs for the CCHS meeting. The student band was delightful and showed great dedication to their musical talents. Attendees showed their appreciation with a standing ovation after their enchanting performance. Ms. Hughley thanked the principal: Talana Bradley for her funding and support of her school's musical program and the evident hard work by the dedicated music director and talented students.

DOE Executive Director for Programs & Partnerships

Presenter: Rudolfo Ainsley and

Northeast States Director of AVID Center

Presenter: Jinan N. O'Connor

The DOE Executive Director for Programs Partnerships: Rudolfo Ainsley presented on the city's free SAT testing program for 11th graders. They are committed to two pilot programs: one in April 2015 with 8000 11th graders and one in April 2016 with 25,000 11th graders. The collegeboard will be paying for the 2 pilot programs with the main Free NEW SAT testing program for all 60,000 11th graders citywide set for April 2017. The two pilot programs are in place to insure that the April 2017 will go smoothly as possible.

Rudolfo Ainsley also presented the AVID program. He visited schools and classrooms where the AVID program is in place and was very impressed with the program that he would like the program expanded citywide. There is a cost factor with the AVID program and often the principals do not have monies in their budget for the program no matter if this tool would help their students excel academically. The DOE is paying for a pilot program for 25 schools where the principals want to participate in the AVID program. Mr. Ainsley's goal is to have AVID program available to all the principals who would like it in their school and he is asking the CCHS to be supportive of this program with the Chancellor.

The Director of the AVID Center in the Bronx: Jinan N. O'Connor presented two schools that currently have AVID in their schools. They are The Brooklyn HS of the Arts Principal: Margaret Lacey Berman whom had the program in her school for 5 years and Charter Humanities: Assistant Principal: Robert Finlin.

The AVID Program Comprise 4 components:

- A school wide college readiness system
- A structured approach to rigorous curriculum & instructional practices
- Direct support structure for first-generation college students
- Professional development for educators

The AVID Students are:

- Develop as readers and writers
- Develop deep content knowledge
- Know content specific strategies for reading, writing, thinking, and speaking
- Develop habits, skills, and behaviors to use knowledge and skills

AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

The Eleven Essentials skill every AVID student learns is:

1. AVID student selection
2. Voluntary participation
3. AVID Elective course offered during the school day
4. Enrollment in rigorous curriculum
5. Organizational skills

6. Writing and Reading to learn
7. Inquiry and Collaboration
8. Trained tutors
9. Data collection and analysis
10. School and resources committed
11. Active interdisciplinary site team

AVID aligns with the Common Core

Common Core State Standards	AVID
Are aligned with college and work expectations	Is focused on preparing students to become college and career ready
Are clear, understandable, and consistent	Is based on a clear set of 11 Essentials
Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills	Provides rigor in the classroom through higher-level thinking activities
Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards	Supports the implementation of all state standards in all content areas
Are informed by other top-performing countries so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society	Prepares all students for college readiness and success in a global society
Are evidenced-based	Is based on more than 30 years of data

Brooklyn High School Data

- Before AVID: 40% passed ELA Regents
- With AVID: 96% pass rate for 10th grade ELA
- 60% earned over 75% (no remediation in college needed)
- Before AVID: Collapsed AP because it was fake AP (students receiving 1's)
- With AVID: AVID as a conduit to AP.
- May 2012 earned 4's for first time
- May 2013 earned 5's for first time
- Five year organic growth of both AVID/AP
- 160 students apply for 64 AVID slots. Once the student is in the program he/she is in the program until the end of 12th grade.
- Teacher training takes place in the summer institute and is unlike any other. The teachers are trained 8 hours a day.
- The cost of training for example of 8 people would be \$699 per person (not including the cost of travel to Philadelphia and hotel).
- Schools received a complete curriculum located in NYC is \$5,045 for grades 9-12.
- Annual membership cost for a school located in NYC is \$2,215.
- AVID is also available to middle schools and the teachers could be provided a separated set of curriculum.

Marianne Russo asked if there are grants offered to help schools.

According to the presenter, 25 schools have the program implemented free of charge, Gates Foundation is also involved in offsetting the cost.

AVID provided positive data that the program clearly helps to close the achievement gaps for All students, no matter how diverse the student population or what social economic background of the students involved in the program.

Contact Northeast State Director: Jinan O'Connor: joconnor@avid.org if your school is interested in participating in the program.

Community Food Advocates

Executive Director: Liz Accles presented what the mission of the Community Food Advocates is with the

LUNCH 2 LEARNING PROGRAM:

To have a Universal free and healthy school lunch for **all** NYC public school students. It is the most effective way to encourage greater participation by eliminating the poverty stigma associated with the program. A broad range of over 170 organizations and elected leaders have joined the campaign. Participation in the school lunch program is low—but not for a lack of need.

- 68% NYC public school students are eligible for free school lunch, which means that their annual family income is less than \$25,000 for family of three.
- 75% are eligible for free or reduced school lunch, which means that their annual family income is less than \$36,000 for family of three.
- Many students whose family incomes are above the \$36,000 per year cut off for free or reduced priced lunch are struggling to meet basic needs.

Changing the current system – which links school food with family income – gets rid of the income stigma that greatly impacts participation, especially as children get older:

- Students eating school lunch: 81% in elementary, 61% in middle school, and 38% in high school.
- 250,000 of the 780,000 students who are eligible for free or reduced priced meals do not participate.

This program benefits the students and families, schools, and the local economy.

- Students will be better nourished and ready to learn.
- Families are better able to make ends meet.

- A 20% increase in participation will equal the creation of 1,000 School Food jobs and increased local economic activity.
- Schools can direct time and resources toward educational activities that are now used for the collection of school food application forms and the daily identification of students.

CCHS President Ms. Hughley mentions the CCHS Resolution: “Calling for FREE LUNCH for ALL High School Students” and seeking to eliminate the shame and embarrassment that kept many children who qualify for the free lunches from receiving them, especially high school students. We need to honor our school’s Chancellor’s Regulation A32 (anti bullying and discrimination) and Respect for All. The Citywide Council on High Schools wants to ensure that more children eat healthy school meals by making them free for all, regardless of income. Other CCHS members agree with their president regarding free lunches for all high school students.

Voting of the CCHS Treasurer 2014-2015

Ms. Russo made a motion to nominate Ms. Bajraktarevic as Treasurer. Ms. Gebrail 2nd the motion. Ms. Bajraktarevic accepts the nomination. Ms. Franco made a motion to nominate Mr. Dorman to run as Treasurer. Ms. Asiedu 2nd the motion. Mr. Dorman accepts the nomination. Theresa Hedrington was absent.

8-Yes for Ms. Bajraktarevic, 3-Yes for Mr. Dorman and 0- Abstain. Motion pass. Ms. Bajraktarevic is CCHS Treasurer.

Yes Ms. Bajraktarevic	Bajraktarevic, Hughley, Garcia, Gebrail, Kaufman, McQueen, Russo, Veras
Yes Mr. Dorman	Asiedu, Dorman, Franco
Abstained	None

Superintendent Report

Ms. Watts passed the reporting to Superintendent Juan Mendez.

Juan Mendez the Queens High School Superintendent thanks the CCHS for their hard work on the Capital Plan.

1. He sent the CCHS Capital Plan emails to all of his principals.
2. This month there would be a Borough wide Superintendents’ meeting for all the Superintendents.
3. In Queens on January 29th, 2015 there will be a Queens’s high school Principals’ meeting with the Chancellor and workshops to assist the Principals in their jobs.
4. The Mayor uplifted the Cell Phone Band from All schools. It’s up to the individual principal, their SLT and their community to customize their schools Cellphone policy.

Ms. Watts stated that Superintendents Donald Conyers, Michael Prayor and her had several Brooklyn’s high school Principals’ meetings already and the third would be on March 10th at LIU. The two Bronx Superintendents had held their Bronx’s high school Principals’ meeting already and the Manhattan Superintendents are planning their principals’ meeting.

President's Report

Ms. Hughley reported that on:

- February 25th at the PEP meeting in Staten Island Michael J. Peters School there will be voting on uplifting the ban on cellphones in schools and changes in Chancellor's Regulations A413.
- The interpretations are only available at the CCHS Calendar and Business meetings according to DOE officials. We ordered the interpretations for tonight's CCHS Calendar and Business meetings but no one showed up. We need to find out why there is a breakdown in ordering the interpreters.
- The CEC and Citywide Councils Elections are open from February 11th till March 11th, 2015.
- On March 18th – April 18th, 2015 the District and Borough leaders are hosting a forum to introduce the candidates running for the councils.
- On May 12th, 2015 the results of the CEC and Citywide Councils candidate selections will be posted.
- On February 9th, 2015 there will be a Public Hearing for the expansion of the grades for Queens School Robert Wagner Secondary School for the Arts Q891 from 7-12 grades to 6-12 grades.
- Two joint Public Hearings in the Bronx-on February 9th 6PM in O45 Building and on February 11 6PM in O46 Building.
- Deputy Chancellor Kathleen Grimm is now retired and the interim acting Deputy Chancellor is Elizabeth Rose. We wish Kathleen Grimm well in her retirement.
- The Chancellor will launch 40 Dual Language schools in September and one school will be K-12 and there would be additional three high schools. We do not know where the high schools will be located but there will be a total: 10 in the Bronx, 11 in Brooklyn, 9 in Manhattan, 8 in Queens and 2 in Staten Island. The Dual Language schools will have the following languages: Mandarin, French, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Japanese and Spanish.
- Please look at our CCHS Resolution on Free Lunch for all NYC students.

Members' Report

Mr. Dorman said that he had a meeting with the Superintendent about the Capital Plan.

Mr. McQueen said that this past month Mr. Dorman and I have meet with and gathered information on the Staten Island high schools regarding the Capital Plan. They both had a sit down meeting with the Superintendent to discuss the high schools' individual needs for their school.

Mr. Kaufman reminded parents about College Applications deadlines. And CCSE is currently working on their Annual Report.

Ms. Gebrail spent part of the month of January, interviewing writers for the CCHS Annual Report. She visited her district high schools for their Capital Plan. Ms. Hughley and Ms. Gebrail visited Epic HS co-located inside a middle school. Their principal, teachers and staff at Epic are positive and produce a wonderful learning environment for their students. However due to Epic's location to one floor of the school, it is clear that in this school the co-location does not work.

Ms. Asiedu reported that at the last CPAC meeting where Marianne Russo is on the executive board and 2nd VP made a comment that the CCHS is not functioning well. The CCHS needs to address this concern as to understand the comment and what their issue is. The Special Education Council had a meeting in the Bronx on the "Prison to Pipeline" movement in NYC schools and would like the CCHS to participate in some way. We should have a meeting with the other Citywide councils such as the

Special Education and ELL. The Chancellor introduced a new director for the ELL students and we should invite her to do a presentation at a CCHS meeting.

Ms. Veras is working on her Districts Capital Plan. She visited her schools and found many constructions are taking place. She would like to work on the school lunch issues next. Mr. Kauffman volunteered to help Ms. Veras with the capital plan. Ms. Hughley asked Mr. Kaufman and Ms. Bajraktarevic to assist Ms. Veras on the CCHS Capital Plan due to her fluency with English. Mr. Kaufman and Ms. Bajraktarevic are happy to provide the needed support.

Ms. Franco expressed her concerns regarding to the comments made at CPAC regarding to the dysfunction of the CCHS. She feels that if there are issues, the President of CPAC should come to a CCHS meeting to address the council of her concerns instead of her complaints to FACE. Ms. Franco is not happy with the lack of translations and interpretations provided for the council members by DOE.

Ms. Hughley announced that the AA uses Microsoft Translate to translate the CCHS minutes in Spanish to Ms. Veras and to Ms. Franco so she can check on the quality of the Spanish. Ms. Hughley stated that as soon as Ms. Veras was elected to the council the AA filed the necessary forms for Spanish interpreters for the remainder of the CCHS meetings till June 2015.

Paola de Kock Senior Director of Parent Leadership at FACE responded regarding to translations and interpreter policy at the DOE. According to the Chancellor's Regulation A660 the only CCHS meetings that can have interpreters are the Calendar meetings but since the Calendar meetings and the Business meeting is one after the other, we provided the extra support. The DOE does not translate the minutes or notices and agendas. We can use a template on the DOE website for the notices and agendas for all the languages. The principals' pay their staff per session to translate internal notices. Notices going out to many parents can be translated by the DOE translations services by filling out the forms and giving them 2 weeks or more prior notices.

Ms. Bajraktarevic reached out with emails and faxes to all the high schools in District 1, 2, and 3 regarding the Capital Plan. She attended a Press Conference meeting in Dist. 1 about Success Academy. At the Dist 2, SCA meeting regarding Beacon HS's relocation in September, the Beacon HS community was successful on getting a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy so that it can open midsummer. The school did not want interrupted educational instructions for their students.

She was also contacted regarding the removal of metal detectors from Martin Luther King HS. The school shares a campus with two other schools. Ms. Bajraktarevic agreed with Ms. Hughley that before the CCHS can make recommendations, there needs to be a committee in place to exam all the security school data, interview the other two schools, talk to the police precincts and community board. We need accurate up to date information to make changes in the school safety.

Pamela Garcia was warmly welcome by President Hughley as the New CCHS Brooklyn Representative. She dropped off her Oath to FACE on December 24th 2014. She thanks Ms. Hughley on her DLT meeting with District 32. She also attends the DLT meeting with Superintendent Evelyn Santiago at District 16. The district is doing well with the AVID program in place and is planning a trip with students to go upstate for Lobby Day with busing supplied by the UFT.

Ms. Russo would like to have a state legislature committee just like CPAC so we can put our input as to the future of CCHS and to make recommendations with the changes. She attended the DLT meetings in District: 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21. Last year's CCHA Capital Plan submission was emailed

out by the AA to all the CCHS members to see what was being ordered. Members please fill out your Excel to the SCA for Capital Plan. The deadline has been extended till next Friday.

Victoria Meyerovich joined the “Student Voice Collaborative,” network. They are action teams who work with student councils to help empower students to have a voice and to have more motivation with running their high schools. Her high school decided to have a Mentoring Program where the seniors mentor and supports the under classmen with the transition to high school and motivating them to do the right things along with the motivation for student achievements.

Chandanie Francis is helping to improve her school. The color of the school environment is important to learning, also to assist the students with more SAT prep so students can get into better colleges. The students are working with their Guidance and College Counselors to improve the educational outcome of the students and the overall quality of the school.

Public Comment

Kim Robinson the recently elected Co-President of the Bronx High School Federation along with Co-President Desiree Hodge. She is looking to lead her council to bigger and better things. Ms. Robinson is happy to attend the CCHS meeting to learn about many issues to bring back to notify her council members.

Superintendent Watts introduced Corrine Mattis: the new Borough District Family Advocate for Brooklyn. Larry Davis moved on and Corrine Mattis replaced him.

Ms. Hughley motion to close the meeting and Ms. Gebrail 2nd the motion. All CCHS members agree.

Ms. Franco motion to cancel the Business meeting to another day to have discussions. Mr. Dorman 2nd the motion. All CCHS members agree. Ms. Hughley would reschedule it to the last Monday of the month.

Calendar meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

S. Mei Chan
Administrative Assistant

Revision made by President Alleyne Hughley:

Approved by Council vote on _____