



# 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, December 9, 2015

### ATTENDANCE

|                                  |                      |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Brooklyn Representative          | Mohammad Akram       | ABSENT-Excused |
| Brooklyn Representative          | Marianne Russo       | Present        |
| Bronx Representative             | Edward Afuakwa       | ABSENT         |
| Bronx Representative             | Constance Asiedu     | Present        |
| Manhattan Representative         | Monica Bajraktarevic | ABSENT-Excused |
| Manhattan Representative         | Michael Kraft        | Present        |
| 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                  | <i>Vacant</i>        |                |
| Student Representative           | <i>Vacant</i>        |                |
| Student Representative Alternate | <i>Vacant</i>        |                |
| Superintendent Liaison           | Karen Watts          | Present - Late |
| Field Support Liaison            | Terrence Paulin      | Present        |

### In Attendance

We have quorum. Mohammad Akram and Monica Bajraktarevic were sick and Robin Allen was absent due to work related reasons, excused absences. Edward Afuakwa was also absent. Superintendent Karen Watts arrived late to the meeting due to work. Terrence Paulin, the Field Support Liaison was her replacement for this meeting.

DOE personnel were also present: Ayesha George, Greg Hagin, Mark Moses, Vivian Orien, Superintendent Michael Prayor, Lisa Pineda, and Irving Roman.

### CALENDAR MEETING

Call to order by President Ms. Asiedu at 6:25 pm. Attendance and roll call was taken.

**Presenters: CCHS quarterly meeting with the High School President's Council Presidents and their Board members**

**Manhattan HS President Council's President: Sonia Martinez-Quinones**

**Manhattan HS President Council's Treasurer: Sandra Hyatt**

**Staten Island HS President Council's Recording Secretary: Cindi Gerber**

**Brooklyn HS President Council's President: Jordan Aquila**

**Brooklyn HS President Council's Secretary: Meshele Love**

**Bronx HS President Council's President & Board: Absent**

## **Queens HS President Council's President & Board: Absent**

*Ms. Gerber* from Staten Island attended a recent meeting with PTA's and Superintendent Lodico who has asked parents for ideas to make education better for the students and administrators. Many ideas were discussed.

*Ms. Martinez-Quinones* from Manhattan said that their organization had a late start with "goals and Bylaws." Some of their goals are: Better communication with parents, getting more parents involved, and looking at safety issues. They have a full board and parent leaders.

*Ms. Asiedu* stated that this quarterly meeting will reoccur in March.

*Ms. Aquila* from Brooklyn said that they have issues with certification courses and SLT in her child's school. Her interim acting principal does not know detailed information about: PTA's, SLT, Bylaws, and Title 1 programs. She feels that the DOE needs to train their new personnel on these issues in order for the school to be fully functional. They also have IEP issues with not having an IEP coordinator at her school.

DOE personnel: Ayesha George, Greg Hagin, Mark Moses, Vivian Orien, Lisa Pineda, and Irving Roman spoke briefly at the meeting to assist on some of the issues raised by the parent leaders.

### **Public Comment**

*Ms. Lindsey* said that new leadership can be undermined by their own new structure, and trainings are always needed.

*Ms. Truesdale* said that the DOE needs to have one uniform training for everyone in the city. This would include training for principals in the Bronx along with proper certifications. The untrained principals tell parents that PTA's are not important. The DOE should restart providing metro cards for parents who attend CCHS meetings to encourage attendance. This causes great hardships for low income parents to be active in their child's school life.

*Mr. Beharry* said that he has IEP issues at his son's school. CCHS members, along with the DOE personnel, present gave him advice as to how to proceed with his issues.

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

Superintendent Karen Watts said that her office provided SLT, Title 1 training in all her district high schools. The HS principals along with UFT Chapter leaders along with PTA Presidents were encouraged to attend. The new Superintendent of Transfer Schools: Paul Rotondo will present at the next CCHS meeting.

### **Announcements**

*Ms. Asiedu* announced the "Men In Education" Workshop on January 30, 2016, along with ECC meeting with the Chancellor at Tweed on December 19<sup>th</sup> and CPAC meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2016.

*Ms. Gebrail* announced the meeting with Mark Moses at the meeting with the Queens principals on December 11<sup>th</sup> at St. John's University from 8am-12pm, and Brooklyn Borough President's meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

*Ms. Chandler* announced the CEC30 meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm at District 30 about the PTA's and their board.

### **Approval of the November Minutes**

Ms. Lewis moved to approve the November Calendar and Business Minutes with corrections on grammatical and spelling. Ms. Gebrail 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

**8 yeases.** Motion passed unanimously.

|           |                                                                   |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yes       | Asiedu, Chandler, Franco, Gebrail, Kraft, Lewis, Rodriguez, Russo |
| No        | None                                                              |
| Abstained | None                                                              |

### **President's Report**

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

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Bajraktarevic the CCHS treasurer was absent. The report is tabled.

### **Member's Report**

*Ms. Lewis* had contact with the Public Advocate's office about supporting the organization, "Lunch 4 Learning," which supports free school lunch for all students Pre K-12 grades. She had a letter from that office to encourage the CCHS members to vote and sign onto the letter which will be presented to the Mayor and the Chancellor in support of free school lunch for all. The letter can be signed on as an individual or a parent representative can put their name, title of parent leadership and the number of parents they represent. Ms. Asiedu said that CCHS can sign on as one.

*Ms. Franco* will attend SLT trainings starting with District 7 for December 21st. There will be new Title 1 trainings due to the changes in the federal laws.

*Mr. Rodriguez* attended a DLT meeting in District 31. Superintendent Anthony Lodico highlighted an issue in Staten Island with student suspension. Currently they have one student suspended for one year and he has to attend school at a lower Manhattan site due to not having a long term suspension site in Staten Island. Superintendent Lodico would like to create a site for 90 days or longer for student suspension.

*Ms. Chandler* attended a meeting at the Queens Borough President's office and a QHSPC meeting on the current structure for HS Superintendents. Ms. Katz would like to know how things are structured in the other boroughs. Queens currently has 12 Superintendents. She attended the Capital Plan training from Queens Borough President's office on Reso A, unfortunately it was wrong or unclear regarding HS information. The HS should only submit their Capital Plan requests to CCHS.

*Ms. Gebrail* attended the same meeting with Queens Borough President's office. They would like to have one Superintendent dedicated to high schools. Ms. Katz would like to get feedback from other HS Councils to see if they have the same issues. Ms. Gebrail also attended a legislative breakfast at the Academy of American Studies HS where the following people attended:

Catherine Nolan, NYS Assembly woman of Queens, Melinda Katz Queens Borough President, NYC Council persons from District 22, 26 and 30, NYC Councilman on Education Daniel Dromm, Superintendent Watts and Mark Webber. The students from that school talked about building an extension to the school.

Mr. Kraft attended a meeting with Helen Rosenthal's Chief of Staff regarding Reso A funding.

They collect proposed projects from the community along with HS's, the community can vote on the project and any students over 14 years old can vote for a project if they live in or go to school in that community, Martin Luther King Campus HS received a sports field using this method.

Ms. Russo attended the District 18 Title 1 Training and thought they did an excellent job. She also attended DLT meetings for District 14, 15, 18 and 20. At one of the DLT meetings there was an issue with ELL students and the DOE having a hard time communicating with immigrant parents.

### **Committee Report**

Ms. Chandler Co-Chair of Capital Plan Committee announced that we cannot move forward until SCA receives approval of the amendments. She would like SCA to alter the old Excel submission into separate boroughs.

Ms. Gebrail the Chair of the Annual Report Committee announced that last year's Annual Report writer Gail Robinson has agreed to write this year's report at a discounted price of \$3500 as compared to last year's \$4000.

Ms. Lewis the Co-Chair of the By Laws Committee did not have a report.

Ms. Franco the Co-Chair of the Parent Outreach Committee is waiting for a list of PA/PTA parent's email so that she can notify them of activities. She needs Superintendent Watt's assistance to obtain parent emails.

Mr. Kraft and Ms. Russo the Co-Chair of the Communications Committee have no report.

### **Old Business**

Ms. Chandler said the letter to the Capital Plan for the principals is not ready as they are waiting for SCA.

### **New Business**

Ms. Lewis would like CCHS to vote on the Lunch 4 Learning letter today.

### **Approval of the Lunch 4 Learning Letter**

Ms. Franco moved to approve the Lunch 4 Learning Letter. Ms. Gebrail 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. **8 yeases.** Motion passed unanimously.

|           |                                                                   |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yes       | Asiedu, Chandler, Franco, Gebrail, Kraft, Lewis, Rodriguez, Russo |
| No        | None                                                              |
| Abstained | None                                                              |

Future meeting agendas are:

- Regents and state mandate testing with invitations to the Superintendents.
- Mental Health Issues
- Diversity
- January student performances at CCHS

**Adjourned Meeting**

Ms. Franco moved to adjourn the Calendar Meeting.

Ms. Chandler 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

**8 yeases.** Motion passed unanimously.

|           |                                                                   |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yes       | Asiedu, Chandler, Franco, Gebrail, Kraft, Lewis, Rodriguez, Russo |
| No        | None                                                              |
| Abstained | None                                                              |

**Adjournment**

Calendar meeting ended at 8:48PM.

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

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

**Approved by Council vote on March 9, 2016.**