



# 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, September 14, 2016

### ATTENDANCE

Brooklyn Representative	Mohammad Akram	ABSENT-Excused
Brooklyn Representative	Marianne Russo	Present
Bronx Representative	Vacant	
Bronx Representative	Vacant	
Manhattan Representative	Monica Bajraktarevic	ABSENT-Unexcused
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	Vacant	
Public Advocate Appointee	Lisa Lewis	Present
CCSE Appointee	Neyda Franco	Present
CCELL Appointee	Ulan Kuchukov	Present
Student Representative	Vacant	
Superintendent Liaison	Karen Watts	Present

### In Attendance

We have a quorum. Mohammad Akram was absent, excused absence and Monica Bajraktarevic was absent, unexcused absence. Robin Allen was sick, excused absence.

## CALENDAR MEETING

Call to order by Ms. Gebrail at 6:10 pm. Attendance and roll call was taken. We did not have quorum at 6:10pm. Later at the meeting quorum was met.

### ***Presenters:***

New York State Board of Regents' Members: Nan Eileen Mead: 1st Judicial District and  
Dr. Luis O. Reyes: Member at Large

*An overview of Regents Roles and Responsibilities*      *See Power Point*

New York State Board of Regents website: [www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov)

The Board has 17 members elected by the State Legislature for 5 year terms: 1 from each of the State's 13 judicial districts and 4 members who serve at large. The Chancellor is Betty A. Rosa and the Vice Chancellor is T. Andrew Brown.

The Board is in charge of:

- P-12 grades
- Higher Education: ex. Educational Initiatives
- Office of Professions (30 Professions): ex. Veterinary, Nursing and Therapy
- Cultural Education: ex. Library, Archives, and State Museums
- ACCES (Adult Career and Continuing Education Services): over age/under credit students
- Learning Standards: ex. High School Equivalency, Assessments and Pathway to Graduation
- Charter Schools

The Regents Board also works with the budget and legislative initiatives/Governor to advocate investment in State Aid to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). They successfully Advocated for \$20 million in state funding for programs to improve outcomes for boys and young men of color.

Some of the questions from CCHS members' are:

Regent Mead commented that NYS feels there is a lack of parent involvements in the city schools; the CCHS members' strongly disagreed.

- Under the Education Initiatives on the NY State PTA surveys, some CCHS members felt that the surveys were given to the NYC parent leaders in a disorganized unfair way. The instructions were not clear, and the finished surveys had a 2 week window to mail back.
- The members stated that NYC has over 1 million students with diverse language and background. When you have such a large group of parents, you need more organization.

Regent Mead suggested to the CCHS members to write the Regents board a letter to address the issue. The way they rolled out the survey had an unintended consequence and the Regents need more awareness to the problem in order to self-correct.

Regent Reyes feels that NYC parents lack information from the Regents. One of the ways to empower the NYC parents is to have parent groups send out representatives to the Regents Board meetings and take the information back to the constituents.

Some of the issues the CCHS members have:

- More alternative assessments for HS graduation, other than the traditional exams.
- The PTA State level surveys was limited only to the State, and this seems unfair. The NYC PTA's also wanted to be involved with the survey. We can write a resolution to resolve this issue.

Regent Reyes and Mead suggest to contacting the 7 Regents Board members that come from NYC about our issues. Briefing materials for a Regents meeting can be viewed on the website prior to the meeting. Contact info: Regents Mead: [Regent.Mead@nysed.gov](mailto:Regent.Mead@nysed.gov) and Regents Reyes: [Regent.Reyes@nysed.gov](mailto:Regent.Reyes@nysed.gov)

### **Public Comment**

*Ms. Green* would like to know if Regents have a committee for Special Education.

*Regent Reyes*: E12 is a standing committee on Special Education and ELL issues.

*Ms. Lindsey:* each CEC's and Citywide Councils should craft their own letter to the Regents. All councils needed to be represented and informed.

*Mr. Kraft:* concerned with the graduation rates. The Schools' comparison charts are unfair to the High Schools. The schools have different population and needs of students, and it cannot be grouped in only one way of assessing their progress.

*Regent Reyes:* we need a new accountability system with multiple accountabilities to deal with diverse groups of students/situations, and we have to commit to all the students equally.

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

*Superintendent Watts* said that the Equity and Excellence Initiatives has begun this September:

- College for All
  - AP for All
  - Computer Science for All
  - Algebra for All
  - Single Shepherd Program
  - College and Career Readiness
- 
- Reward Schools in her districts are the top performers of that group.
  - Priority Schools across the city are focusing on Literacy Development, and Independent Reading Program and Rigorous Curriculum.
  - The new pilot program: Medgar Evers College: Early College Dual Credit (ECDC). This program offers the opportunities to the bottom third HS students to receive college credits and possibility a college Associate Degree. The professors would go to the HS's to teach and or the college would teach HS teachers to teach the courses. This program has started in HS's citywide. They offer 3 College Credits as well as HS Credits.

*Superintendent Rotondo of Transfer Schools and District 12 Schools.*

- The new Act for the 53 Transfer Schools gave a waiver for graduation rate assessments using a 6 years data instead of 4 years data. Most of the students in these schools are older due to the enrollment of older students.
- The Transfer School enrollment is under way, and seats are available to students.

*Superintendent Mendez 4 HS in the Bronx and 3 HS in Queens*

- Dist 9 X269 The Bronx Center for Mathematics and Science is the number 1 Unscreened School in NYS, "Beating the Odds," and is number 54 out of 500 schools by Newsweek Magazine.
- Dist 10 X439 Bronx HS of Law and Community Service had a Professional Development retreat in Terrytown House, Upstate NY for Guidance Counselors along with their students. They had a very successful Planning Conference, where 85% of the parents attended.
- Dist 10 X546 Bronx Theatre HS was awarded a \$50,000 Reso A Grant for computers and smartboards, carts. They were also awarded \$76,156 per year for the next 3 years from the Compass and Explorer Grant.
- Dist 28 Q687 Queens HS for the Sciences at York College became NYS 2016-17 Rewards School.
- Dist 30 Q301 Academy for Careers in Television and Film was also a NYS 2016-17 Rewards School.

- Dist 30 Q286 Young Women's Leadership School was awarded \$20,000 from Verizon Innovation Grant.
- The Graduation data from last year's graduation is still being finalized.
- There were 220 summer school students that graduated after summer school this year.
- Portfolio of schools includes Affinity Schools in the Bronx and Queens Dist 28 and some secondary schools.
- Graduation rate is 81.5%, and it will go up once the data is complete.
- 27 out of 38 Schools had a 7.42% improvement with the Bronx schools 10.8% higher than Queens. And 11 out of 19 schools in Queens had a 3.85% improvement.

## **Announcements**

*Ms. Gebrail* announced:

- 2016 Citywide HS Fair at Brooklyn Tech 9/24/2016 and 9/25/2016
- 2016 Borough HS Fairs 10/15/2016 and 10/16/2016
- Big Apple College Fair 10/22/2016 at The Jacob Javits Center
- College is Possible Event: Hostos College 10/6/16 & York College 10/19/16
- CollegeWeek Live Virtual College Fair 10/6/16
- Includenyc "Reading for All," 9/15/16
- UFT Brooklyn Conference for Parents: 10/22/16
- UFT Manhattan Conference for Parents: 10/15/16
- UFT Bronx Parents Summit: 11/12/16
- GP2E Pathways to Empowerment Queens 9/24/16
- Vendor Blender Queens 9/17/16
- Dads Take Your Child to School Event: Queens District 29 9/20/16

*Ms. Chandler* announced:

- District 29 Fall Press Parent Engagement Program workshops for parents: 10/8/16 10-2pm at IS 59 132-555 Ridae St. Queens.
- CEC 30 Queens Monthly Meeting with presentation 9/19/16

*Ms. Franco* announced:

- The new Chancellor initiative: NYC Finder for HS Admissions Process on Cellphone is not working as advertised, and should be corrected.

## **President's Report**

*Ms. Gebrail* attended the celebration on September 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 by the Queens Borough President Melinda Katz for NYC Olympians with Queens's roots. They are: Daryl Homer, a graduate of St. John's University who won a silver in men's individual fencing, Phyllis Frances, who won gold in the women's 4x400-meter relay and placed fifth in the individual 400-meter race, Jennifer Wu for table tennis, Deajah Stevens, an alumna of Cardozo High School for Womens' racing, and Natasha Hastings who won the gold for relay racing. She also attended another event on September 13<sup>th</sup> 2016, at Cardozo HS to celebrate Cardozo's alumna Olympians. There were many elected officials at the event to congratulate them. The Olympians spent their time to talk to students with positive messages, such as setting up your own personal goals.

## **Treasurer's Report**

No report Treasurer absent.

## **Member's Report**

Ms. Lewis reported from a recent meeting at the Public Advocate's Office, discussing the Mayor's personal order from 1/2016. The discussion centers on the unfairness of taking away the CEC Administrative Assistant's and (any City Employee with the Managerial Fund category) promised wage increases of .05% for 2016 and .05% 2017. He rescinded his original order for the raises. And in addition, taking away 2 vacation days, replacing it with Paid Parental Leave which is a required Federal Law. The City should be paying for it. Most of the AAs will not be using the Paid Parental Leave, due to not having children and should not have to subsidize it. It is unfair to the employees that are already underpaid. They are already one of the lowest paying professions, with mostly female employees.

Mr. Kuchukov no report.

Ms. Russo reported the upcoming workshop at District 20, 9/17/16 Saturday on Specialized HS admissions in Chinese and English.

Ms. Franco no report.

Ms. Chandler would like to thank the 3 student interns from Information Technical HS for their excellent work on our CCHS website. Letters of recommendation from CCHS for the students were sent to them. The school also was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a Photography contest and 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Web Design contest.

Mr. Kraft no report.

## **Approval of the Minutes**

Ms. Franco moved to table adoption of minutes because Mr. Kraft did not attend the meeting and we do not have a quorum to vote for the minutes at this time. Ms. Chandler second the motion. All agree.

## **Committees**

Ms. Gebrail suggested the members think about the committees, such as the Bylaws, Capital Plan and Communications for next meeting.

## **Old Business**

None.

## **New Business**

Ms. Chandler discussed the upcoming Citywide HS Fair at Brooklyn Tech HS. She feels that there is a lack of CCHS member's involvement volunteering their time at the Citywide and Borough HS Fairs. Ms. Gebrail said that so far only she, Ms. Chandler, and Ms. Franco will be at the Citywide HS Fair, and the Borough HS Fairs.

## **Adjournment**

Calendar meeting ended at 8:55PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**S. Mei Chan: Administrative Assistant**

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

**Approved by Council vote on**