



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 & Business Meeting Wednesday, July 8, 2015

ATTENDANCE

Brooklyn Representative	Mohammad Akram	Present
Brooklyn Representative	Marianne Russo	Present
Bronx Representative	Edward Afuakwah	Present
Bronx Representative	Constance Asiedu	Present
Manhattan Representative	Monica Bajraktarevic	Present
Manhattan Representative	Michael Kraft	Present
Queens Representative	Mona-Lisa Chandler	Present
Queens Representative	Michelle Gebrail	Present
Staten Island Representative	Robin Allen	Present
Staten Island Representative	Miguel Rodriguez	Present
Public Advocate Appointee	<i>Vacant</i>	
CCSE Appointee	<i>Vacant</i>	
CCELL Appointee	<i>Vacant</i>	
Student Representative	<i>Vacant</i>	
Student Representative Alternate	<i>Vacant</i>	
Superintendent Liaison	Karen Watts	Present

In Attendance

We have quorum. Edward Afuakwah was late due to work. Came in 8:01PM

CALENDAR MEETING

Call to order by Senior Executive Officer Ms. Asiedu at 7:00 pm. Attendance and roll call was taken.

Presenters: **Mariano Guzman:** Senior Advisor, Office of the Chancellor &
Joshua Winter: DOE Senior Director, Strategic Planning

Mr. Guzman presented information on the Affinity Groups. He worked for the DOE for over 40 years, as a Superintendent of District 2, and other capacities, and have 2 adult children. The DOE talked to over 2000 people, and gathered information from: communities, parents, teachers, students, administrators, advocates, and legislators before they created the Affinity Groups. A recent restructuring by the DOE is the 7 Borough Centers in the 5 Boroughs with 2 in Brooklyn, and 2 in Queens due to the large size of the student population.

All 7 Borough Centers provides the same service but staffed differently based on the needs of the communities. Mr. Guzman will guide the BFSC Directors, and they will provide supports, resources to superintendents under the new, streamlined school support structure. Each BFSC Director will manage a full range of deputies and school support resources. The director for Staten Island is Kevin Moran.

We have one Central Center working with 6-12 schools and high schools, working with the Affinity Groups lead by the **Director: Alexander Anormaliza**.

Mr. Winters said that Affinity Groups, “Will report to superintendents and be held accountable for school performance. The Department will facilitate the opportunity for schools to collaborate across the city through professional learning communities, such as the Learning Partners Program.” This will make more strategic use of the existing Partnership Support Organizations (PSOs), now called Affinity Groups. These non-profit organizations and university partners will continue to give resources and guidance to schools; however they will be control under a superintendent.”

The schools that are eligible to participate are:

- Secondary or high schools not previously identified as a Renewal School.
- Have previously and are actively partnered with one of the Affinity Groups who can provide expertise across one or more areas.
- Will commit to working with a support organization for a period of 3 years so impacts can be better measure.

Ms. Chandler commented that it was not clear about the 6 Affinity Groups, and its reorganization. There was a fast turnaround time that the principals’ had to make to commit to a 3 years contract.

Mr. Winters answered that 3 of the previous PSO (CUNY, New Visions, and Urban Assembly) will be part of the 6 Affinity Groups. The Consortium, International, and NYC Outward Bound Schools would make up the other 3 Affinity Groups. They will provide the following supports:

- Instructional curriculum changes to schools and teachers
- Budget support
- HR support to hiring new teachers
- Student support with the Guidance Counselors for interventions, and crisis
- Leadership support with professional developments

Mr. Guzman said these are not new organizations and the DOE had worked with many in the past.

Mr. Winters said 10% of the schools whom was in the PSO organizations opted out while 162 schools opted in.

Ms. Asiedu would like to know if the group are from the networks, and what is the delivery time, and what can they do to opt out?

Mr. Winters responded that contract will align with the service, and the payment will be paid upon delivery of the service. And some services will go directly to the schools. The Affinity Schools will be receiving support services from DOE and then have additional support from the group.

Ms. Russo would like to know if parents can go to the field office directly.

Mr. Winters said that as previously the parents go to the Superintendents, and if when needed, the Superintendents will contact the Affinity Group when necessarily.

Mr. Guzman said that the role of the Superintendent is to align with evaluations of the school principal, and school process, and to give them a supported structure to go to as resources, in order to fulfill the needs of a particular school. In the past, this support did not exist for the Superintendent. The Affinity Groups works mostly with Superintendents. The parents will go to district centers for help.

Ms. Gebrail responded to Mr. Guzman's comments with, "The parents here, do not understand your response, and how do you inform your parents of Affinity Groups." "Please explain how it would work and the need to be transparent."

Mr. Guzman's response is that they will provide support services including: Curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development, school governance and management, and family and community engagement services. And for schools not in the group, they will be supplemented by a central team under the guidance of the Office of Field Support.

There are 6 Affinity Groups supporting 162 schools with 4 Superintendents.

Some are:

- Consortium, International, and NYC Outward Bound Schools (48 Schools) with one Superintendent.
- Urban Assembly and CUNY (44 Schools) with one Superintendent.
- New Visions (70 Schools) – two Superintendents.
- But only 3 of the previous PSO (CUNY, New Visions, and Urban Assembly) will be part of this group. The other 4 former PSO organizations will not be in this group but they can still provide additional supports if the schools request them.

Mr. Rodriguez would like a list of high school names with the Affinity Groups.

Mr. Winter will send it to the AA when available. They will be fine tuning it as they progress along with the Affinity Groups.

Mr. Kraft commented that the DOE schools' website is a mess and the differences between schools' with own website and DOE schools' website. The schools' own website is much better.

Mr. Guzman whole heartily agrees with Mr. Winter that the school website needs to be revamped and user friendly.

Ms. Chandler would like the DOE to create a simple organizational chart regarding the Affinity Group, so that parents can understand it.

Ms. Asiedu asks the DOE to have clarity before programs are put in place into the schools. And Ms. Bajraktarevic wanted a detail chart of what programs are in the Individual high schools on their website already.

Public Comment

Ms. Franco wanted to know how many high schools are currently in the Bronx? And are they New Visions and what supports are you providing to these schools?

Mr. Guzman responded with there are 380 schools in the Bronx. And they will provide supports to teachers with more accountability, addition to the different styles of teaching, especially for the needs of special education students.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Watts announced that again this year she will be the Superintendent liaison to CCHS. She worked in DOE as a teacher, then as an Assistant Principal, and Principal. During her last 5 years, she is a Superintendent of Brooklyn High Schools. Her youngest son will be attending Brooklyn Technical High School, so she'll be a high school parent as well as the board.

Superintendent Watts is in charge of 48 high schools in Brooklyn. She will have 48 individual appointments with all her high school principals, to discuss the following:

- Do these schools have a supportive environment for learning?
- Do they have a strong school?
- Is there trust among each other in the schools?
- To look at all the elements that makes a great school?
- Review the school's curriculum.
- Talking about discipline issues at the school.
- Producing and supporting strong student government.
- The need for the principal to be active instructional leaders, and not to rely on their Assistant Principals.
- The principals need to have uniform curriculums at their schools.
- The principals need to create or maintain strong college, and industry partnerships.
- The principals need to have, and to support strong SLT's and PTA's at their schools.
- They need to have a welcoming, open door policy for parents at their schools, and to be transparent.

There is now a Core Curriculum in ELA for Social Studies, and Science. And all high schools should be offering Advance Placement classes in the core areas.

Superintendent Watts now have a new 6 member's support team. They are:

An administrative assistant, two family engagement officers, a field support liaison, a Renewal School liaison, and a principal leadership facilitator.

Ms. Chandler made a motion to table the approval of the June minutes. Ms. Allen 2nd the motion. 9 yeses and 1 absences. Motion passed unanimously. We will table the June minutes.

Yes	Akram, Allen, Asiedu, Bajraktarevic, Chandler, Gebrail, Kraft, Rodriguez, Russo
No	None
Abstained	None

Public Comment

Ms. Lindsay congratulated the new members of CCHS, and welcome back the old members. She proposed that CCHS should have on their website a listing of old memberships of past CCHS members. And she wanted to create a memorial to the decease member Valerie Armstrong Barrows whom was the president of CCHS and a lawyer on the CCHS website. Ms. Lindsay also would like CCHS to create a committee for outreach, and for her to be able to sit on that committee.

Ms. Street is a parent of a student at Academy of American Studies H.S. in Queens, and would like a new building in her child's school to alleviate the hardships of daily commuting to two buildings. What actions would she need to take to make this happen?

Ms. Aseidu told her that she would need to talk to the Queens CCHS representative and Ms. Watts.

Ms. Gebrail the Queens representative, said that she is a real estate broker, and have been in contact with her principal. They are trying to locate a site, and working with school contractors, and the SCA on this project.

Ms. Northrop Co-Chair of CPAC, and Queens H.S. Council President is opposed to the DOE Affinity Groups. Her group signed onto a letter stating they are against them, and she would like CCHS to read her letter and sign onto it as a group. She would like to know how the Superintendent interacts with the DLT's and other problems. They are not getting the high school representations with the DLT's and 80% of the parents will not have access with the DLT's.

Ms. Corsino the President of D75 introduced herself to the new CCHS members.

Ms. Chandler made a motion to adjourn the Calendar meeting. Ms. Allen 2nd the motion. All agree.

Adjournment

Calendar meeting ended at 8:40PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

S. Mei Chan
Administrative Assistant

Revision made by President:

Approved by Council vote on _____

Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 8, 2015

ATTENDANCE

Brooklyn Representative	Mohammad Akram	ABSENT
Brooklyn Representative	Marianne Russo	Present
Bronx Representative	Edward Afuakwah	Present
Bronx Representative	Constance Asiedu	Present
Manhattan Representative	Monica Bajraktarevic	Present
Manhattan Representative	Michael Kraft	Present
Queens Representative	Mona-Lisa Chandler	Present
Queens Representative	Michelle Gebrail	Present
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Student Representative	<i>Vacant</i>	
Student Representative Alternate	<i>Vacant</i>	
Superintendent Liaison	Karen Watts	Present

In Attendance

We have quorum. Mohammad Akram did not attend due to religious reasons. Excused absence.

BUSINESS MEETING

Call to order by Senior Executive Officer Ms. Asiedu at 8:45 pm. Attendance and roll call was taken.

Ms. Asiedu talked about the budget for CCHS and the need to vote on one. Ms. Asiedu said that currently we have 10 CCHS members onboard but there will be 3 more added from: CCSE, CCELL, and the Public Advocate appointee so the resources will be more divided. The state mandate that each member is entitle to receive \$125.per month for reimbursements, and the president received \$200.per month for reimbursements.

As you can see from the budget proposal in front of you of the members expenses totaling \$16,320, and our operational expenses of \$3932 that includes the office supplies of \$800. And office equipment of \$282, with copier leases at \$1,650, and the echalk website at \$1,200. Out of the total budget is \$20,252 but DOE allocated \$20,000 to the council. We need to add monies to the Annual Report, food & refreshments, and basic operations with the P-Card. We would like to know if you plan to use up all your reimbursement expenses for each month, if not you can put up the amount you don't plan to use towards the operational budget?

There were ongoing discussions from all the members. Ms. Russo made the recommendation of allocating \$4000 towards the Annual Report, \$500 towards the P-Card, and \$500 towards food. The council rejected Ms. Russo's proposal stating that as new council members, they do not know how much they plan on spending for the year and that further discussion needs to take place.

Ms. Bajraktarevic said that she plans on spending only \$500 per year and the \$1000 left over from her reimbursement line can go towards \$500 for the P-Card, and \$500 for food.

Ms. Russo made a motion to remove \$1000 from the members' reimbursement for \$500 towards food, and \$500 towards P-Card. Ms. Bajraktarevic 2nd the motion. 4 yeses, 4 no, 1 abstain, and 1 absences. Motion did not pass.

Yes	Afuakwah, Bajraktarevic, Kraft, Russo
No	Allen, Asiedu, Gebrail, Rodriguez
Abstained	Chandler

As Treasurer Ms. Bajraktarevic is in charge of the Budget Committee and as Chair will assist in getting space for the meeting.

Ms. Allen made a motion to continue the Business Meeting to another meeting. Ms. Gebrail 2nd the motion. 9 yeses and 1 absences. Motion passed unanimously.

Yes	Afuakwah, Allen, Asiedu, Bajraktarevic, Chandler, Gebrail, Kraft, Rodriguez, Russo
No	None
Abstained	None

Ms. Gebrail made a motion to table the continuance on the Business agenda. Mr. Kraft 2nd the motion. All agree and no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kraft made a motion to close the Business meeting. Ms. Gebrail 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Business meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

S. Mei Chan
Administrative Assistant

Revision made by President:

Approved by Council vote on September 9, 2015