



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, November 18, 2015

ATTENDANCE

Brooklyn Representative	Mohammad Akram	Present
Brooklyn Representative	Marianne Russo	Present
Bronx Representative	Edward Afuakwa	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	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	ABSENT-Excused
Superintendent	Michael Prayor	Present

In Attendance

We have quorum. Robin Allen was sick and Superintendent Watts was absent due to work related reasons, excused absences. Superintendent Michael Prayor was her replacement for this meeting.

CALENDAR MEETING

Call to order by President Ms. Asiedu at 6:10 pm. Attendance and roll call was taken.

Presenters: High School Admission

Robert Sanft: Chief Executive Officer, Office of Student Enrollment

Sandy Ferguson: CEO for Middle and High School Admissions

Amy Basile: Executive Director of High School Admissions

Ms. Basile presented a handout along with a power point: "High School Admission."

Highlights from the power point:

2014-2015 Round 1 Statistics:

- 48% of applicants received an offer to their first choice
- 86% of applicants received an offer to one of their top five choices
- 92% of applicants received an offer to their choices
- 8% of applicants did not receive an offer, of those 94% did not list 12 choices

- High School Admissions in Round 1 last year:
- 86% of applicants received an offer to one of their top five choices
- 92% of applicants received an offer to one of their choices
- 8% of applicants did not receive an offer. Of these applicants, 94% did not list 12 program choices
- Students who listed 12 choices on their application were matched to one of their choices over 97% of the time
- Round 2 starts in May for students without a Round 1 offer and for students with a Round 1 offer who would prefer a program that has Round 2 availability
- All students should receive an offer at the end of Round 2
- All schools must provide services for their students who have IEP or who are ELL and these students can request testing/audition accommodations for schools with admissions criteria
- Most HS Admissions materials are translated into 9 popular native languages

Questions were asked of the presenters and answered.

**Presenters: The Office of State/Federal Education Policy & School Improvement Programs
David Anderson and Sharon Rencher**

Ms. Rencher spoke about a pilot program at the Brooklyn Navy Yard called the “Brooklyn STEAM Center.” STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Art & Architecture, and Mathematics. The program starts in 2015-2018, and its key goal is to increase socioeconomic integration of low income students and higher income students to improve student achievement in Priority and Focus Schools. It assists the HS students to be college and career ready by teaching students skills to apply their knowledge by creating learning environments in collaborative communities.

Mr. Anderson said that the program matches a target school with a partner school and they will have access to current research, industry experts, new facilities, instructions and mentoring from industries and institutes of higher learning. The pilot program will start in Brooklyn but will spread to the other boroughs.

Questions were asked of the presenters and answered.

Public Comment

Ms. Crowson said that some students’ IEP were changed by DOE to fit the school they are attending. It should be the other way around. HS Enrollment needs to work with the Special Education department to coordinate to provide the mandated services. Also the Infinity Schools should be color coded in the HS handbook to give parents more transparency.

Catherine Nolan, New York State Assembly woman of Queens spoke about assisting Academy of American Studies HS getting a new school building. She spoke about the long history of the school reaching out to DOE for a new building and of past broken promises by the DOE.

Principal William Bassell of Academy of American Studies HS spoke about the high quality education and its successes with their students at the high school. They have great need for a new school building located near their current one.

His current Student Government students and PTA President Leah Ramirez all spoke about their school’s current condition of sharing their facilities with another school, and their need to cross a busy street in order to utilize classrooms at another building. At this point their school is very overcrowded and lacking many facilities. They are a high achieving school, and have also identified a possible location to build a new building with SCA. They expressed the need to have CCHS to assist them in their fight to build a new school.

Superintendent Liaison's Report

Superintendent Michael Prayor brought in the prior presenters to highlight opportunities for non-traditional HS supports. He is supervising Queens Districts 27 and 29. And Brooklyn District 17/18/20/21/22.

Superintendent Prayor introduced the newest member of his team: Melissa Thomas a Family Support Coordinator. Ms. Thomas talked about SLT, Title 1 training workshops available to the parents.

Public Comment

Ms. Lindsey talked about the "Lunch 4 Learning," organization that would like DOE to adopt a free lunch for all students K-12 program. She feels more HS students would eat lunch in school if the negative stigma is removed by having free lunch for all.

President's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Bajraktarevic gave Treasurer's report, see attachment. Minor correction needs to be made: there is a CCSE member Neyda Franco to be added to the CCSE line.

Ms. Asiedu stated that we will have a student representative and is entitled to \$125 per month reimbursements. We will have a new student representative by January since the current one cannot serve at the CCHS.

Member's Report

Ms. Chandler went to a Community Board 11 hearing about Bayside Jewish Center on 11/2/15. Residents in the area are very angry about a possible new HS and its negative impact in the area. Another location in Whitestone was suggested as an alternative site for the HS. Meanwhile nearby Bayside HS has 140% overcrowding. She also attended the NYC PTA Expo in Greenpoint, Brooklyn where she found the information on the "Lawyer's Alliance." They would represent the PTA's for free, and even assist them in getting their non-profit 501C certification.

Ms. Gebrail on 10/16/15 attended the Principal's Conference by Superintendent Mendez, some principals at the conference implemented the "Algebra for All," program to teach algebra as early as 6th-8th grade. On 10/17/15 and 10/18/15 she attended along with Ms. Chandler the Queens Borough HS Fair representing CCHS. And on 10/24/15 at Parent Advisory Board Meeting there was a presentation on the HS admission process. On 11/10/15 she attended the "Know Your Rights," meeting on special education students.

Ms. Russo attended the Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams' Capital Plan meeting where he stated that he will invest monies into schools that will teach STEAM and Technology. The application will be out in January on his website. She also attended the CPAC meeting with speakers Josh Winters and Juan Rosales on "AP for All," in order to build a college access school community. There is a new program in districts 23 and 7 called the "Single Sheppard" where one guidance counselor follows the student 6-12 grade, and another new program called "Science for All."

Mr. Akram attended a meeting at a District 21 HS where they complained about bedbugs. The school needs support from DOE to rid of it permanently.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that Staten Island Borough President James Oddo visited a school in New Jersey where 30 students from Staten Island attend due to their dyslexia. The city funded the student's tuition of \$50,000 each. BP Oddo knows that students with dyslexia have very limited choices at the schools in SI. He plans to investigate and possibly implement a program for children with dyslexia in order to serve those students in need.

Mr. Kraft attended a meeting with Manhattan Borough President Gail Brewer on Capital Plan. At that meeting BP Brewer stated that she will fund anything related to Capital Plan that is brought to her attention. He also attended a workshop on transgender students at the Manhattan Field Center. It was very well attended by many guidance counselors. The workshop concentrated on awareness and the issues of transgender children.

Ms. Franco attended many DLT meetings in the Bronx. The state still did not release school data. School data is needed in order for the DLT's to perform school planning. At the 5 different district DLT meetings, the data from last year was put to use for only the elementary and middle schools. The high schools are being neglected at these DLT meetings. HS Enrollment office in the Bronx is doing the Bronx parents a disservice in how they treated them. The parents are negatively impacted by their treatments, and this needs to be addressed accordingly.

Ms. Lewis has no report.

Announcements

Ms. Chandler said that on 11/16/18 we had the CCHS Capital Plan Committee Meeting. We cannot have the public hearing until SCA finalizes the amendment and gives us the go ahead with the hearing. The CCHS members that attended the meeting are: Ms. Asiedu, Ms. Franco, Mr. Kraft, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Russo and herself.

Ms. Asiedu said that the CCHS members are welcome to attend the November 23 meeting by the City Council on struggling schools. Information is in the members' handout.

Introductions of 2 student representatives that attended the meeting: Sofia Garcia and Kara Gurl.

Adjourned Meeting

Ms. Franco moved to adjourn the Calendar Meeting.

Mr. Akram 2nd the motion.

11 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Yes	Afuakwah, Akram, Asiedu, Bajraktarevic, Chandler, Franco, Gebrail, Kraft, Lewis, Rodriguez, Russo
No	None
Abstained	None

Adjournment

Calendar meeting ended at 9:06PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**S. Mei Chan
Administrative Assistant**

Revisions made by Recording Secretary Lisa Lewis and President:

Approved by Council vote on March 9, 2016