



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, November 9, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Brooklyn Representative	Mohammad Akram	Present
Brooklyn Representative	Marianne Russo	Present
Bronx Representative	Vacant	
Bronx Representative	Vacant	
Manhattan Representative	Monica Bajraktarevic	Present
Manhattan Representative	Vacant	
Queens Representative	Mona-Lisa Chandler	Present
Queens Representative	Michelle Gebrail	ABSENT-Excused
Staten Island Representative	Robin Allen	ABSENT-Excused
Staten Island Representative	Vacant	
Public Advocate Appointee	Lisa Lewis	ABSENT-Excused
CCSE Appointee	Neyda Franco	Present
CCELL Appointee	Ulan Kuchukov	Present
Student Representative	Vacant	
Superintendent Liaison Stand In (Director of School Renewal)	Karen Watts Norman Kyleema	ABSENT-Excused Present

In Attendance

We did not have a quorum. Michelle Gebrail and Lisa Lewis were excused. Robin Allen was sick, excused absence. Norman Kyleema DSR from Superintendent's Watts office represented Watts' office due to the Superintendent's illness.

This Calendar Minutes do not need the approval of the Council due to the lack of quorum.

CALENDAR MEETING

Call to order by Ms. Franco at 6:30 pm. Attendance and roll call was taken. We did not have a quorum. This meeting is for information only.

Presenters:

Jean Mizutani: INCLUDEnyc Senior Education Specialist on
“Resolving Special Education Disputes through IEP Facilitation and Mediation.”

This organizing was formally known as: Resources for Children with Special Needs. Email:
jmizutani@includenyc.org Twitter: @jeanmizutani and Instagram: [@INCLUDEnyc](https://www.instagram.com/INCLUDEnyc)

You can send her your email for their Thursday weekly “Newsletter,” on raising/advocating children with special needs. Some parents have special remediation needs when they have IEP meetings with the school staff. Parents can ask for a mediator resolutions meeting, where you can get a neutral person to assist in those meetings. A great website with a quick guide to these meetings is CADRE: Site: <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/DRparentguides2014.cfm> Parents can email her for information about training to become an IEP facilitator at these meetings.

Sugeni Pérez-Sadler. Senior Director, College and Career Planning NYCDOE/
Office of Postsecondary Readiness on *“The New FAFSA”*
See powerpoint.

Students are required to complete the FAFSA online application for financial aid for college. FAFSA has limited monies, the earlier the student files, the higher chance of the student getting some form of financial aid for college. This is the first year the FAFSA comes out on October 1st and the deadline is the end of November. Normally FAFSA comes out on January 1st but this late date caused many issues with students’ college applications. Now it takes less than 30 minutes to finish and the information you put in syncs with the parents’ latest financial information with the IRS.

Some of the highlights:

- Undocumented students cannot fill out the FAFSA, they have to consult their school, and only fill out forms for private aid.
- If a student is a citizen and their parents are not, they can still file the FAFSA and be qualified for aid. The student should prepare to file it ASAP due to extra information they will have to obtain. They should seek guidance from their school.
- Currently FAFSA is in English and Spanish, additional languages to come.
- FAFSA funds do run out, so it’s best for students to file when the application is released.
- Students can use the parents previous year’s income tax to file the FAFSA, unlike the old FAFSA, (this year they can use the parent’s 2015 taxes they already have on file.)
- Students can select the colleges now while filing FAFSA, and make changes later.
- The conversation with college awareness and FAFSA starts with the students in 9th grade.

Jennifer Maldonado: Special Assistant to the Deputy Chancellor for Operations
Executive Director, Educational Construction Fund on
“The Educational Construction Fund Project at COOP Tech”

The NYC Educational Construction Fund is not the SCA (School Construction Authority.) They work with the private developers to come up with a formula, so that the developers can afford to build the schools in the city without using the DOE capital funding. They currently have 18 projects that are in progress, or finished like PS 59.HS of Art and Design by using mixed development projects. They are working on rebuilding: Coop Tech, Heritage HS and Park East. She talked about the proposed plan for the site for the 3 schools, along with commercial/retail, residential buildings and a park.

Some of the criteria:

- They look for a need for a new school at a location.
- They look for the right location (they can only build on city owned or DOE land).
- When the location is decided, they talk to the principal of that school for input.
- Then they talk to private developers who are willing to pay for the building. The developers create a mixed space in order to generate enough profit to pay for that school.

CCHS quarterly meeting with the High School President's Council Presidents

HS President Council Presidents for Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx did not attend the meeting.

Manhattan HS President Council Co-President: Helena Clay introduced herself. Her Co-President is Susan Crawley, and they share their duties as Co-Presidents.

Brooklyn HS President Council President Earline Mensah introduced herself, and thanked the past president in her position Ms. Jordan for mentoring her, and introducing her to different Brooklyn CEC's. Ms. Mensah feels that there needs to be more parent involvement. There are 12 districts in Brooklyn, and she needs help to cover all of them. She plans to outreach to the parents to inform them of their educational rights and equities. And to outreach to the politicians to fight for the students' educational/equities rights.

Brooklyn HS President Council President 2015-2016 Aquila Jordan talked about issues with the recent Council election held on October 27, 2016. After the elections, the Director of Family Engagement of Superintendent Conyers's office, Lisa Pineda took the Presidents' Council Election Certification Form, ballots, names/emails of the executive board, and all documentations with her. They requested copies of the election results before she left and she refused to give out any information. They needed the emails of the executive board members in order to perform council business. They made several attempt, and have reached out to many people for their assistance, but Ms. Pineda has refused to give it to them. It is the council's right to have the requested information.

Ms. Franco and Ms. Chandler along with the CCHS council agree with Ms. Jordan and Ms. Mensah about receiving the information on their election results. Ms. Russo the CCHS Brooklyn Representative was at the election and saw firsthand of what had transpired. Ms. Franco said that the council would reach out to Superintendent Conyers to correct their mistake. Ms. Franco and Ms. Chandler suggested to Ms. Russo to write a letter to Superintendent Watts to advocate on the Brooklyn HS President's Council behalf to obtain the requested information from Lisa Pineda.

Public Comment

Ms. Clay agrees with the Council, and said it's hard enough to have parents come out to be involved, but to have this happen, it is not right. She is having a hard time getting Parent Coordinator's emails, and Ms. Franco said that they work for DOE, therefore their emails should be made public.

Superintendent Liaison's Report

Superintendent Watts was absent and Norman Kyleema introduced herself as the new Director of School Renewal and former principal of Academy of Urban Planning HS. Superintendent Watts covers districts: 13, 14, 16, 19, 23 and 32. The report contains information on all the schools in her districts, the student's graduation rates for 2015 and June 2016 with their improvements, the school's Initiatives and Programs. Included in the reports are the PA/PTA's Presidents' names/emails, UFT representatives' names/emails, and the scheduled SLT dates for the schools.

Ms. Franco requested that the different acronyms be spelled out on a different sheet of paper, along with what kind of program it is, and who you can contact if you are interested in the program.

Superintendent Mendez presented his report.

This is a preliminary report on the schools in his districts: Bronx-7, 9,10,11,12 and Queens-24, 25,26,28,30. There is a chart with the 2014-2015 graduation rate percentage point change for Statewide, Citywide, Bronx and Queens. Once the graduation rate for 2015-2016 has been confirmed, it will be added to his chart. The other charts have the 2016-17 NYSED Status, graduation rate for 2015 and 2016 with Initiatives and Programs for each school. His schools have an overall 84% graduation rate in the Bronx and Queens, with District 28 schools performing the highest at 88% to 90% graduation rates.

Ms. Chandler requested from all the Superintendents a uniformed report along with the SLT dates/locations from all the public high schools in NYC.

Announcements

None.

President's Report

Ms. Gebrail is absent.

Member's Report

None

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Franco passed out the report to the members and asked for discussion when there is a quorum.

Approval of the Minutes

We did not have a quorum. Ms. Franco asked the members to look over the minutes, and email the corrections to the Administrative Assistant. This will expedite voting at the next CCHS meeting.

Old / New Business

Ms. Chandler received a report from SCA on the 2015-2016 Capital Plans submission. She discovered that there were an additional 27 Brooklyn high school requests added without her knowledge. As the Capital Plan Chair for last year all the submissions should have gone to her.

Ms. Russo submitted the 27 late requests. Ms. Chandler asked Ms. Russo, why did she submit to SCA without her knowledge and so late after the deadline closed. Ms. Russo acknowledged the deadline, but wanted to advocate for her schools, even though it was past the deadline. As the CCHS Brooklyn representative, she felt it was her right to advocate for her schools by any means.

Ms. Chandler responded that Ms. Russo was out of compliance because all the members agreed to the protocol. All had to follow the deadline. Ms. Chandler and other members had late submissions from other high schools, but had to refuse them due to the deadline. She said it was very unfair to those schools, when Ms. Russo contacted the SCA, and submitted her schools very late.

Ms. Chandler contacted all the schools on the outcome of their submissions. She requested from Ms. Russo, the 27 schools and their contact person with emails, so she can send them an individual email about the SCA's response to their requests.

Business Meeting

We did not have a quorum. Business Meeting was canceled.

Adjournment

Calendar meeting ended at 8:54PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

S. Mei Chan: Administrative Assistant

Revision made by Recording Secretary Lisa Lewis and President:

Approved by Council vote on

DRAFT