

Community Education Council for District 75

CALENDAR MINUTES

[OCTOBER 16, 2013]

[6:30-9:00PM]

[P373R@ROBERT RANDALL SCHOOL,
91 HENDERSON AVENUE, S.I., NY]

MEETING CALLED BY	Gloria Corsino, President
TYPE OF MEETING	Calendar Meeting
FACILITATOR	Gloria Corsino, President
ROLL CALL & NOTE TAKER	Celia Green, Recording Secretary
TIMEKEEPER	Aliya Rasool, Public Advocate Appointee
ATTENDEES	Gloria Smith, 1 st Vice-President, Valerie Williams, 2 nd Vice-President,, Jackie Pierre Louis, Council Member
ABSENT/EXCUSED	Audrey Dunlap, Treasurer-Excused, Able Alagbe, Council Member-Excused, Rebecca Green, Council Member-Excused,
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Tabled

Agenda Topics

PRESIDENTS REPORT: GLORIA CORSINO

Good Evening welcome to the October Calendar Meeting for the Community Education Council for District 75. We serve Citywide District 75 parents and students and we are happy to be here in Staten Island. For the month of October there are co-locations meetings citywide. We reviewed the list of co-locations posted by the Department of Education and are concerned about the timeline regarding the postings. We are concerned if the PTA was informed in a timely manner and provide the opportunity to reach out to parent community. The co-locations are being rushed and this is a major concern with parents throughout the city. We are concerned with the influx of charter schools, the formula used to disseminate space for incoming schools; taking into account special needs children with multiple disabilities. We are also concerned about charter schools policies in regards to the way they discipline special needs children and expel them.

Our council will be in attendance during the scheduled PEP meetings in October to respond and add comment to the co-locations that affect district 75. We are hoping that all parents with children in a D75 program will be in attendance across the board. We are also looking forward to building a collaboration with the parents of district 75 as well with other CEC's and community based organizations. On a sad note, our hearts and prayers go out to the family of Avonte Oquendo who is one of the D75 Children attending PS277Q @ PS404Q in Queens (Long Island City). He walked out of his D75 Class / School premises unnoticed and has been Missing since October 4th. We are concerned about how this happened and look forward to sitting down at a future date with the Department of Education to discuss prevention of a future reoccurrence involving any child.

We pray that he is found soon. Tonight's guest speakers are Alexandria H. Robinson Executive Director of Office of Pupil Transportation and PIST: Parents to Improved Schools Transportation and Corinne Rello-Anselmi, Deputy Chancellor, Division of Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: GARY HECHT

Mr. Hecht informed the attendees that a D75 student went missing by the name of Avonte Oquendo, fourteen years old male student, autistic /non-verbal and attending a D75 school in Queens. D75 parents are contacting Mr. Hecht to inquire about the investigation and how they can support provided support during this time. The District, Central and NYPD are working closely for the safe return of Avonte. Mr. Hecht thanked everyone for their support during this time.

Mr. Hecht mentioned the following:

- Students Placement – students are registered and placed into schools/programs
- Student Registration- increase of students with autism
- Space- opened new classes as D75 continues to grow
- Graduation- students in 1 to 1 ratio are articulating out and graduating
- Teachers/Principals Evaluations- based upon students performances that impacts teachers and principals performance
- Professional Development- addressing weaknesses and best practices.

CORINNE RELLO-ANSELM, DEPUTY CHANCELLOR, DIVISION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Ms. Anselmi mentioned she met with principals in Staten Island who are commitment and concerned overall of the safety of all of our students and our most recent development around Avonte really has taken us back. We will be working side by side during the investigation in order to locate and the safe return.

Ms. Anselmi mentioned the following:

- A history of her years within the education system.
- She is a staunch supporter of District 75
- Commitment to building school community relationships and collaborations within school buildings
- Special Education Reform
- Common Core
- Teachers Effectiveness
- College Readiness
- Inclusion Education/Programs-Integration

PARENT TO IMPROVE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION (PISTNYC)

Sara Catalinotto of PISTNYC: Parents to Improve School Transportation informed parents of their campaign to achieve improvements with school bus routes that are shorter and safer for children with disabilities. They also presented the School Bus Bill of Rights along with their investigations and findings throughout the years.

ALEXANDRA H. ROBINSON, M.ED., CDPT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NYCDOE OFFICE OF PUPIL TRANSPORTATION (OPT)

Ms. Robinson provided a history of her years within the education system- 28 years with school transportation, prior to that special education teacher, administrator, behaviorist, worked with students with autism and students with behavioral disabilities. She also introduced her OPT team from Staten Island and Queens:

Ms. Robinson mentioned OPT has done the following:

- 2013- A smooth opening for student transportation
- Revamped training and customer service
- There are new bus companies as well as returning working with OPT
- Busing is safer- professional drivers and matrons
- Calls are returned within 24 hours
- OPT on a weekly basis is always looking to improve
- Buses are an extension of classrooms
- All bus routes are reviewed and revised
- Working on improving travel time

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE COUNCIL		
RESOLUTIONS	MOTION MADE	VOICE -VOTE TALLY

ADJOURMENT	9:00pm
CALOCT13	Submitted by Ramona Garcia, Administrative Assistant, CEC D75