

# Citywide Education Council for District 75

## CALENDAR MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2015 **Time:** 6:00-9:00PM  
**Location:** Tweed Courthouse, 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	<b>Gloria Corsino</b> , President
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	<b>CALENDAR MEETING</b>
<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<b>Gloria Corsino</b> , President
<b>ROLL CALL &amp; NOTE TAKER</b>	<b>Rebecca Green</b> , Secretary
<b>TIMEKEEPER</b>	<b>Aliya Rasool</b> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Public Advocate Appointee
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Gloria Smith</b> , Treasurer and Public Advocate Appointee, <b>Able Alagbe</b> -Council Member, <b>Wanda Scott</b> , Council Member, <b>Jackie Pierre-Louis</b> , Council Member, <b>Valerie Williams</b> , Council Member, <b>Celia Green</b> , Council Member
<b>ABSENT/EXCUSED</b>	<b>Audrey Dunlap</b> , Council Member-Excused
Meeting Began	6:30 pm

### Agenda Topics

- ❖ Call to Order and Roll Call
- ❖ Appointment of Time Keeper
- ❖ Superintendent's Report
- ❖ President's Report
- ❖ Thomasina Howe, Autism Coordinator, District 75
- ❖ Margaret "Peggy" Groce, Director, Travel Training, District 75

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT: GLORIA CORSINO

Thank you to our guest speakers Margaret Groce, Director of Travel Training, affectionately known as Peggy to everyone and Thomasina Howe the Autism Coordinator at D75.

On the suggestion of council member Audrey Dunlap we met with DOE Administration to share our thoughts and desire to have a pilot program of cameras on school buses. We reached out and met with DOE administration in January of this year. We are happy to share that DOE together with OPT will have a pilot program of cameras on school buses that transport students including students of District 75 to begin within the 2016-2017 school year. We thank the DOE together with OPT for hearing the concerns of parents and implementing a change of hope for the safety of our students.

The council attended the World Autism Awareness Day at the United Nations on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. In attendance were Freddie Mac, Ernst and Young, Microsoft and Permanent Missions to the United Nations from Israel, Poland, Denmark and Peru to name a few who co-sponsored the event. We were impressed with the guest speakers and employers who were part of the panel. We understand there is a need for conversation of change and look forward to the UN continuing these conversations. Working with advocacy groups who are at the forefront with those on the autism spectrum. We are hopeful that the conversations will lead to action, educating employers and the public that all persons with disabilities have something to offer and are a viable part of our community.

This is an election year for the CEC's and across the city there are scheduled candidates forum so that parent selectors could meet and hear from the candidates. Just this week Celia Green, 1<sup>st</sup> VP and I attended the forum in Staten Island and were pleased to meet parents, administrators and selectors.

We are currently working on a survey so we can prepare for the upcoming school year to address issues concerns of parents/guardians with children in our district.

We are also preparing for the annual end of the year celebration in June we hope that you will attend please look for our flyer.

Our next calendar meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup> at P009Q@P182Q, 153-27 88t Avenue. We post our meeting flyers and agendas on our Facebook, google plus page and on District 75 website.

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### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: GARY HECHT**

Superintendent Hecht, mentioned:

- Events are happening at the District
- New schools/programs openings
- The district was allocated 1 billion dollars to operate the schools programs and that 99.6 percent went towards instruction. The DOE is finalizing the budget for the coming school year as well as the district .

Deputy Superintendent Joseph mentioned:

NYSTL Funds are used and it's been a challenge for many of our schools over the years who serve the students in alternative assessment because many of the approve text books and materials were not appropriate for many of the school we teach in. in the district for many years we have been looking and researching different curriculum resources that we can use in the programs that will support teaching our students as well as moving along the projector achievement. We are proud to say over the years we have been successful in working with originations and others within our own originations within our schools with their expertise to develop resource materials that are useful to teach the course content that have significant intellectual disabilities.

A couple years ago we presented a number of the resources and curriculum that we were using to the DOE and we advocated for many of them to be identified as common core aligned curriculum resources for students in alternative assortments and that they will be included as part of the curriculum resources that can be ordered through NYSTL funding. We were successful of having that happened as of last year and it's been a game changer as well as how we were to use the funding more affectively. For standardize assessment schools will continue to use the NYSTL funding or common core curriculum approved for standardize assessment. Example of approved purchasing: Smile- reading, common core and Equals-math, common core.

### **STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS WITH AUTISTIC CHILDREN, THOMASINA HOWE, AUTISUM COORDINATOR, DISTRCIT 75**

The outline of the meeting discussion for Strategies for Parents with Autistic Children:

1. Consider sharing the autistic diagnosis with your child.
2. Use your child's needs and interests to help achieve compliance and cooperation.
3. Determine a functional communication system for your child who exhibits problem behavior when agitated.
4. Give your child multiple opportunities to experience the world, e.g. paying for items they want, grocery shopping, sort clothing's for laundry and making a snack
5. Establish rules and stick to them.
6. Help your child be their own advocate.
7. Provide you child with support.

### **TRAVEL TRAINING & STRATEGIES, MARGARET "PEGGY" GROCE, DIRECTOR, TRAVEL TRAINING, DISTRICT 75**

The outline of the meeting discussion for Travel Training:

1. There is a Travel Training Office located in every borough.
2. The District 75 Office of Transition Services is committed to insuring that every student receives the services needed to achieve his or her desired post-secondary outcomes and to become productive members of the community. By working with the administration and staff of every school, the travel trainer seek to insure that skills are developed and supports are provided so that every individual can become as independent as possible.
3. Travel Training is a comprehensive program that teaches students with disabilities how to travel safely and independently on public transportation. Travel Trainers Teachers & Travel Trainers provide individualized, comprehensive, intensive instruction on a one-on-one basis in the skills and behaviors necessary for safe and independent travel on public transportation where appropriate. The student is taught the safest and most direct route to and from school or work site. Included is instruction in pedestrian skills, teaching and reinforcing appropriate and social behaviors, problem solving skills and use of alternate routes. Upon successful completion of the instructional programs students are expected to use public transportation independently.

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RESOLUTIONS & VOTES	MOTION MADE	VOICE -VOTE TALLY

<b>ADJOURMENT</b>	9:00PM
<b>CAL</b>	Submitted by Ramona Garcia, Administrative Assistant , CEC D75