



# CITYWIDE DISTRICT 75 COUNCIL

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CEC District 75  
Special Education

## MINUTES WORKING MEETING

The Working Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, **April 4, 2012** at 6:00 pm at 400 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010. The following people were in attendance.

Working Meeting:

\*Note: Mr. Williams, President called the Working Meeting to order.

Call to Order at 6:15 PM the Working Agenda

### 1. Roll Call

Able Alagbe	Present
Charlene Carroll-Hall	Present
Maureen Dantzler	Present
Diamaris Magarin	Present
Gloria Ann Smith	Present
Alicia Valeus	Present
Joseph Williams	Present
Aliya Rasool	Present

### 2. Superintendent Gary Hecht Reports to the Council

Gary Hecht, Superintendent of District 75 thanked the members for providing him the opportunity to meet with the council. Mr. Hecht stated he is meeting with a lot of groups that represent District 75, what we do as an organization, where we need to go and how to collaborate with each other in order to move the district forward. With that being said they're some expectations that the district has that we need to work collaboratively but also there is an expectation of the district. We don't have to agree with each other it could be good because you hear all points of view and I think being respectable of each other is something that I don't think is negotiable at any meetings I go too (with teachers and Cabinet members). More importantly is that you guys represent the superintendent's office, there is an expectation that we talk about concerns that are about all students in our organization. Any message to that organization as well we give out one message instead of giving out different messages. Prime example Joe sent out today a document to all parent coordinators regarding related service providers come in the office of school health to observe our child to receive funding from Medicaid. We all had different views on it and after I read the document it was clear from page one that it's an opportunity for the DOE to receive additional funds and it will no way impact on any child's service outside of the school. As a parent is a relief to me and I have it in black and white and it comes from a lawyer. We need to get those messages out there and the DOE has to do a better job at communicating those messages as well. It's also important that we share ideas with each other and that we come to our point of view but we come to a resolution with what the issue is. We might not all agree with what the resolution is but I think what happens at a legislation you go up to Albany it's like a mad house and these are people who socialize with each other very closely, they don't agree with each other but have to come up with a resolution. It takes a lot of endurance because when you have a strong point you're going to be adamant in the discussion. As I told my staff we need to support each other. This council was developed under Susan Erber who was a former Superintended followed by Bonnie Brown and then there is myself. This council was established under Susan Erber because Susan felt that special education, district 75 needed a voice and people was listening to us. Susan fought very hard for the establishment for the council. As the system changed you saw the last few years there was the community education council. District 75 it's not in the regulations that we have to have this council. Because that special education council that has Ellen, John and other parents in district 75 represent everybody in special education including district 75. But again when had this reorganization and Joel Klein, (Previous Chancellor) said to me Gary what do want us to do, we have this one council that represents everybody now. Both Barbara and I said that it's important that we have a district 75 council as a liaison to the special ed. council and they agreed to that. We need to make sure that the work that we do is noticed in the citywide council and sometimes I do hear people say what does your council do? I tell them they discuss issues and I have my agendas to fall back on. But I think we need to be very proactive and get the message out there that were an active council that works together. We can argue and disagree with each other but when it comes down to having the final response, Joe is the representative that was elected the final response after you guys had your decision that its one voice. If we have different voices then were going to be given

different voices, were going to have different messages and that concerns me. I'm here this evening to thank you because you're putting time out to do a job that some people can't do and don't want to do. You're representing 23 thousand students a large number of students in special education. You're not only representing your child but children of all those who can't be here. You guys are an important part of our organization again we all may not agree because it gives a better opportunity for us to have a discussion but again there is a level of respect (in general) there is a level of respect we have for each other and I leave you by saying thank you. I want the DOE to see us as a viable council and it worries me when the DOE asks what does your council do? Having you as a support system to discuss what we do as an organization and to get that information out there to the parents. I ask for your continue support for the district and how can we attract more parents at the meetings. We have the meetings at Tweed that is central and the administrators stick their heads in to see who is at the meeting and we have three parents. There are multiple reasons as to why a parent can't come to the meetings but we will have to come up with a plan to figure out how to get parents to attend the meetings; were looking into providing parents with metro cards after they attend the meeting. If you should have any question please feel free to come and see me. Gary asked the council if they have any questions. Gloria Smith council member stated, right now I don't think this council is doing the job that we were put here to do. Were not following the guidelines, we don't following the By-laws, were not following the Chancellors Regulations in most cases. When I came on board we had a goal at that time, we don't have a goal. Like you said each of us have our own opinion, yes but we all need to be respected. Gary agreed, and Gloria continued, so if something is not being done we need to come together and clear this up and if we don't this council will be inactive. Gary replied, I think you brought something up that is important to me that is important. I don't know all of the Chancellors Regulations maybe collectively you check off what we're doing and what were not doing. The goals and vision for this organization you guys have to do that collectively. What do you want to see accomplished during the year, based on the vision of the district what do you guys want to see accomplished, to lead, who to invite during the next meeting? Take out the By-laws and the Chancellors Regulations and review them during the meetings. You all have to work as a team; the parents are an important part of the operations.

### **3. Report on the Resource Fair with The CCSE on April 18, 2012**

Joe Williams submitted a list of thirteen agencies to CCSE to reach out too. Joe noticed four of them were already on their list of contacts to be invited. Joe also mentioned that he has five cases of water donated to the event. Ray Velez, District 75 Family Advocate and Joe Williams will go through a lot of material to print for the fair. Joe mentioned he invited to fair Natalie McQueen, District 75 Coordinator of Transition Services, Oroma H. Mpi, Esq. Senior Staff Attorney of Educational Law Unit, Legal Service, NYC and Mr. Joseph A. Parish, Registered Representative, New England wealth Strategies. He mentioned that it would be a good idea for the invited guest to speak to the parents during the event. The document explaining the Medicaid Reimbursement should be distributed during the meeting. During the meeting we will need people to man the tables and the door to welcome the parents. The event was posted by the A.A.

### **4. Announcement about upcoming events in District 75**

Joe mentioned to the council that we have the Resource Fair on the 18<sup>th</sup>, the EPIC Fair on May 19<sup>th</sup> flyer was provided to the council to review. Maureen Dantzler, council member mentioned June 1<sup>st</sup> the Bklyn Parent Center Conference sponsored by BCID. At the event they will have Workshops, Keynote Speakers, messages raffles and other items at LIU. Joe continued to mention on May 23<sup>rd</sup> is the Samuel Stern Awards, each child will receive a check for 200 dollars, a I-Pad na-no and other awards. The council is invited to attend and present during the Samuel Stern Awards as well as the EPIC Fair; a council member is requested to present opening remarks addressing the parents.

### **5. Ways Council Members Can Get More Involved**

Joe said when the council was first established there were communities that represented schools in each borough (the borough the council member lived). Charlene mentioned the previous council members would get in contact with the assigned schools (PTA/Principals and Parent Coordinators), attend school meetings and provide support to those schools. Joe mentioned that he and Ray Velez, Parent Advocate of D75 have visited 7 to 8 schools in the District to help establish PTA's. Joe said his time is free and open, he can attend meetings on behalf of the council. Able Alagbe said he would attend as long as it's within Queens and he needs for the council to take into account he travels a lot on behalf of his job. Gloria Smith, council member stated that she attends meetings and other functions on behalf of the council. Maureen said she can attend meetings as long as she can book transportation she will attend. Diamaris Margin, council member said it's a good idea but personally she can't commit to it because personal issues at home and because she works for the city and its based on seniority to take time off. Joe said to Ms. Barnes (Parent Applicant for CD75C) even though you're not on the council as of yet will you be able to attend meetings on behalf of the council. Ms. Barnes replied that she would be able to because her time is free. Joe went on to mention the reason he brought this to the council's attention is because for the past two month's DFACE has been given workshops at 52

Chambers Street and what they're doing is calling in members from all of the councils to set rules and regulations for the election for 2012-13. The councils will have mandates presented before the elections that will be part of their day to day operations. DFACE is putting it into action now so it will be already established. The council member will be assigned a number of schools and mandated to report to DFACE. Joe said there are other council members who have been complaining that they're other members who do nothing and are getting reimbursed to sit on a council. There should be a report on what actions council members did monthly. The members of DFACE were taking notes on the suggestions and complaints of the other council members who were in attendance of the meeting. Joe mentioned he would like input from the council to take back to DFACE. The council agreed that the DOE must be aware that there are parents on council's that work and have families. That every notice of a meeting cannot be attended by every council member but possibly those who don't work and can attend the meetings do so and report back to the council. The meetings that the working parents can attend will schedule the meetings into their agenda to attend.

**6. Ms. Cunningham's Request to Speak to the Council regarding Coop Tech**

Ms. Carol Cunningham request to speak to the council regarding their help with Coop Tech. She informed the council the Principal, Mr. Widlum, would like to ask the council for help concerning finding space in Queens (a building or a room) to conduct hands on classroom instructions for its Building Construction Program. The students of Coop Tech would have to the opportunity to practice repairing and restoring existing structures. They will also would for example erect a room within a room to practice things like framing, sheet rocking, installing windows to name a few. Ms. Cunningham provided the contact information of John Widlum, Principal of Coop Tech for further discussion of his request.

**7. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

January 4<sup>th</sup> Working Meeting minutes, January 18<sup>th</sup> Calendar Meeting minutes, February 1<sup>st</sup> Working Meeting minutes were table at the time for approval -no quorum. Will be reviewed and voted on at a later date.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm**