



Citywide Council on High Schools

New York City Department of Education
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January Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes- via Zoom

Wednesday, January 11th, 2022

Roll Call and meeting called to order at 6:10PM by Vice President E. Zakry

Meeting attendees:

S. R. Atteberry, Y. (K.) Bo, E. Garcia, D. Kross, T. Leather, K. Mark, A. O'Shea, V. Pisarevskiy, Anibal Torres, E. Zakry, Superintendent J. Sullivan, Parliamentarian M. Plaisir

Excused Absence: K. Wang

Calendar Meeting

Motion to vote: Motion to approve minutes from the December minutes, D. Kross makes motion, E. Garcia second's motion. Motion passes unanimously.

1. Presentation on New Queens High School Public Hearing- A. Bender- Vice President of External Affairs at the School Construction Authority.

- ◆ Proposed new High School at the former Saint Agnes Parochial School in Queens
- ◆ Discussed notice of filing published late November, site is approximately 48,000 feet, former catholic school.
- ◆ Intended to repurpose existing building for use as a new 659-seat High School for Queens. The SCA has not entered the design phase yet, as they do not own the property yet – so presentation is focused on site, not design. Required to present new sites to local community board and CEC or jurisdiction. 45-day comment period ends January 18.
- ◆ SEQ Review undertaken before presentation to City Council for acquisition
- ◆ For more info can visit sites@nyc.org

Public Comment & Q&A

Council Comment

A. O'Shea: Is there an outdoor space for students to exercise, a library and cafeteria?

A: There is a gymnasium, cafeteria, in the building, as site was previously a HS. The condition is unknown, but it is expected to make alterations, outdoor space will be provided.

S. Atteberry: Will there be Science Labs?

A: Currently no but science labs are standard requirement.

A. Torres: Are there any seats reserved for specialized education students and programs?

A: SCA is not equipped to answer that is primarily for the Division of District Planning to make decision on special education and specialized seats.

A. O'Shea / S. Atteberry: Will the building be ADA compliant? At least handicapped bathrooms or any form of ADA accessibility? Why can't be ADA compliant?

A: Since we will be using existing structure, no. Certificate of occupancy predates the ADA, so allowed to repurpose space as such, assuming that there are structural architectural reasons for maintaining the existing structure. Also have no design so can't answer

E. Zakry: Would you be leasing or purchasing the building? And if acquisition, suggests adding another floor to expand seat capacity.

A: I am happy to share with the design team.

T. Leather: what is the approximate cost of the building?

A: undisclosed information.

A. O'Shea: Will there be access to fields for PSAL sports?

A: No athletic field as part of this project, sharing arrangements of existing fields handled by DOE

Public Comment

A.M. Mule: What is the data to determine the location of the school, or is it availability of building space? Suggests Eastern Queens where capacity is needed.

A: We are siting school boroughwide compared to subdividing Elementary and Middle Schools, the borough with the most seat need is Queens.

S. Aubin- President of QHSC: wanted to share that the expansions to the Queens HS did not fully make new seats just moved students from trailers into the buildings.

2. Elected Rep: City Council Member Rita Joseph, Chair of Education Committee

- ◆ Former educator for 22 years
- ◆ Mid-year adjustment: Championed deal to make sure that schools would not face any more cuts
- ◆ Preliminary budget announcement with the mayor.
- ◆ 4410: pay parity for teachers of Special Needs students in preschool.

Council Comment & Q&A

D. Kross: Clarify on the scope of upcoming hearing around the process of admissions.

A: Rollout was a surprise and was not perfect, but there is room for improvement. Hearing we will be there to listen and learn and make sure they are doing right by the students.

D. Kross: CCHS resolution opposing recommendations of the FSF Working group, 13 high schools are receiving significant cuts. Will share CCHS resolution. Do you have a view on what FSF formula should be?

A: Recommendations still in process.

A. O'Shea: portfolio schools were targeted, why take away funds that go to the school and staff?

A: reiterated that it is not final, and they are working on funding.

A. O'Shea: Why College Bridge Funding was taken away at Townsend Harris HS?

A: would get back to her and will investigate the problem.

R. Britt: City Council, were there lessons learned from doing this.

A: Ensured that as the Mid-year adjustments came around, school remained harmless. At the preliminary hearing we get the chance to hear and make corrections.

A. Torres: Address the busing issues with students where they are going to school late, not able to get seats for school buses, and young children are with older children.

A: Held Hearing recently in topic and addressed issue and will continue to speak up for students on this issue.

T. Leather: found that the FSF amount is not enough (only 26% of funds that go in classroom), is it possible to increase the percentage of funds?

A: Agree, also base funding of \$225K, should go up.

E. Zakry: Many small, inefficiently run schools, makes system expensive. Co-located schools, administrative costs. Bigger school would allow efficiencies and better choice for students in terms of electives and clubs. Enrolment losses and performance issues

A: some small schools thriving – transfer schools particularly

Public Comment:

R. Britt: “surprise” of budget cuts at city council. Lessons learned?

C. Kwok: most expensive school system in the world, \$38B budget, high per student cost basis. Can we get more accountability from the DOE to do more. Better procurement – school bus... What would city council do / chair of education say?

A: agree, need to do more with less and will ask that question – hearing on busing, \$2B

3. Presentation on School Safety from Mona Davids- The New York Safety Coalition:

- ◆ Founding members of the New York Safety Coalition, a citywide group of parents, religious leaders, and community-based organizations, advocate for the safety of children in school, traveling to and from school. Major part of membership is school safety agents made up of primarily brown and black women. Looking to hire more SSAs

- ◆ Alarming number of weapons in schools, violence, attacks all over NYC, jeopardizing students' safety. Need more SSA. Were previously 5K, now 3K. Need to advocate for better wages.
- ◆ Pushing for a mobile task force team where NYPD is stations outside of schools to provide safe corridors, and passage to school.
- ◆ Students bringing weapons because afraid of traveling to school. Also advocate for mobile task team. SSA = civil servants, now under the purview of the NYPD. We originally under DOE.
- ◆ Lost 200 officers who were part of mobile task unit, providing safe corridors – by bus stops and train stations. Most incidents happen outside of the schools
- ◆ Shortage is almost 50% - putting our kids and communities at risk.
- ◆ Spread the word that SSA is hiring.

Public Comment & Q&A

Council Comment

A. O'Shea: Grateful for the idea of Mobile task force team as Queens has had high incidences.

SRA: thankful for the work, want the whole school and area around the school to

AT: PTA president in other schools, partnered, got temporary help with patrol cars outside school but need to continue and elevate these concerns

Public Comment

G. Samuels: long time to apply for SSA

C. Baez: very passionate about safety, so important

R. Izquierdo: went from 15 to 10 agents at Truman campus, school with 5 programs, truly unsafe and problematic. Disturbs school day and learning.

T. Foster, CEC19: SSA, doesn't not believe that number of SSA should be increased, believes it should be limited. Education over police presence.

R. Westbrook -SSA is stationary. Not always physically to move around and cover grounds

J. Del Toro Alonso: ask why uniforms of SSA so like police officer. Also do they need different weapons / tools to face challenges that they have in schools

A: uniform because identifiable

4. Presenters/Presentations Superintendent Fred Walsh- Social, Emotional Supports, offerings, and our approach at CUNY and Urban Assembly.

- ◆ Social emotional learning is the core founding of the schools.
- ◆ Advisory programs, meet in small groups or circles, with teachers with the expectation that they develop strong relationships with each other and with staff members.

- ◆ Push strong values of self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, and social awareness.
- ◆ Schools commit to a program called the Resilience Scholars Program, which follows student throughout all 4 years through advisory and resilience scholar's principles are taught in the classroom, teacher screen for social, emotional competencies to tailor their curriculum to students.
- ◆ Providing coaching, along with school staff in the use of yoga practices and mindfulness workshops.

Public comment & Q & A

Council comment

KM: Great program for HS but only “tip of the iceberg”. Can you scale program to younger grades, particularly MS?

Public Comment

C. Kwok: criticism of restorative circles being ineffective. Victims do not feel safe if brought back in the classroom with perpetrators. Mindfulness, growth mindset, encourage effort and persistence. Is there evidence that restorative circles work when there is one violent and disruptive student?

A: restoring health of a community through student led conversation, best when done right, led by a committed trained educator. But if no true restoration, probably not the best.

Recognizing: Soojin, office of Senator John Liu, chair of NYC education committee in NY State Senate

Announcing: CEC election – open through Feb 13 to run, visit DOE site. Juliana Federoff

5. Treasurer's Report:

- ◆ Total Budget: \$25,000
- ◆ Current Balance: \$22,985.78
- ◆ Member Reimbursements for December: \$253.90

EZ: will propose budget changes in business meeting

6. Committee Report

Town Hall Committee

- Requested Extra Time to be 2 hours
- Location: Mary Bergtraum First choice, Martin Luther King High School Second choice
- Theme: Safety, and Mental Health

- Plan to have next meeting.

Capital Planning Committee

- Queens Borough President Donovan Richards recently opened application for Reso A money.

Communication and Technology Meeting on January 23rd 5 PM

CCSE report

- CCSE is planning a Town Hall meeting with the Chancellor in March, date to come out soon
- IEP conference coming in late spring, date to come as we get closer to date
- D75 seats will be added to each CEC as of January 23

7. Superintendent Report: J. Sullivan

- High School Superintendents submitted their DCEP reports Friday, they are in the process of being viewed, we will get updates in 2 weeks.
- High Schools are getting ready for Regents
- In transfer districts expanding job certification for students and for families
- Started remote academy, which is being funded through community schools and students, supporting students in community temporary housing who have fallen behind at the end of the pandemic.

8. Presidents Report:

- ♦ HEAT meeting with HS students – giving opportunities on financial literacy
- ♦ CCSE: Town hall with Chancellor in March 2023

9. Public Comments:

- S. Ferugio – LaG parent, complains about students being unhappy because of principal
- Y. P. Koh – LaG parent – echoes Susan’s comments about terrible principal
- C. Andoscia – LaG parent – student failing classes, can’t get classes they want, those who can afford it get private tutors
- J. Berk - LaG parent. New grading policy is terrible
- R. Izquierdo – need to have functioning PTA, including safety and Title 1 (mandated structure to oversee expenditures. Parents don’t always feel welcome and knowledgeable. Maybe have meet and greet sessions. Also have superintendent bring parents to meetings. Transfer of ownership, report on “glows”. Also added “SLT and safety tips” to create a relaxed space to engage parents and motivate them to volunteer and serve on PTAs
- C. Baez: asking about capital plan submission
- J. Hahn: not a parent at LaG but students discussing it outside of school and issue is the principal. Ask CCHS to focus on FSF and anti-education cuts
- Statement from R. Fremmer: complains about the principal not communicating with parents, making unilateral decisions, and reducing academic opportunities, refuses to attend meetings with parents and superintendent shows disrespect

New Business

- Feb 28th, Black History Month Program
- A. Torres Interested in presented

Motion to vote: D. Kross made motion to cancel February 8th meeting and conduct Special and Business Meeting on February 15th Providing that the Fair Student Funding Group Can Present, A. O'Shea seconded motion.
Motion passes unanimously.

D. Kross makes motion to adjourn meeting, A. O'Shea seconds motion, motion passes unanimously
Calendar Meeting Adjourned at 9:31PM

Business Meeting

Business Meeting called to order at 9:35PM

Meeting attendees:

S. R. Atteberry, Y. (K.) Bo, E. Garcia, D. Kross, T. Leather, K. Mark, A. O'Shea, V. Pisarevskiy, Anibal Torres, E. Zakry, Superintendent J. Sullivan, Parliamentarian M. Plaisir

Excused Absent: K. Wang

Motion to vote: D. Kross makes motion

- ◆ Rename "consultant for annual report" to "Professional services"
- ◆ Rename Refreshments to be renamed "Event Planning"
- ◆ Close the Office equipment account:
 - o Move \$700.00 to Professional Services
 - o Move \$260.28 on the p-Card
 - o Move \$900.00 to the newly created Event Planning line

S. Atteberry second motion, motion passes with a vote of 8-0

New Business:

Motion to vote: Motion that Chancellor comes 30 min prior to the Town Hall to meet and greet with CCHS members and superintendents. A. O'Shea makes motion, D. Kross seconds. Motion passes with a vote of 8-0

Motion to adjourn S.R. Atteberry second motion, motion passes unanimously

Business Meeting Adjourned by President at 10:38PM