

**Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL)**  
**Thursday September 17, 2015**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tweed Courthouse, 52 Chambers St, NY, NY**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

The Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL) Annual Meeting was called to order on September 17, 2015 at 6:45 pm. The following members were present: Teresa Arboleda, Darihana Gonzales (student), Lenora Lokaj, Miguelina Martinez and Mitchel Wu. The following members were late: Awatef Ibrahim (arrived 15 minutes late) and Guillermo Rodriguez (arrived 10 minutes late). The following members were absent: Yenny Almonte (Excused), Christiana Assad (Unexcused), Bin Huang (excused) Yohanna Martinez (work excused), and Sunita Singh (Excused).

Ms. Andino, the Administrative Assistant of the Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL) called for nominations for CCELL President for 2015-2016. Ms. Ibrahim called a motion nominating Teresa Arboleda as President, and seconded by Mr. Wu. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Andino called for nominations for Vice-President of the CCELL for 2015-2016. Ms. Arboleda called a motion nominating Awatef Ibrahim as CCELL Vice-President, and seconded by Mr. Wu. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Andino called for nominations for CCELL Recording Secretary for 2015-2016. Ms. Ibrahim called a motion nominating Mitchel Wu as CCELL Recording Secretary, and seconded by Ms. Arboleda. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Andino called for nominations for CCELL Treasurer for 2015-2016. Ms. Arboleda called a motion to nominating Miguelina Martinez as CCELL Treasurer, and seconded by Mr. Wu. Approved unanimously.

The following were elected as CCELL officers for the term ending June 30, 2016:

**President:** Teresa Arboleda  
**Vice-President:** Awatef Ibrahim  
**Recording Secretary:** Mitchel Wu  
**Treasurer:** Miguelina Martinez

Annual meeting adjourned at 6:51pm

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**This is a meeting held jointly with the Citywide Council on High Schools (CCHS)**

**CALENDAR MEETING**

The Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL) Calendar meeting was called to order on September 17, 2015 at 6:54 pm. The following members were present: Teresa Arboleda, Miguelina Castro, Darihana Gonzales (student), Awatef Ibrahim, Lenora Lokaj, Guillermo Rodriguez and Mitchel Wu. Bin Huang arrived 45 minutes late. The following members were absent: Yenny Almonte (Excused), Christiana Assad (Unexcused), Yohanna Martinez (work excused), and Sunita Singh (Excused). CCHS members present: Constance Asiedu and Michelle Gebrail.

**\* Introduction of Student appointee to CCELL – Darihana Gonzalez.** Darihana Gonzalez was welcomed as the CCELL's first High School Student representative. Ms Gonzalez spoke briefly.

**\* Resolution – Approval of CCELL Budget for 2015-2016 year.** Ms. Ibrahim called a motion to pass the CCELL Budget for 2015-2016. Seconded by Mr. Wu and approved unanimously.

**President Report**

**\* Training for AA's and CCECs.** Ms. Arboleda and Ms. Andino attended the AA & President Training on August 31, 2015. It was agreed that the training was very informative and that FACE involving both AAs and CEC members in trainings is a step forward.

**\* Possible CCELL Vacancy.** Ms. Christina Assad hasn't attended any CCELL meetings and didn't attend the June orientation. The AA and FACE have called, texted, emailed and sent a letter but she has never replied. After discussion, in accordance with its by-laws, a vacancy was declared for a parent vacancy on the CCELL. Ms. Ibrahim called a motion declaring a Vacancy, seconded by Mr. Wu. Motion declaring a CCELL parent vacancy passed unanimously.

**\* Mayoral Control – Resolution.** Mayoral control has been extended by the NY State Legislature for one year. The Education Council Consortium (ECC), composed of members from citywide and district education councils, has passed a resolution in support of amendments to the law that would provide for check and balances on the power of the mayor.

**\* Event at Bronx Latin School Sept 16 – Mayor announced reforms to raise achievement across all public schools.** Mayor Bill de Blasio laid out new reforms to achieve excellence and equity across all NYC public schools. The vision is a school system that begins earlier to give kids a solid foundation; makes rigorous and challenging courses the norm; ensures students master critical skills on time and invests in a path to college for every NYC public school student.

**\* Joint Conversation with CCHS on 'How can ELLs participate and succeed in the Specialized High School Process?'** CCHS and the CCELL members present were interested in discussing and attempting to address the low percentage of ELLs passing the specialized HS test. , Former CCHS member Stanley Ng participated in tonight's meeting and provided his expertise on this issue, including information about the difference between the Specialized HS and the Screened/unscreened HS processes. It was suggested to form a joint CCHS/CCELL committee to address testing, enrollment and acceptance issues regarding challenges faced by ELLs in even understanding the process involved in applying and taking the Specialized HS exam as well as the Screened HS. It was agreed to eventually write a resolution pointing out the problems and offering possible solutions. The CCHS invited the CCELL to their meeting with enrollment.

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\* **Division of English Language Learners – Yalitza Vasquez-Johnson, Chief of Staff.** Item was tabled since the Division of English Language Learners was not present at this meeting.

\* **Discussion and vote on Resolution regarding Translation for Citywide and District Education Council.** Mr. Wu read the resolution regarding Translation for Citywide and District Education Councils. After discussion, resolution was amended to reflect suggested change by CCHS member. The Resolution passed with six votes.

The Calendar meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm

**BUSINESS MEETING**

The Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL) Calendar meeting was called to order on September 17, 2015 at 8:04 pm. The following members were present: Teresa Arboleda, Darihana Gonzales (student), Bin Huang, Awatef Ibrahim, Lenora Lokaj, Miguelina Martinez, Guillermo Rodriguez, and Mitchel Wu. The following members were absent: Yenny Almonte (Excused), Christiana Assad (Unexcused), Yohanna Martinez (work excused), and Sunita Singh (Excused).

\* **NYC Charter School Center, Special Ed Collaboration & ELL Support Team – Melissa Katz and Dixon Deutsch.** Ms. Katz and Mr. Deutsch had requested to meet with the CCELL at its business meeting. Mr. Deutsch left early but Ms. Katz spoke about the Charter Center's ELL Program and was interested in learning about best practices for ELL students and their families.

\* **Update of CCELL Website and Social Media.** All CCELL social media needs to be updated. Mr. Wu reported that the CCELL Facebook page is getting more 'likes' every day.

\* **FACE Survey regarding Council Issues –Due in October Delay to get further input.** CCELL members were asked to review the draft of the CCELL in reply to the CEC/CW survey questions and submit any comments By October 1, 2015 to Ms. Andino. The completed survey is due on October 5.

\* **Review of Presentations and Meeting schedule for 2015-2016 school year.** This item was tabled to the next CCELL meeting on October 6.

\* **Annual Report.** Gail Robinson will work with the Council to write the CCELL annual report for about \$2000. Ms. Andino will start sending pertinent materials to Ms. Robinson.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.