



## Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL) and Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Tweed Courthouse, 52 Chambers St, NY, NY, 10007

### CALENDAR MEETING

The Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL) and Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE) Calendar meeting was called to order on December 19, 2019 at 6:30pm. The following CCELL members were present: Hebatalla Ibrahim, Leonora Lokaj, Vincent Lu, Charos Mukhtorova, Nargiza Rafieva, Liliana Thompson, Christopher Wagner, Mitchel Wu and Dariusz Zawislak. The following members were absent with an excuse: Muneer Abualroub, Elmahdi Oummih, and Julie Zhu. The following CCSE members were present: Gloria Corsino, Abi Myrna Fenelon, Noah Gotbaum, Paullette Healy, Ellen McHugh, Erika Newsome, Azalia Volpe, Margot Weinstock, and Carmen Robles. The following members were absent with an excuse: Cynthia Arbulu Vacca, Artelia Gotbaum and Tamara Foye.

**Student Performance – The Ellery Street Players.** The student of the Ellery Street Players form Brooklyn Transition Center P.S. 373 performed several Christmas songs.

**Presentations: Walkabout Bronx High School.** The presentation on a new public high school proposed to open in the Bronx in September, 2020, Walkabout Bronx High School was given by Ben Wild, Executive Director of walkabout Program. The presentation included the following:

- The school is up for PEP vote on January 29, 2020
- Structurally Anti-Racist, Experiential Community High School
- Community Project
- A continuation and expansion to the Walkabout Program
- Who is Walkabout for
- The best preparation for the real world is: Applied Academics, Internship, Service Learning, Wilderness, Presentation

**Christina Foti – Chief Executive Director of the Division of Specialized Instruction and Student Support and Lisa Pineda, Associate Director of the Community & Family Empowerment of the Division of Multilingual Learners.**

Christina Foti, Chief Executive Director of the Division of Specialized Instruction and Student Support could not attend the CCELL/CCSE joint meeting. Lisa Pineda, Associated Director of the Community & Family Empowerment of the Division of Multilingual Learners introduced herself and her team and discussed the following information:

- Application process for Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PR/HYLI) partial college scholarship
- Possible partnership with Microsoft to provide video conferences for CEC ELL parents members for upcoming trainings
- In discussion with FACE on possible team building retreat
- Talks on how to address the ELL student population living in temporary housing and addressing their needs
- ELL students that have aged out are training staff at the Welcome Centers for better awareness on the needs of incoming ELL students.

**CCELL and CCSE approval of November 12, 2019 meeting minutes.** The CCSE reviewed and approved their November 12, 2019 meeting minutes with a vote of 8-1. The CCELL tabled their meeting minutes until their January 4, 2020.



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### President's Report – CCELL and CCSE

**Update on data requested from DML – Christopher Wagner.** Mr. Wagner mentioned following a request from back in August 2019 that provided specific data about enrollment numbers and bilingual programs in the city were requested for the council to better understand how well students are served by current bilingual programs. The DML had just released that request and it is significantly large data. As council it should be discussed during the business meeting to see how to proceed in reviewing the data.

**Discussion on helping and supporting ELL students who graduate H.S. – Hebatalla Ibrahim.** Ms. Ibrahim suggested that the council should work with DML and other organization to help ELL students with additional help when these students attend College.

**CEC15 and CEC20 joint meeting on December 11, 2019 – Dr. Dariusz Zawislak.** Dr. Zawislak (CCELL member) and Ms. Healy (CCSE member) attended the joint meeting of CEC15/CEC20 on December 11, 2019. It was mentioned the Larry Nguyen of the DML gave a presentation on MLL programs in NYC Schools. There was a discussion on District Initiatives that Support our Students and each other, where D20 Immigration Advisory Council, Chunyo Ou and Ana Aguilar spoke and D15 Equity Congress, Principal Nicole Lansillotto (IS497) spoke. D15 Superintendent spoke about Culturally Relevant Curriculum. Complaints are being filed with CEC20 and D20 Superintendent regarding CEC20 announcing their business meeting was private and not letting parents attend.

**Dr. Dariusz Zawislak Testimony on December 16, 2019 at the Assembly Standing Committee on Education.** Dr. Zawislak attended the Assembly Standing Committee on Education on December 16, 2019. He presented his Testimony and if further discussion needs to be made it can be discussed during the CCELL Business meeting.

**CCSE Co-President.** Ms. McHugh discussed the process of the CCSE Annual Report. She also announced that the CCSE is looking for a venue for their IEP conference. It's been suggested to reach out to the Public Advocate for suggestions. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Public Library is being considered.

**Annual Report (CCSE)** The CCSE members working on the Annual reported the following:

- Azalia Volpe reported on students in temporary housing and ELLs
- Margot Weinstock reported on Charter Schools
- Poullette Healy reported on transportation
- Ellen McHugh reported on IEP process
- Noah Gotbaum is considering to work on services on non-compliance and the importance of having it represented on the report

**Introducing the New CCELL/CCSE Liaison Claudette Agard.** Mr. Wu introduced and welcomed the new FACE liaison for the CCSE and the CCELL Claudette Agard.

**Public Comments.** Any question asked by the council members and the public was answered by the DOE staff and the presenters. Craig Spencer from CCD75 spoke about the resolution that are being worked on in both Brooklyn and the Bronx for special education accommodation within newly built schools.

**Adjourned at 8:28 pm**



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### **BUSINESS MEETING**

The Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL) Business meeting was called to order on December 19, 2019 at 8:29pm. The following CCELL members were present: Hebatalla Ibrahim, Leonora Lokaj, Vincent Lu, Charos Mukhtorova, Nargiza Rafieva, Liliana Thompson, Christopher Wagner, Mitchel Wu and Dariusz Zawislak. The following members were absent with an excuse: Muneer Abualroub, Elmahdi Oummih, and Julie Zhu.

**President's Comment.** Mr. Wu addressed the council and stated that if any members attending other meetings should represent themselves as parents and if anyone wants to be represented as a CCELL member, you must let the AA and the rest of the council what meeting you will be attended so everyone is aware. A report should be made on the next calendar meeting. Also be mindful that when you attend and speak up and it is on a subject that the Council did not discuss and determined a stance on, you have to make clear that you are only representing your own opinions and not that of the council.

**Update on Student Presentation.** This item was table for the council's next meeting in January, 2020.

**Discussion on Dr. Dariusz Zawislak Suggestions.** Dr. Zawislak started his suggestion by the council coming together to write a resolution regarding the bias language display by CEC20 member Dr. Jacky Cody. Mr. Lu explain to the council what happened back in the beginning of the school year and expressed that as a council they all have to voice that her behavior is not allowed. The council discussed the issue and agreed that if they write a resolution it state that the CCELL doesn't agree on any Bias Language of any kind from anyone and that it should be suggested that a culture responsive training should be provided for all CCEC members. The council agreed that further discussion on this matter is needed. Dr. Zawislak also spoke about the following suggestions:

- Writing a resolution to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Network for School Improvement and NYC DOE with a five-year grant that will help strengthen instruction for multilingual learners in 45 schools though out the City.
- Purchasing *The Bilingual Revolution, The Future of Education is in Two Languages* by Fabrice Jaumont and *Prepared, What Kids Need for a Fulfilling Life* by Diane Tavenner.
- Regarding the Testimony Dr. Zawislak presented at Assembly Standing Committee Education on December 16, 2019, he proposed a resolution to reduce communication paper given to student and for school to have a "Home Language Day" where teachers can get feedback from student to see what languages are spoken at home.
- Suggestion on changing the council's name to "Citywide Council on Multilingual Learners"
- Suggestion of a resolution to increase the number of languages the NYC DOE translate from 9 to 11, adding Polish and Italian.

Mr. Wu proposed to all the member to please share their suggestion to the A/A prior to the Meeting so the rest of the members can have enough time to review the suggestion and to research if necessary.

**Discussion on future presentation and Events for January to June 2020.** This item was table for the council's next meeting in January, 2020.

**Adjournment at 9:00pm**