



# CITYWIDE DISTRICT 75 COUNCIL

GEC District 75  
Special Education

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## MINUTES WORKING MEETING

The Working Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, **November 2, 2011** at 6:00 pm at 45-18 Court Square, Long Island City, NY 11101. The following people were in attendance.

\*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
Jackie Pierre-Louis	Absent
Allison Bridges-Matthews	Absent
Diamaris Magarin	Present
Gloria Ann Smith	Present
Alicia Valeus	Present
Joseph Williams	Present

### 2. Consideration of Agenda and Time Allocations

### 3. Appointment of Time Keeper

Charlene Carroll-Hall, council member

### 4. Jesse Mojica, Executive Director of Division of Family and Community Engagement

Jesse Mojica introduced himself and thanked the council for meeting with him. Mr. Mojica informed the council that he is introduced as the Executive Director of DFACE however the best title he has is father of two sons. His son Adam ten years ago was diagnosis with autism; he lost the ability to talk and started to drift into himself. Jesse and his wife who resided in the Bronx unfamiliar with the education policy started to reach out to the community for information and help. He informed the council to help Adam he immersed himself in learning about education policy while in District 8-Bronx. Mr. Mojica was appointed to the Committee Board-Bronx; served on the education committee, was appointed by the former Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion to serve on the Panel of Educational Policy and under Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. for five and half years as the Director of Education Policy at Borough Hall.

Since his appointment to DFACE he and his team have hit the ground running and have had the pleasure of speaking to the president of the council. One meeting in particular where there was the busing issue and the parents who experienced the horror of what happened was heard. He wants to hear what parents have to say and his colleagues have been very supportive. He wants to make sure that within his department information to families is available and addressed. Mr. Mojica mentioned the Chancellors speech on family engagement and the variety of standards that they are implementing.

The Partnership Standards: Guidelines for schools on how to engage/involve families on the school level (using models and how to implement these guidelines). This was formatted out of a working group of parent coordinators and various school personnel as well as looking at parent engagement strategies throughout the country: Denver and Charlotte and the work of Dr. Karen Map. In the pilot program represented is an elementary, middle, high school and a district 75 school. Measuring what was the parents engagement was before and seeing where is was afterwards and fine tune it after the calendar year. Then we are looking at expanding the pilot to other schools.

The Parent Academy: Workshops for families in each of the borough initially starting with two in every borough on different subjects (common core, special education, transition). It should be informative on information for families in every borough and providing parents with trainings.

As we expand the standards and having that parent academy assist at the school level with the parent coordinator and the school leadership at the school the partnership so that the issues of the standards continue to get the support at the school level.

We spoke on the importance of the parent coordinator and looked at their role that is the point of contact and receives complaints. The parent coordinator is the resources of information at the school the parent coordinator should be the facilitator of parent engagement. Working with our division gear and support them to fore full that role. We also saw he need of a web page (DOE Website) for the parent coordinator that will have a lit of resources. There is also a family page (DOE Website) that the information is more accessible.

Jesse thanked the council for providing him the opportunity to meet and looks forward to working with them.

**5. Meeting Candidates for the Citywide District 75 Council**

The council met with Marion R. Lopez, candidate for the Citywide District 75 Council. After the question and answer session, the council welcomed Ms. Lopez to serve on the Council. Resolution #21-Citywide District 75 Council Filling a Vacancy will be presented and voted on during the November's calendar Meeting

**6. Review of 2011-2012 Calendar Schedule & November Calendar Meeting: Novembers Public Meeting and Decembers Meeting Outreach**

The November's Calendar Meeting will be held at the Battery Park School. Invited guest presenter Godfrey Rivera, Co-Director, Metropolitan Parent Center of Sinergia; presentation I.E.P. Know your rights. Also presenting on November is Jamie Pagliaro, Executive VP of Rethink Autism.

The Decembers Calendar Meeting will be held at 721Q @ Queens OTC, Charlene Carroll-Hall, council member has invited a dance group to perform and some of the dancers are from district 75.

**7. 2011 Draft Amendment to The Fiscal Years 2010-2014 Capital Plan**

The council reviewed the Capital Plan Amendment and others items sent from K. Grimm's Office. The Public Hearing Notification is scheduled for January 4, 2011 at 45-18 Court Square at 6pm.

**8. Joint Hearing Assignments**

The council reviewed the District 75 and Proposal for Significant Changes in School Utilization sent by Portfolio Planning. The council members, who volunteered to contact the Principals, PTA, will submit their findings to the council and attend the PEP Vote representing D75 council. Council members are the following:

Marion R. Lopez for 75X017

Joe Williams for 75K373@79K575

Maureen Dantzler for 15K429

Charlene Carroll-Hall for 75M138

**9. Council Protocol**

Council Protocol was presented by Joseph Williams. The council reviewed and discusses suggestions presented by Mr. Williams for the council.

**10. Council Reimbursements and Monthly Budget: Gloria Smith**

Gloria Smith, Treasurer for the council reviewed with the council the monthly budget as well as the procedures when submitting the monthly reimbursements. Monthly reimbursements will be submitted at the Working Meeting, reviewed by Gloria and approved by Mr. Williams, President and submitted by the Administrative Assistant the next day.

**11. Council Website/Council Parent Booklet**

Maureen Dantzer, council member and the administrative assistant will format the council website. Maureen asked the council if there were any suggestions on what will be on the website and new Facebook page and the council decided to leave the decisions to Maureen.

**12. Revisited: Camp Fair 2012 / RSCN: Allison Bridges-Matthews**

Tabled Ms. Matthews was not in attendance to present the information she has regarding the Camp Fair.

**13. Council Open Table Discussion**

Joe Williams brought to the council's attention the changes regarding Medicaid/Medicare and how it affects special education. The DOE have provided parents with a consent letter to bill Medicare for the services provided. The council wants to bring to the attention of the parents their rights regarding the DOE's consent letter as well as a guest speaker during their calendar (Public Meeting).

**14. Administrative Assistant Request: Ramona Garcia**

Ramona Garcia submitted her vacation dates to the council; December 23<sup>rd</sup> to January 3, 2012.

**15. Note:**

Jackie Pierre-Louis, council member provided the council with a letter of resignation dated October 7, 2011. The letter was forward to the council members of the Citywide District 75 Council, to Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor of the NYC Department of Education as well Ewel Napier and Ariel Guerrero of Division of Family and Community Engagement.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm