

Community Education Council 31 Meeting

**BUSINESS
MINUTES**

APRIL 4, 2011

6:30 PM

**PETRIDES COMPLEX
BUILDING C, CONFERENCE CENTER
715 OCEAN TERRACE
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301**

April 4, 2011 Business Meeting Minutes (attached to May 2, 2011 Business Meeting Agenda)
An audio-taped record of all CEC Meetings is available for review under Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) procedures.

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| TYPE OF MEETING | Business Meeting |
| FACILITATOR | Sam T. Pirozzolo, <i>President</i> |
| NOTE TAKER | Angelic Sealy, <i>Recording Secretary</i> |
| ATTENDEES | Frank Squicciarini, <i>1st Vice-President</i>; Toni Ann Barone-Franciosa, <i>2nd Vice-President</i>; Angelic Sealy, <i>Recording Secretary</i>; Michael Reilly, <i>Treasurer</i>; Steven Beck; Peter Calandrella; Ting Lei; Rhonda Whitfield – Erminia Claudio, <i>Community Superintendent, District 31</i> |
| ABSENT | John Chadwick, Jr. |
| APPROVAL OF MINUTES | Minutes of March 7, 2011 APPROVED as written. |

As there was no objection to the content of the minutes as submitted, the minutes of March 7, 2011 were accepted by general & unanimous consent of the Council.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – SAM PIROZZOLO

- Attended CEC Presidents' meeting with Chancellor Cathie Black on March 28th; prior to meeting with Chancellor Black a large group of CEC Presidents met and discussed what topics we would like to bring up to the Chancellor, such as budget cuts, the effects on children, etc. The meeting with the Chancellor was well attended by approximately 40 people; we were able to ask questions of the Chancellor. Some of the topics covered at that meeting: elimination of the local diplomas in 2012, which impacts special education students because they now have to meet the state standards for high school diplomas; NYS common core standards; closing failing high schools; student drop-out rates; budget cuts, etc. Discussion followed regarding how elimination of the local diploma may cause students to fall by the wayside, especially special education students; whether the NY State law or Federal law is the reason for the change and the common core standards; that more students may have to stay in high school for more than 4 years and that many more may be forced to get GED diplomas.
- The yellow school bus trial is still pending in the Appeals Court; as of April 14th the case was not yet on the court calendar docket. Mr. Reilly said that there is a pending bill in the NYS Senate to establish "safety zones" that would allow yellow school busing for all students who live within a safety zone. If this bill passes, probably Staten Island and Queens would be able to take advantage of the designation of "safety zones". This bill was referred to the Senate Education Committee.
- Regarding rezoning for the South Shore, this has been discussed with the DoE Office of Portfolio Development. DoE does not believe that rezoning is necessary at this time; Superintendent Claudio said that she and the District Family Advocate's Office have not been receiving any phone calls or requests about rezoning the South Shore. Mr. Pirozzolo suggested that perhaps an evening meeting in late April or early May can be scheduled for parents who are asking about rezoning. Both Mr. Pirozzolo and Superintendent Claudio agreed to ask the principals of the middle schools on the South Shore if any parents have been asking them about possible rezoning. Since it appears to be a non-issue at this time, perhaps we can leave it for now and revisit it later if necessary.
- Common Core Standards may be a problem for certain districts who have students struggling now – what will happen to these students under the more rigorous common core standards? This is not a serious problem in our district because our schools are not failing schools. Ms. Whitfield added that in many disadvantaged neighborhoods, there are serious problems that students must cope with outside of school, such as poverty and survival itself, and this impacts their ability to learn in school.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE – ERMINIA CLAUDIO

- Regarding Kindergarten registration: parents can opt to apply for kindergarten at any school, at this time schools are holding onto applications to see how many applicants are zoned for their schools; depending on the number of available seats, many out-of-zone students may be accepted; the principals will probably wait until this summer to make those decisions. Mr. Calandrella asked how non-zoned Pre-K students are considered for enrollment in the Kindergarten at their non-zoned school; Ms. Claudio said that if a Pre-K student is not zoned for the school they attend, they are not given priority admission to that school for Kindergarten.
- Common Core State Standards are now being introduced in all our schools; the CFNs are providing training for teachers on the standards; the inquiry teams are working on this, but it is a lot to cover; there is a sense of urgency to get this done.
- There is a new rigorous tenure policy; there are probably about 110 common-branch teachers coming up for tenure this year; aside from the principals' evaluations there are many other things taken into account to award tenure, such as initiative they have been part of, how they contribute to the community, professional development they have taken part in, etc. The UFT has been meeting with non-tenured teachers to let them know what is being looked at and how to compile a portfolio or body of evidence for tenure.
- Arts are alive and well in many of our middle schools are holding musical performances; they are doing more with less; attended IS 61's show ("Hairspray") which was terrific; the energy is amazing; there are many great things going on in spite of losing funding; middle school bands are still great. Art work is still on the walls; art galleries are still in schools; these creative students are our future.

REVIEW/DISCUSSION – COUNCIL MEMBERS

RESOLUTION REQUESTING REVISION OF NYS EDUCATION LAW TO REQUIRE THAT CHARTER SCHOOLS LOCATED IN DOE FACILITIES PAY MARKET -VALUE RENT

This resolution was written by Noah Gotbaum, President of CEC 3. It requests that charter schools pay market-rate rent for any space they use in a DoE school. After review of the resolution and discussion, the CEC members agreed with the resolution and will vote on it at tonight's Calendar Meeting.

CEC ELECTION PROCESS TIMELINE

Mr. Pirozzolo reminded those present about the upcoming CEC Elections and reviewed the timeline:

- 03/25/11-04/22/11 ~ Parents interested in running for a seat on a CEC can nominate themselves by completing an application online or by mail.

- 04/27/11-05/03/11 ~ District and borough parent leaders will host forums for parents to meet and ask questions of CEC candidates.
 - 05/01/11-05/07/11 ~ All NYC public school parents can cast online advisory votes for CEC candidates.
 - 05/10/11-05/17/11 ~ PTA Presidents, Treasurers and Recording Secretaries will select all of the new CEC Council Members for 2011-2013.
 - 06/01/11 ~ CEC Members for 2011-2013 will be announced and the election results will be published online.
- Mr. Pirozzolo said that the process seems to be moving quickly, and when he submitted his candidate's application online, he was the 65th applicant and that is probably a city-wide number.

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| ADJOURNMENT | Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM |
| BUSAPR11 | SUBMITTED BY KATHY BALDASSANO, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, CEC 31 |