

Community Education Council 31 Meeting

**BUSINESS
MINUTES**

OCTOBER 3, 2011

8:30 PM

**P.S. 58
AUDITORIUM
77 MARSH AVENUE
Staten Island, NY 10314**

October 3, 2011 Business Meeting Minutes (attached to November 7, 2011 Business Meeting Agenda)
An audio-taped record of all CEC Meetings is available for review under Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) procedures.

TYPE OF MEETING	Business Meeting
FACILITATOR	Sam Pirozzolo, President
NOTE TAKER	Kathy Baldassano, Administrative Assistant
ATTENDEES	Frank Squicciarini, 1st Vice-President; Steven Beck, 2nd Vice-President; Peter Calandrella, Treasurer; Michael Reilly, Recording Secretary; Tamica Fairley; John Harkins; Ting Lei; Franca Okeiche – Erminia Claudio, Community Superintendent, District 31
ABSENT	Rhonda Whitfield
SPECIAL GUESTS	Dr. John B. King, Jr., NYS Commissioner of Education Christine Cea, Member, NYS Board of Regents Shael Suransky, NYC DoE Deputy Chancellor
<p>Prior to convening the Business Meeting, a public Parent Forum entitled, "An Evening with NYS Commissioner of Education Dr. John B. King, Jr." was held, beginning at 6:30 PM. During this event, a PowerPoint presentation on the new NYS Common Core Standards (CCS) was offered by Dr. King and Deputy Chancellor Suransky. A question and answer session followed. The Parent Forum adjourned at 8:30 pm, immediately followed by the CEC Business Meeting.</p>	
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Business Meeting minutes of September 12, 2011 APPROVED as written.
<p>As there was no objection to the content of the minutes as submitted, the minutes of September 12, 2011 were accepted by general & unanimous consent of the Council.</p>	
PRESIDENT'S REPORT – SAM PIROZZOLO	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Common Core Standards PowerPoint presentation will be posted to the CEC website at www.cec31.org for parents to access; this is the start of our parent outreach to disseminate CCS information. • There is a vacant ELL parent seat on CEC 31; Mr. Pirozzolo encourages any parent of an <i>English Language Learner</i> to apply for the vacancy before the October 31st deadline. 	
SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE – ERMINIA CLAUDIO	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS Education Commissioner John King, Jr. stopped by PS/IS 861 earlier today; he visited classrooms and sat down for a discussion with teachers. Later this afternoon he visited the <i>Staten Island Foundation</i> and spoke with approximately 20 school principals. • Good teachers have always worked on reaching all students so the new Common Core Standards are already happening in many of our schools. The message of CCS is that "less is more"; the new shift is to delve deeper into topics in the classroom. Teaching is a craft; if a teacher is reflective and really thinks about what they want to get across to students, then they will do well; Ms. Claudio wishes that we could have longer school days and longer semesters; children who are exposed to museums or rich language at home do well, but many families now have two working parents who don't have the time to enrich their children's lives in that way. • School Progress Reports are being released; parents should know that a single letter grade does not totally define any school; Progress Reports compare schools to peer schools and are based on many factors. • Superintendent Claudio said that anytime parents want more information, her door is always open. She introduced the <i>District Family Advocates</i>, Zulma Cruz and Marie Castelucci and explained that they are always ready to help parents. • Ms. Claudio hopes that tonight's presentation on the CCS was enlightening for everyone and she thanked the audience for coming. 	
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM
BUSOCT11	SUBMITTED BY KATHY BALDASSANO, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, CEC 31