### Community Education Council 31 Meeting

**Business Minutes** | **December 1, 2014** | **6:30 PM**
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December 1, 2014 Business Meeting Minutes (attached to January 5, 2015 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
- Michael Reilly, President

#### Note Taker
- Kathy Baldassano, Administrative Assistant

#### Attendees
- Frank Squicciarini, Jt. Vice-President; Irene Maiello, Recording Secretary; Jennifer Arlen; Steven Beck; Monique Hall; LaTonja McMillan; Sam T. Pirozzolo; Anthony Lodico, Community Superintendent, District 31

#### Absent
- Laura Timoney, 2nd Vice-President; Peter Calandrellia, Treasurer

#### Approval of Minutes
- Minutes of November 3, 2014 APPROVED as written.

As there was no objection to the content, the minutes of November 3, 2014 were accepted by general & unanimous consent of the Council.

#### President's Report – Michael Reilly
- Attended meeting of DoE District Planning staff, elected officials, and Presidents’ Council/SI Federation Presidents last week at Curtis H.S. to discuss our district’s needs and how to prioritize and address those needs at the school, community, district, and borough levels in the upcoming school year and beyond. The DoE Office of District Planning will be giving a presentation to the CEC at tonight’s Calendar Meeting on the same topic.

#### Superintendent’s Update Waived – Anthony Lodico
- At the last CEC meeting in November, the CEC had asked about the NYS physical education requirements for elementary schools and middle schools; Superintendent Lodico distributed printed material to the Council members which indicates that NYS law requires students in grades K-6 to participate in at least 120 minutes per week of PE; grades K-3 must participate daily and grades 4-6 must participate at least 3 times per week. Middle school students (grades 6-8) must participate in PE for a minimum of 3 periods per week in 1 semester and 2 periods per week in the other semester, with time periods equal to that of other instructional classes. A discussion followed on whether the new Common Core requires students to create written classwork even for PE classes; elementary school teachers may provide PE instruction, but middle schools require PE be taught by a certified physical education teacher.

- Have visited 45 schools of our district schools; wants to visit all 59 by this January.

- Professional development sessions are being offered for principals; they are sharing best practices and receiving additional resources for their paraprofessional staff; there have been 2 professional development sessions for parent coordinators, and there will be more this year for assistant principals and teachers; the teacher sessions have been covering “student engagement” vs. “student compliance” in order to stress that students need to be more than just compliant to the school’s rules, they need to be involved and engaged in the work.

- Pupil Path is an online student information system for parents and students to keep parents informed about their child’s education. Parents & students can log-in anytime and check the student’s current grades, get information about homework, test scores, projects, assignments, attendance, upcoming events, and contact teachers; it’s secure and private but not all schools are participating in the program yet; parents must first receive a Pupil Path invitation letter from their school which contains the student’s OSIS (ID) number and the registration code needed in order to register online at https://pupilpath.schedula.com/. Mr. Beck said that immigrant parents may not be able to get onto that website or understand the information. Mr. Reilly added that ARIS is no longer operational.

- NYS requires passing scores on 5 Regents exams in order to graduate high school, and 8th graders in G&T middle schools or advanced placement classes may take early Regents exams; if they score 85 or above on the exam they can earn extra H.S. credits and may place into advanced H.S. classes; students entering NYC H.S. with Regent class credits may have those middle school Regent grades averaged into their H.S. cumulative averages and into their H.S. transcript Regent averages. Any student retaking a Regents exam will have only the “higher” mark recorded on their high school transcript.

#### Review/Discussion – Council Members

**Field Testing of Standardized Exams**

At their November meeting, the NYS Board of Regents gave preliminary approval to an amendment to the law which mandates that all public schools, including charter schools, and non-public schools participate in “field testing”; all field tests in grades 3-8 and most field tests associated with Regents Exams will keep the amount of stand-alone field testing to one 40-minute (one class period) session; the grades 3-8 ELA and Math tests already have embedded multiple-choice field test questions into the existing tests that are administered in the spring; the proposed amendment will be voted on at the February 2015 Regents meeting and will take effect on February 25, 2015. Many parents believe that students are already tested too much and mandating field testing will cause loss of instruction time; Mr. Beck asked how our Regents member (Ms. Cea) feels about this; Mr. Reilly said that we could reach out to her and also let her know our opinion on this amendment; we could also reach out to Kamillah Payne-Hanks, the Staten Island representative on the Panel for Educational Policy to ask her opinion on mandatory field testing; Superintendent Lodico said that field tests are important to accurately reflect classroom instruction; discussion followed on whether field testing is worthwhile; many parents wish to “opt-out” of this type of testing, which is unscored and doesn’t count towards a student’s grades. Comments regarding the proposed amendment may be submitted before January 20, 2015 to: Ken Wagner, Deputy Commissioner, State Education Department, Office of Curriculum, Assessment and Educational Technology, EBA Room 875, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234 or via email to NYSED12@nyserd.gov expressing your viewpoint on the field testing. Mr. Reilly added that NYS will stop creating their own exams in 2015-2016 and will allow their tests to be created by a testing company instead.

**Capital Plan Priority Requests**

The DoE will be releasing an amendment to the Five Year Capital Plan for 2015-2019 within a few weeks and we have asked that they present a briefing to our Council at our next Calendar Meeting on January 5th. In the meantime, we will reach out to our schools and ask them to submit their Capital Plan priority requests. Mr. Squicciarini suggested that he and Mr. Reilly continue as the Capital Plan working committee since they have been doing so for the last several years.

#### Adjournment
- Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

#### BusDec14
- SUBMITTED BY KATHY BALDASSANO, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, CEC 31