



Minutes of CSA Executive Board Meeting

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Tuesday, March 17, 2009

ABSENT: **Membership Classification:** Virginia Berrios, Elementary School Principals; Adrienne Edelstein, Principal-Special Schools; Amoye Neblett, Supervisors Of & Coord./Assist. Coord. Adult Ed; Ravonda Oden, Aspiring Principals & NLNS

Districts: Ezra Mathias, 9; Winston Simmons, 12; Leslyn Ward, 18; Andrew Frank, 20; Mark Goldberg, 21; Stephen Leo, 26; Karen Anderson, 33; Willie Quintana, Bronx HS; Ramon Namnun, Bronx HS; Robert Yanez, Queens HS; Lantigua Sime, Manhattan HS; Elizabeth Fong, Manhattan HS; Barbara Hanson, 75.

Excused: Debra Handler, Assistant Principals; Evelyn Santiago, Assistant Principals; Joanne Epstein, HS AP – Supervision; Loretta Caputo, 1; Eileen Perez, 4; Roxann Marks, 7; Luis Malave, 6; Elvira Maresca, 8; Benjamin Soccodato, 11; Lizabeth Caraballo, 14; Mary Barton, 22; Deborah Pierce, 23; John Lavelle, 24.

The meeting was called to order by Ernest Logan, 5:13pm

1. **The minutes of February 24, 2009 meeting were accepted as written.**
2. **GUEST SPEAKER: Councilman Bill DeBlasio**
3. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Ernest Logan**

3.1 Political/Legislative Update – There is a great deal of money coming with the Federal stimulus. We found additional money coming to NY State. We submitted a proposal some time ago during a statewide initiative with our partners in SAANYS. We think it is a great opportunity to go back and take that proposal to the Governor's office. Last time they said they loved the proposal, but "we don't have any money". We have resubmitted the proposal to the Governor's office. I had a chance to meet with Arne Duncan, building on that initial meeting, when I spoke to him about the need for leadership centers. The second part of that now is going to the state to talk about the same thing. I know you are aware that there is a new Chancellor for the Board of Regents, Merryl Tisch, who has been actively involved in our CSA conferences; the Vice Chancellor is Dr. Colefield from Rochester, a long time Regent. We are awaiting the selection of a new Commissioner for the State Education Department.

We have had some meetings with Duffy Palmer and the Governor's office. We have met with Kathy Nolan, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, as well as Susan Oppenheimer, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, because we are pushing the agenda of governance. We believe that we need to get our voices back into this mix. Until we can get a voice back into a lot of these conversations, we're lost. Do not "sleep" on this Governance issue, this is

the most important legislative item. It is not about who is the mayor, this is about the governance of our schools. We have to get the public back into the conversation about school.

3.2 City/State Budget – Right now at the State, the Governor has been planning to see what he can get back from city workers. Be alert. The big issue is your health plan and your pension. You might think it's someone else they are talking about. No, they are talking about you. You are the city employee they are talking about. We need to be conscious and not let them knock us down about the income that we earn.

3.3 Employee Free Choice Act – The biggest issue facing this country is having the ability to unionize. In your packet is the Employee Free Choice Act information; please don't get confused about it. It allows people to organize by signing a card saying "I want to join a union". We take a lot for granted in NYS. There some places where if you don't have a contract or your contract expires you are an employee at will and anything can happen. Our issue is to try and get as many people in this country to have the ability to sign up and join a union. We need to understand: Wal-Mart does not like this. The Local Chamber of Commerce does not like this and the manufacturing associations don't like this. They would rather not let people join unions. I'm going to ask you to write a letter to your congress person, your senators, and let them understand that we are supporting employee free choice. I need you to get back and let me know you have done that. Spread the word to people in your districts and in your workplace, and let them know this is the next big thing we are going to tackle.

3.4 Day Care Contract – There is absolutely no movement. I might be coming back to you with something that is very drastic. We are meeting out in the boroughs with the Day Care Directors. If they decide that they have had enough, we might look at the S word again. Understanding that, if we do that, it is heading towards the demise of early childhood and city funding as we know it. I can see the city just throwing it away.

4. EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Peter McNally

Ernest Logan Reported in Peter's absence.

4.1 PPR – The mid-year PPR is taking place now. We've asked for a push back. We aren't getting anywhere with them; they can't seem to get their act together. You will be glad to know that the DoE has announced that there is a reduction in the number of schools that are being identified for No Child Left Behind. We went from 432 to 401.

4.2 Celebration of Teaching & Learning, March 6/7, 2009 – I would like to acknowledge our retirees for volunteering at the T & L conference. I have never received a response from any group that talked about how happy they were with our members being volunteers. I would like to thank Neil and the Retirees for doing a great job at representing us at Teaching & Learning. It was a wonderful event.

4.3 Progress Reports – We are in the forefront of this nationally. In President Obama's education message he spoke of school accountability, please go online and read it. That is the future; that is where he's going. If President Obama pushes some of these things through, this will be a major change in education.

5. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Randi Herman

5.1 Day Care Legislative Breakfast – February 26th – We had a positive result. We had a total of 63 CSA members in attendance, and 11 City Council members. If your City Council member wasn't there, you let them know that you know. The event was a place where they should've been. Our Day Care Directors did sit with the City Council folks and had some meaningful conversations. Several of them subsequently went out to the day care centers. Again, once they close, they don't re-open.

5.2 School Safety – Audrey Fuentes reported. Last week we had all NYPD School safety come, from Chief Secreto on down. We had all the Borough Commanders, and they met with the CSA Directors and Assistant Directors, exchanging cards, meeting by borough, talking about specific schools and making themselves very available to come out to membership meetings for each of their districts and to really be proactive in providing safe environments for everyone. We continue to build the bridge that we have begun to build across the city. Hopefully you will be seeing them out at membership meeting and meeting them in our schools over the next couple of months.

5.3 OSE – I asked about the projection not only for the kindergarden. If the projections are unusual in anyway, you do need to know, and if your kindergarden registration is not what it used to be, I need to know that as well. I have heard from several of your colleagues via e-mail with respect to this, however when I ask whether or not I can use the information, they prefer that I do not.

5.4 Parking Permits Arbitration – Barbara Jaccoma and I just sat through yet another session. Hopefully, we will have it resolved by the end of the school year.

5.5 Parking Permits Arbitration – Bruce Bryant reported – What we are looking for and what we are hoping to get from the Arbitrator. Our grievance is based upon the fact that parking permits are a condition of employment and if that is going to be changed, our contract requires that the DoE negotiate the change with us first. This change was obviously not negotiated with us. They talked to the UFT and the UFT made a deal that sort of took care of our permits as well as theirs. We are hoping for, “Yes”, they did fail to negotiate, and the second question is, “what should be the remedy?” The remedy we are seeking is to return to the status quo until negotiations change the parking permit.

6. ACTION ITEM

6.1 New Executive Board Members – Representing the Assistant Principal classification, Leslie Pagliaro, also representing the Assistant Principal classification, Deborah Handler, and representing the EA/CSE Chair category, Howard Needleman.

6.2 Nomination for Trustee on CSA Active Welfare Fund. Peter McNally's terms ends June 2009 - We will accept any nominations next month.

6.3 AFSA Convention Delegates – Motion to approve the list of delegates was passed.

7. GOOD AND WELFARE

7.1 Condolences to Assistant Director Mark Brodsky on the passing of his mother-in-law.

7.2 Condolences to Susan Barnes, D. 11 Chair, on the loss of her brother in a car accident.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Torres