



Minutes of CSA Executive Board Meeting

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Tuesday, May 19, 2009

ABSENT: **Membership Classification:** Evelyn Santiago, Assistant Principals; Howard Needleman, Education Admin. & CSE Chairs; Joanne Epstein, HS AP-Special Ed; Adrienne Edelstein, Principal-Special Schools; Elena Talamo, Assistant Principals-Special Schools & Citywide; Amoye Neblett, Supervisors Of & Coord./Assist. Coord. Adult Ed; Ravonda Oden, Aspiring Principals & NLNS
Districts: Nancy Sing-Bock, 2; Deborah Payne, 5; Ezra Mathias, 9; Winston Simmonds, 12; Ramona Adorno, 15; Modupeola Foluke-Adero, 16; Andrew Frank, 20; Mark Goldberg, 21; Mary Barton, 22; Stephen Leo, 26; Naomi Drouillard, 27; Karen Anderson, 33; Willie Quintana, Bronx HS; Ramon Namnun, Bronx HS; Robert Yanez, Queens HS; Lantigua Sime, Manhattan HS; Elizabeth Fong, Manhattan HS.
Excused: Eva Proctor, Assistant Principals; Virginia Berrios, Elementary School Principals; William Moore, Middle School Principals, K-8, Roxan Marks, 7; Elvira Maresca, 8; Valerie Sawinski, 25; Sandra Johnson, 29; Joseph Menella, 31, Samuel Akel, Manhattan HS.

The meeting was called to order by Ernest Logan at 5:05pm.

1. **The minutes of April 21, 2009 meeting were accepted as written.**

2. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Ernest Logan**

2.1 President Logan asked for a moment of silence to remember our colleague Mitchell Wiener.

2.2 Political/Legislative Update – In your folder you will see the next piece that we are distributing on Governance, which has been prepared as a handout for the Legislators. If you are following the news, and if you look in the clips, you will see that the Mayor and the Chancellor are going full speed ahead to try and keep it just the way it is. I'm not sure what is going to happen, but one of the main issues we've asked for is to have the role of the Superintendent reinstated. The whole issue with the H1N1 virus calls out for someone at the local level to make some decisions. Parents have been hearing only from Central when they come around to give us a message. Central neglects to explain to parents what's going on when children get sick, and there is no one else to call on and so it's perceived to be our fault. This should not be. We are here for teaching, not as apologists for the DoE. We hear, "why don't you close the school? How come you haven't sanitized? What are you waiting for?" Parents want us to make a decision, but that is not what we are set up to do. Part of what has been missing all along is those superintendants in the district offices - we have been doing all of their work. I raise that issue with almost everyone I talk to in the legislature. Some of our ideas have been put together into a bill. Alan Maisel is sponsoring a bill, and he will have some

other sponsors attached to it. We are waiting for a sponsor on the Senate side and as soon as we get that, we will be moving forward with it.

2.3 Report on Citywide Day Care Meeting of May 4th – You might have seen the postcards as you walked in. These postcards are for Mayor Mike Bloomberg. It says to our Mayor that even at the toughest of times we can't afford to balance our city's budget on the backs of our children. We are asking the Mayor to look at ACS and give our Directors and Assistant Directors a contract, and stop overloading our public schools with children from the ACS program. You might have heard that the homecare providers finally got a contract. What he did was take away a thousand voucher slots, supposedly, to pay for that. I'm not buying that. We are going to keep pushing here.

2.4 Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) – Around the country now, we are fighting to be able to allow other people to organize and to be able to join a union. We believe that union benefits serve as an equalizer for people throughout this nation. Right now we are looking at companies that are going under and people have no benefits whatsoever. Some are getting 20 cents on the dollar of their pension because it's covered by the Federal Government. It is critical that we give other people the opportunities that we have in New York.

2.5 AFSA Scholarship winners from CSA: Erica Leavy, daughter of Brian DeVale Leavy (D. 14 Chair) and Joseph Kim, son of CSA member Lena Kim (EA III at the Queens LSO) – We are going to honor them at the June 9th meeting at Russo's.

3. EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Peter McNally

3.1 Budget – The Principals received an email that there is a 3.8% budget cut. Be advised that the press was told at 12:30pm that it was a 4.9% budget cut. By tomorrow it will be confirmed. We are relieved because we were officially briefed two weeks ago to expect a 7% cut back on each school. The reason they have been able to reduce it is because of the Federal Stabilization Fund. The increase in Title I and the increase of IDEA monies, but most important, with the Federal Stabilization Funds. They were given the flexibility so they can make such an equitable cut that was not as devastating as it would've been without that stimulus money. (By the end of the meeting it was reported by Peter McNally that the average cut is 3.8% and the highest is 4.9% and that is only if the school has no rollover. There are a number of schools that have less than 3.8% and that is why 3.8% is the average. Fair Student Funding is the same reduction across the board for all schools. The budgets will be released by 11am tomorrow.)

3.2 H1N1- We have sent out updates asking our members to contact their Directors and Assistant Directors if they are experiencing extraordinary absence or extraordinary circumstances. Our field staff has been reporting to us and we have been keeping a database of what we consider to be the hot spots. We have been in constant communication with the DoE. Please be advised this is not the DoE's call, it's the Department of Health's call. The DoE is communicating the facts to them and they are then making the determination. There was a conference call today for approximately 200 schools, conducted by Kathleen Grimm who is the point person on this crisis. Those schools were identified as Queens's schools and other schools that ISC identified as being high potential.

3.3 Performance Differential – Unfortunately all collective bargaining negotiations have been put on the sidelines this past week due to the flu crisis. We are hoping to have the District 79 announcement out and also the EA announcement. That will complete all of the announcements for last year’s Performance Differential.

3.4 Update on Compliance – You have received the mid-year compliance, it’s to use as a guideline. It’s not a part of your rating; the spring compliance will be. If you have any issues that you are not getting resolved by your Compliance Office, please let me know.

4. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Randi Herman

4.1 Labor Day Parade – Please save the date. Due to the weather we did not march in last year’s parade, but please save the date and bring everyone with you. This year it is scheduled for Saturday, September 12th.

4.2 Help Save City-Funded Day Care – The last public hearing will be this month. After that it will be a done deal. The Senate and the Assembly will be holding one final hearing and after that the case is closed. We’ve done our postcard campaign. We’ve written letters to city council members and local elected officials. We have done everything we can do. There is still a kindergarten waitlist. In city-funded day care, the child is cared for 10 hours a day, 12 months a year, and the cost isn’t as much as public school, which is 10 months a year until 3pm. City-Funded Day Care costs \$90,000 for the service, and a rough estimate, kindergarten is \$100,000; that’s without value added.

4.3 Office of Student Enrollment – Audrey and I have a meeting with Liz Sciabarra with regard to sibling verification and turning 5s. I’m going to ask Liz what the status is and whether or not people were able to submit the verification data and whether or not the families can be accommodated.

5. ACTION ITEM

5.1 Vote on Budget – Laverne Burrowes, Treasurer – The 2009 Budget was presented at our last meeting; I would like to get a motion to accept the proposed budget as presented. The Budget for 2009-2010 passed as indicated.

5.2 Endorsements Resolution- Motion to adopt the resolution as written.

6. GOOD AND WELFARE

6.1 Congratulations to Peter and Kathy McNally on the engagement of their son, Christopher to Justine Giordano.

6.2 Congratulations to Queens Day Care Director Lois Lee on her daughter’s upcoming August marriage.

6.3 Congratulations to Executive Board Member Ken Lombardi on his upcoming retirement.

6.4 Congratulations to Executive Board Member Virginia Berrios on her upcoming retirement.

6.5 Congratulations to Executive Board Member Bonnie Seiler who has completed all the requirements for her doctorate program and will be attending her graduation in June.

6.6 Congratulation to Debbie Festger on the marriage of her son, Matthew, to Eley Brisita on May 11th in Juneau, Alaska on a glacier.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Mitch Wiener's case was devastating for me personally and for the staff here. I want to commend the internal staff for what we were able to do to work with his family and his wife, for doing as much as we can do for the family, reaching out to TRS, and taking care of as much as we were able to do to put his family at ease.

7.2 A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Torres