

**Harlem Community Education Council District 5 (HCECD5)**

**Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

**Calendar Meeting Minutes**

**President**

Schadell Barnhill

**Vice President**

Brian Peters

**Recording Secretary**

Damaris Rodriguez

**Treasurer**

Ayishah Irvin

**Members**

Phoebe Arnold

Denise Randolph

Joseph Sparrow

Toby Vickers

Honey Walrond

Gina Williams

**Borough Appointees**

Phoebe Arnold

Honey Walrond

**Student Members**

Vacant

**Admin. Assistant**

Lisa Kinsey

President Barnhill called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call taken by Lisa Kinsey, which resulted in the following:

**Present:** Phoebe Arnold, Schadell Barnhill, Ayishah Irvin,Brian Peters,Damaris Rodriguez, and Toby Vickers

**Absent:** Denise Randolph (Unexcused),Joseph Sparrow (Unexcused), Honey Walrond (Excused), and

Gina Williams (Excused)

Acknowledgement of Minutes**:** November 15, 2023

Amended Bylaws Vote

The council did not have a quorum and will revisit at the next calendar meeting.

Report of President

President Barnhill is forgoing her report. However, President Barnhill thanked the council members that participated and assisted with their assigned duties at the toy drive.

Report of Harlem Community School District 5 Superintendent – Dr. Sean Davenport

Dr. Davenport shared the District Literacy Plan for Harlem Reads & Writes. That plan is what we’re using as we do Phase I for all schools with the HMH Into Reading Curriculum for grades K-5. The plan is in full effect. Dr. Davenport had the opportunity to visit not only some of our schools, but schools across the city. A couple in Queens and looking at the work they’re doing with the curriculum and the implementation, he will say that some of our schools are if not on par maybe a little ahead of some of the schools that he was able to see. They are doing some decent work around these initiatives. Although, some of our schools were already using the curriculum. We have to do this with fidelity. It’s taking some schools longer to let go of some of their old traditions. Primarily like in classroom libraries where it used to be leveled and now, they have to be of interest. It’s hard for schools to put books in categories of interest for students, but we have our coaches in place and the program is run well.

Today we are now visiting schools that are part of the Superintendent’s Book Club. The first visit was this morning at PS 175 with their 3rd grade group. It was a rewarding experience as they shared the letters, they wrote Ruby Bridges that they will be sending her. As well as talking about the circumstances she had to live through just to go to school at six. They talked about the theme of the book. It was really an in-depth discussion. They asked me a lot of questions. Why did I choose the book for them. None of them had ever heard of Ruby Bridges before. They were pleased to be able to read about her. They are going to write to her to see if she will hopefully come and visit. I will be finishing up with two schools tomorrow PS 36 and PS 125. These students have done videos and we’re trying to get a collage to share of what the book has meant to them before I go out to the schools. They are really doing some phenomenal work and we’re just looking forward to sharing everything with you. The next group is a 6th grade class and I think Dr. Decosta has a 5th grade class. I pick the book or theme; we share it with them, we make sure the students have it, they sign up and so over 150 3rd graders across the district signed up to read this book. That’s part of Harlem Reads and Writes.

As you know, we’re still doing our District Book Club with The Four Agreements. That’s going very well. We’re having some really good conversations in our club. Those of you who have not been able to join. Please join. We’re up to Chapter 4 over the break. I’m going to turn the rest of my report over to Dr. Ferreira to discuss some of our attendance challenges in the district and hopefully some possible solutions.

Dr. Marybelle Ferreira, Director of Community Engagement and Attendance

Dr. Ferreira presented a PowerPoint Presentation on Attendance and shared with the council that they play a big role in what happens in this district. The council can ask principals to attend attendance team meetings at schools. (1) It’s doable with all hands-on deck to reach the huge work that Superintendent Davenport’s decided to put into plan that at the end of the school year 2024 at least 92% attendance. Last year we ended the school year with 47% Chronic Absenteeism. This year we are already at 42%. So that’s a little bit way too high. The city right now is at 29%. So, we are 13 points higher than the city. We have four schools (green) with an attendance above 90%. Those four schools are keeping the district afloat, but we want to see more. The rest of our schools (yellow) are between 80-90%. Some of the schools are so close to being (red) that I’m going after the schools. We have a district team working with the schools. Schools keeping the district afloat: IS 286, PS 125, PS175, PS 133, PS 517, and CSS 362. However, we have other schools that are at the same level as the district PS 194, PS 318, and PS 200. Huge kudos to PS 133 and PS 175, but specifically PS 200 because historically since 2018 this school has never been above 88%. Principal Rowe (PS 200), Principal Ellman PS 133, and Principal Jagrnath (PS 175) are making things happen. They also take feedback. I have the dates and times that the attendance teams meet. If you need information about the attendance teams, come and see me. Sit down with the attendance team and find out about the barriers because there are many. Wherever there’s a problem there’s a solution.

Dr. Ferreira answered questions from the council and community.

Presentation by:

Harlem International Museum, Executive Director, Donald Clayton

Mr. Clayton shared a brochure and the history of the Harlem International Museum. He’s also asking for assistance with writing letters of support for the Mart 125 space to house the museum. They are having conversations with Elected Officials regarding the space as well. As well as a petition circulating.

Speaker’s List

No one for the speaker’s list.

President Barnhill adjourned the calendar meeting at 7:15PM

Submitted by: Lisa Kinsey, Administrative Assistant



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**Vice President**

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**Harlem Community Education Council District 5 (HCECD5)**

**Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

**Business Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order by President Barnhill at 7:15 PM. Roll call taken by Lisa Kinsey, which resulted in the following:

**Present:** Phoebe Arnold, Schadell Barnhill, Ayishah Irvin,Brian Peters,Damaris Rodriguez, and Toby Vickers

**Absent:** Denise Randolph (Unexcused),Joseph Sparrow (Unexcused), Honey Walrond (Excused), and

Gina Williams (Excused)

Presentation and Discussion of the new HECD5 Logo

President Barnhill asked the opinion of the council and shared going forward this will be the council’s new logo. This new logo is Phase I of visually redesigning ourselves. Phase II will be literacy.

Budget Update

Treasurer Irvin shared the budget with the council.

AA shared the new computer will arrive on January 4, 2024.

Resolution # 101 CEC5 Urging DOE to implement the proposals of the Class Size Working Group and comply with the new Class Size Law

President Barnhill stated Resolution # 101 was not on tonight’s agenda and the council will not vote tonight. However, she would like the council to please read the resolution before the next meeting. President Barnhill asked the council to be prepared to discuss the resolution and vote at the January meeting.

President Barnhill adjourned the business meeting at 7:19pm

Next meeting date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Submitted by: Lisa Kinsey, Administrative Assistant