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

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024**

**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, Denise Randolph, Damaris Rodriguez,

Joseph Sparrow, Toby Vickers, and Gina Williams (late 6:50pm)

**Absent:** Honey Walrond (Excused)

Acknowledgement of Minutes**:** January 24, 2024

Resolution # 102 Support of Sustaining Key Education Programs Funded with Expiring Federal COVID-19 Relief Sponsors Vote

Motion by: Treasurer Irvin Second by: Member Randolph and a voice vote for the record: Yes: 8, No: 0, Abstain: 0 Absent: 1

Report of Harlem Community Education Council President – Schadell Barnhill

Would like to forgo her report this month and give a full report next month.

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

Superintendent, Dr. Sean Davenport presented a PowerPoint Presentation highlighting our:

* District 5 Spelling Bee
  + Celebrated our phenomenal students. Unfortunately, unable to attend had the flu. Feedback was just phenomenal.
  + Thanked everyone and the UFT who helped out with the event.
  + Continue to give more events that our students can participate in to build more in our community and inspired learning our district.
* SPED Compliance
  + Situations with ELL’s
  + Students with Disabilities
  + We have some schools are doing well with meeting compliance.
  + We have some schools that are not doing as well with compliance, but as a district we are making improvements.
  + Our chronic absenteeism is something that is a huge district problem. The city would like us to be at 34% we’re at 45%. There was a pre-school conversation with the Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor. Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 chronic absenteeism is at 67%. We consider pre-school, school. Unfortunately, some of our parents don’t and therefore, it if 3k doesn’t go to school that day. It’s not against compliance or an issue, that’s some of the things we have to continue to lift up with our parent coordinators to make sure that, that message is getting out to our parents, our guidance counselors paying active attention to what’s happening in our early childhood grades. The other discrepancies that we will talk about in our early childhood grades is that I have had the ability to visit some childhood centers in more fluent areas and there is a discrepancy with conversations with our students that are in Districts’2 and the Head Start Center that’s at Tweed. We really have to try and level the playing field in making sure that our early childhood grades are getting the resources that they need to be successful, but that doesn’t help us if students are not in school to receive those resources, that’s an issue all the way to kindergarten. Kindergarten is a problem, because that sets us back in achievement during the third grade because we’re always fighting to catch up opposed to starting off on a level playing field.
* iReady
  + We have a lot to go to get to a 50% gain reading level in ELA we’re at 33.4% now and 50% is the target.
  + Acadience Testing students’ grades (K-2)
  + iReady Readings students’ grades (3 and above) not every school is doing iReady. However, we are moving towards that because you want to have a living tool. We can best figure out how we can best support schools across the district. That’s one of the things that we can do best with the HMH Curriculum. There’s no best curriculum, the best thing to do is take the curriculum we have galvanize our resources and do our own professional development around it to support it the areas that have the best interest. We’re not using HMH for PDs, we’re using an organization called Leading Educators based out of Chicago. However, their cultures are from the area that they hire. The problem is they are not well versed in FUNdations. That’s the only drawback from working with Leading Educators, and that’s the one shift. So, we have been able to leverage resources and support from central office to help us with the FUNdations part, but I don’t like to have stagnated supports. That’s why we’re doing one curriculum. We’re working to make sure within the next year we’re able to have one group satisfy all of our needs.
  + We’re also looking at our middle school curriculum, going to wait another year before and still assess. I don’t think we’re going to do HMH from K-8. I will look a little bit more at where we are in our data with middle schools. Especially because some of our middle schools they are 6-12 schools and I want to make sure it’s a link for middle and high the best use for resources for English and Math standalone schools. For Math we’re doing SAVVAS across that’s helping us with middle schools.
  + ELA the jury is still out we’re still doing assessments.
* Mid-Year Assessment: DECP Priority #1
  + We will see an increase in students reaching 50% proficiency in ELA and Math. Some schools are already there.
  + I had to change a few weeks ago mid-course with iReady took a sub-set of 7 schools using iReady with Fidelity testing them on math a weekly standard bases before moving on. This doesn’t let us know how students will test on state exams. It gives us an idea of what skills students are doing well in and how to continue to bring them up to grade level.
  + At grade level we see that a lot of our students are not there. Red: 3 grades below, pink 2 grades below, yellow 1 grade below, light green: early on grade level and dark green: mid or above grade level a lot of our work is happening around this.
  + Every Friday I get a report from iReady on progress and proficiency where schools are on a heap map and I send it to every school. So, every school sees where they are compared to other schools and what they need to do. If they need to call and be of support if they can to do that. It’s like holding everyone accountable. There is progress in every category not as proficiently done in middle school, but minor gains. There are strong indications that we’re moving definitely not close to 50, but not behind.
  + For the first time ever this school year we have dedicated people assigned to Middle School Improvement: Conmecka Lockheart and High School Improvement: Dr. Shannon Smith.
* MECCA Leadership Groups
  + They work in triads of three.
  + Service schools working on specific goals or six-week intervals.
  + Identify what the support should be working with the principals. First it was 4-weeks then principals said we need the whole 6 weeks cycle.
  + My concern with middle school primarily in our K-8 and our 6-12 is cohorts. We’re looking at 6th graders and K-8 and where they were at 5th grade and then seeing what the progress is from them from 5th to 6th. We don’t just want to take what 5th grade did last year, to what 5th grade did this year because they’re two different sets of students. We’re looking at the same sets of students and cohorts going all the way across. We have to do better on the average time a student should be spending on iReady is 30 minutes. We don’t have any of our grades averaging 30 minutes or more. So, they’re not taking advantage of this resource that was free to us this year. Last year when we made those gains we had higher usage in iReady and Myon for supports. That’s something we want to see increased and also that’s something that gets sent out weekly in my Friday report to principals.
* Model Teachers
  + We have been going in and identifying model teachers in ELA through this work. We record them
  + We have weekly sessions with them. They log online with our team, Michael Cornell and Shani Glimpse and they’re watching a lesson being taught around explicit instruction to an area and now they’re able to see what it’s supposed to look like because they’ve already been vetted and can ask any questions about any parts of the lesson that’s dealing with the HMH Curriculum.
  + We have about 25 teachers that participant usually on a Tuesday weekly on their own time.
  + We’re really proud that this is happening.
  + As mentioned, before we are the only Manhattan District doing Phase 1. I know we’re doing a pretty good job because they’re coming to see us all the time at schools.
  + Chancellor Banks did a TV Special with Channel 7 at PS 175. They went into the classroom. Look at the teacher doing the moves. Spoke to the parents of the student that was identified. The student and the Chancellor spoke about the HMH Curriculum and what’s happening, but they highlighted us and the work we’re doing in our district, and that’s supposed to be coming out sometime next month.
* Superintendent Book Club
* Is still going strong. Yesterday I was with IS 286 6th graders. We read the book. Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds. I was pleasantly surprised. They were on point. They had a principal change there and haven’t missed a beat!
* Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower Academy (TMALS)
* Was on the news. I think you saw that already.
* Science of Reading
  + We are still growing with our cohort. This is major, we are the only school district in New York that got the grant to do Science of Reading for our whole district. The Literacy Team, Dr. Decosta and her whole team have all finished. They got their certification. They’re working with teachers now and moving forward. Our principals are on it, but we’re just pleased that we’re making progress when looking at the Science of Reading and know what we’re talking about the phonics and the fluency. So, this is really helping us and I think this is why we were able to make these type of gains so quickly and have our district identified as a district to come see as a model.
  + The results have tipped my expectations a little, bit, because I want it to happen right now. I know it won’t always happen right now, but I know it’s happening in certain grades with certain teachers and we want to make sure we strengthen all of our teachers across the district. That seems to be if I had to say one of our biggest needs is really improving our instructional practices across the district.
  + A primary big push for grades 6-12 is preparing students for college readiness.
  + Challenging K-8 Principals to have college classes, support and offer regents classes.
  + TMA at the middle school they have Saturday classes Regents Prep 9am-9pm.
  + The regents’ prep, this is open to the entire district.
* Harlem Family Night
  + THEMET Monday, April 15, 2024 5:30pm-7:00pm
  + This is a big deal at the MET. If nothing else an opportunity for all of our individuals to be able to witness the art work that’s happening for the Harlem Renaissance is an evening you do not want to miss.
  + We were lucky to have our principals meeting there.
  + The MET is in support of the kids coming in.
  + The fun part is it’s about the Renaissance, but we’re not going to see it everybody else is going to see it.
  + We were able to get buses from CB #9 to take some students and families. We’re hyped up and ready to go. We’re going to make this a great event in conjunction with other partnerships Fordham University, Abyssinian BC, NYPL, etc. We are really making this a huge event. Space is limited and a dress code.
* Middle School Arts Audition Boot Camp
  + This is huge it’s a free 2-week program for NYC Public Schools. We send the information to ALL of our schools. The schools and parent coordinators receive the information. I know that as a district this is something that we have to get better with. We have to flood these opportunities so they increase the spaces for our students to take part in, but they are dying to work with us. I mean begging Juilliard School of come and said this is Harlem. You have talent we want to come and work with you. I can’t get them there if parents don’t send them and that’s the message we need to keep getting out.
  + We have a lot of things happening in our community and I’m just pleased with all the opportunities that people are coming to us with. They have faith in us, in our students and we need to make sure our schools are returning that same faith back to them. So, they feel inspired to want to take part in the opportunity because no other district is getting these opportunities. We are going to be doing some more work with Teacher’s College this summer.

Superintendent, Dr. Davenport answered questions from the council and the community.

Speaker’s List

No one for the speaker’s list.

President Barnhill adjourned the calendar meeting at 7:16PM

Submitted by: Lisa Kinsey, Administrative Assistant



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

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

**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

**Business Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order by President Barnhill at 7:16 PM. Roll call taken by Lisa Kinsey, which resulted in the following:

**Present:** Phoebe Arnold, Schadell Barnhill, Ayishah Irvin,Brian Peters, Denise Randolph, Damaris Rodriguez,

Joseph Sparrow, Toby Vickers, and Gina Williams

**Absent:** Honey Walrond (Excused)

Parent Coordinator Meet & Greet: PS 36, Ms. Jessica Gonzalez

Council had the opportunity to meet, greet and ask Ms. Gonzalez questions related to the potential Parent Coordinator position at PS 36.

Budget Update: Treasurer Irvin

Shared the budget, reviewed and answered questions from the council.

President Barnhill adjourned the business meeting at 8:15pm

Next meeting date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Submitted by: Lisa Kinsey, Administrative Assistant