

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

**Wednesday, September 27, 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 (late), Schadell Barnhill, Ayishah Irvin, Brian Peters**,** Denise Randolph, Damaris Rodriguez,

Joseph Sparrow, Toby Vickers and Gina Williams

**Absent:** Honey Walrond (Excused)

**Acknowledgement of Minutes: August 23, 2023**

**Election of Vice President**

Brian Peters: self-nominated a voice vote for the record: Yes: 8 No: 0 Absent: 1

Election of Secretary

Gina Williams: nominated by: Member Randolph

Damaris Rodriguez: nominated by: Treasurer Irvin

A voice vote for the record:

Member Rodriguez: Yes: 8 No: 0 Absent: 1

Member Williams: Yes: 1 No: 0 Absent: 1

Discussion and Vote on new CEC5 Office Equipment (Computer and Monitors)

Motion by: Treasurer Irvin that the council would spend up to $3,500.00 dollars to purchase a new computer and monitors for the CEC5 office.

Second by: Member Williams a voice vote for the record: Yes: 9 No: 0 Absent: 1

**Acknowledgements**

President Barnhill thanked everyone for joining us tonight. As you can see, we have a new, bright, and emerging council. Our focus is advocacy for families, unity amongst the community as well as respect for policy and procedure. We are here to better educate our community with a positive impact. President Barnhill welcomed Lizzi Sofge, Family Leadership Coordinator, and Phoebe Arnold, CEC5 Manhattan Borough Office Appointee to the council.

**Report of President**

* Attended District 5 Family Literacy Fair and Harlem Reads and Writes Launch Event on Saturday, September 23, 2023. Even though it rained the turnout was amazing!
* Attended the 1st Principal Leadership Conference Luncheon on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, with Treasurer Irvin and Member Arnold.
* President Barnhill thanked Superintendent, Dr. Davenport for his introduction and kind words.
* Will attend the CRASEL PROJECT Launching on Saturday, September 30, 2023.

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

Dr. Davenport greeted the community.

* We had a great opening day at school.
* First times in recent years that we did not have an Interim Acting (I.A.) Principal going into the year nor any principial vacancies. Last July we had 6 principal vacancies. We were off to a great and smooth start.
* As of today, we have 6,667 students enrolled in District 5. One off from last year and students are still enrolling, and we expect that number to continue to jump.
* We still have 7 schools on the State of Accountability List. One school being identified on the list as a receivership school. However, based on the in boggled data, I’m certain a couple of schools will come off that list. I’m not allowed to share numbers, but 16 schools showed double digits gain in math and so did the district. Some schools had a 20-point jump. We are definitely in the right direction. Hopefully, by the next meeting we will be able to share with you who those schools are and to give them the proper recognition.

**District Goals**

* This year continue to increase our literacy proficiency rate with at least 50% grade level which is not great because that means 50% aren’t, but we know we have to start somewhere and keep moving. Now we have our baseline and bench point. We also have several schools who are already at that level. So, we know we will keep moving. We know that math was a little more of a struggle, but we saw some positive gains as you see in the district. We have some programs that work very well. I shared with those principals who did not or who were not able to make those type of gains, we have some models that we can show how to work together and doing these programs with some kind of fidelity we can move the district along strongly.
* We want to decrease our level of 4 and 5 incidents in the district. Based on surveys our students didn’t feel safe this past school year. We want to change that and provide them with more opportunities to have forums. We are strongly suggesting that every school do a mindfulness minute with our students so they can have opportunities to collect themselves and really deal with conflict resolution and learn how to speak to one another.

We also want to have a graduation and career readiness above 92% in all our great high schools. We are close to that already.

* We really want to increase our family partnerships and involvements within the district and throughout the community. We are going to make that our main focus and emphasis this school year. Last school year we came in running. This school year we really need to make a focus on making our parents have opportunities to be more involved. I thank the council for the support and working collaboratively making sure that’s going to happen.
* Harlem Reads and Writes you already heard about the launch. Moving forward all our students and schools will be involved in book clubs. The council has agreed to be a part of the district office book club. We will be selecting our books and having our little chats as well. We’re excited about that. I will be doing a 3rd grade book club. We will be reading Ruby Bridges and visiting some of those schools for book talks.
* All our elementary schools except for Teacher’s College. They are doing the HMH Into Reading Curriculum. We are the only phase 1 district in Manhattan that has a unified curriculum. There are 15 other districts, we are the only Manhattan district so, all eyes are on us. Learning Educators is our support group. Supporting our schools with the professional development of our teachers. They are getting 17 days each in our schools. Some days some schools may get a little more and we’re also doing a little extra work through the efforts of Dr. DeCosta and her connections. We want to acknowledge that all our principals, assistant principals and district administrators will be trained in the signs of reading at SUNY New Paltz for free. It is a three-credit course class for those who need CTLE credit and those that just need to take the class will be able to take the class. This is the first of any kind. We’re the only district provided with this opportunity. So, not only are we asking our teachers to go in and do this work, but we’re also goanna say we’re trained in it too and so we know what we’re looking for when we go into the schools. We’re really excited about being trained in the signs of reading. All the teachers will get trained as well. We’re going to have our principals provide the opportunities for them to do this, either doing their PD time, during the school day or after hours’ time, but we’re excited about this and the recognition we’re getting from the state, chancellor, and SUNY. This Saturdaywe will do our CRASEL Launch. There will be a presentation on that.

Dr. Davenport answered questions from the community, However, the questions were not related to the Superintendent’s Report.

President Barnhill clarified with the community that questions are from the report that was just given by Superintendent Davenport.

**Presentation by: Dr. Sandye Johnson, CRASEL Project, HREP & Abyssinian Development**

Dr, Johnson greeted and shared her background with the community.

* CRASEL Project: Together the Abyssinian Development Corporation and District 5 wrote a federal grant that was sponsored by Representative Espaillat and Senator Schumer. We received $1 Million dollars to provide professional development training to all 23 schools and that’s unique. Many times, you get a grant and you’re only able to do a pilot or you’re only able to provide it for special schools and usually the schools people choose are the ones that are easy schools and not the struggling schools, but our vision is whatever we do for District 5 we want to provide it for all schools. This grant is for all schools in District 5. If you want to know what the grant is all about, then join us on Saturday, September 30, 2023. Representative Espaillat and hopefully Senator Schumer, but definitely Representative Espaillat is going to do a check drop where they actually present the $1 Million-dollar check to District 5 and Abyssinian Development Corporation and during that day you will be able to participate in the activities that we’re actually doing in all 23 schools. These are culturally relevant affirming activities; yoga, mindfulness circles, Zen Corner, Health Screening Van, 10 Ft. Heart that children can hear the blood flowing through all the different vessels. We also have tons of giveaways, particularly books. It’s a real focus if our kids can’t read then it closes the world. Once they can read it opens the doors to the world. We also have a CRASEL CAFÉ which we’re offering a CRASEL smoothie from one of our neighborhood vendors. We have postcards with a description of CRASEL.
* **Speaker’s List**

       Time was allotted for the speaker’s list.

 President Barnhill adjourned the calendar meeting at 7:22PM

Submitted by: Lisa Kinsey, Administrative Assistant



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

**Wednesday, September 27, 2023**

**Business Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order by President Barnhill at 7:30 PM. Roll call taken by Lisa Kinsey, which resulted in the following:

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

Joseph Sparrow, Toby Vickers and Gina Williams

**Absent:** Honey Walrond (Excused)

**Budget Update**

* Treasurer Irvin reviewed, explained, and answered questions from the council. Treasurer Irvin and our DOE Senior Grant Officer (SGO) continue to ask council members to submit their completed reimbursements monthly to prevent council members from receiving their reimbursement.
* Committees

President Barnhill tabled the chairperson for the Communication and Education Policy committees presently. The chairperson of the committee will be discussed at the next bylaws committee meeting. President Barnhill ensured that the council would receive an email with description of the committees.

Committee Chair:

Bylaws: Treasurer Irvin

Special Education: Member Randolph

Parent & Student: Member Sparrow

President’s Council Quarterly CEC Meeting Dates

* Provided in council member folders.
* The President’s Council Chair, Ayishah Irvin mentions that the state regulations state that CEC’s meet with the

President’s Council quarterly.

* Finally going to resume meetings in hopes of working collaboratively.
* Answered questions from the council relating to the President’s Council and the PA/PTA.
* The President’s Council will receive the meeting dates.

President Barnhill mentioned that she would like the entire council to be present at the quarterly meeting. This meeting is a conversation with CEC and the Presidents of the PA/PTA and how we can better our schools and community. The council can question and mention their concerns as well. President Barnhill mention that the CEC cannot fund raise, but the PA/PTA and President’s Council can fund raise.

Importance

* President Barnhill asked the council if they could arrive 10-15 minutes early to discuss a few matters of importance.
* Council members should be present during roll call after adjourning the calendar meeting.
* Run of show for the upcoming townhall.
* New installed locked door system on schools.
* Cell phones should be on vibrate and not on the meeting table unless it’s an emergency during CEC Meetings.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, October 25, 2023

President Barnhill adjourned the business meeting at 8:02pm

Submitted by: Lisa Kinsey, Administrative Assistant