



HEARING EDUCATION SERVICES



United Federation of Teachers

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HES-UFT Consultation Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

at

HES, 400 First Avenue, NYC

In attendance: Cecilia Cortez, Helen Kaufman, Olivia Klansky, Judy Cohen, Sandy Spekman and Toni Wofse.

This was the first consultation committee meeting I held as your newly elected chapter leader.

Agenda is as follows:

1. Calendar – Selection of consultation meeting dates for the rest of the year. We choose the following dates for the next two meetings for this year: Wednesday, May 6th, and Wednesday, June 10th, 2009. They will be held at the same time at the HES office in Manhattan.
2. Parking permit – Who/How will get the permits next year?
Helen is aware of the problem. She doesn't know how many parking permits we will get next year. If the situation is similar to this year's situation, she will certainly make sure that the teachers who didn't get the permit this year, will get them next year. She received 79 permits for HES, 29 permits for vision, and 5 permits for speech. This year, these permits were given out by lottery. Helen strongly suggests that teachers don't park illegally.
3. Queens' supervisor – There is a vacancy for a Supervisory position in Queens. Helen said the position has been advertised in the past. Many people applied for the position. However, none were found to be qualified. The money for that position has been used for hiring this year's teachers. At the present time the job is not advertised. Helen doesn't know if anyone will be hired for the position.
4. Money – Is there any money for teachers to attend conferences?
Helen said that money for conferences is allocated at the beginning of the year. If anyone really wants to go to a conference, he/she should ask Helen at the beginning of the year. Rose Cobb is the person who does the budget. Helen

prefers to put the money in an area that benefits more than one teacher. If anyone knows of someone who can be a good presenter at a conference, please let her know and she will be happy to hire that person to come and present to the teachers during staff development days. She is open to bring consultants as well for staff development. At the present time, there is no money for any conference.

5. What are the comp positions?

Helen said there are no comp positions because we don't have enough providers. We get money based on the number of sessions that every provider has. That is why it is very important to call IVR immediately after every annual review. Teachers should record the exact mandate and have the secretary of the school check that your students and sessions are registered. If you have to call again, please do it because that is how HES gets the money. The only comp position at the present time is Huberta's assistant.

Helen also talked about vacancies in Queens. There are a few. Teachers of the deaf are a shortage area.

- We brought up the issue of IVR being difficult for hearing impaired teachers as they cannot hear the recording and therefore cannot do their job properly. Helen said that the law states that reasonable accommodations should be provided. She said: "We will accommodate the hearing impaired teachers by letting someone else do the calling for them."
- Olivia Klansky asked about the MIS VIII classes. They are getting smaller and smaller. We feel that many students could benefit from our program. However, Helen said that our kids do better in general education classes, and that parents support their hearing impaired children in general education (this decision should actually be made on an individual student case by case basis). Therefore, Helen is not going to change that. Selection of students is solely based on the degree of hearing loss and many of our students are hard of hearing, so they are correctly placed in general education.
- Helen talked about personal days. She said that personal days are to be used for things that only can be done during the day. The regulations state that the Department of Education has a right to know the reason for absence for personal business.
- Toni Wofse took notes at the meeting.