



# HEARING EDUCATION SERVICES



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United Federation of Teachers

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## HES-UFT Consultation Committee Meeting Minutes January 16, 2008

**In attendance:** Rose O'Connor, Helen Kaufman, Caryn Benjamin, Nancy Haggerty, Betty Hintz, Olivia Klansky, and Wendy Wolffson.

### Old Business:

- 1) Audiology – One of the two letters intended to address care and handling of FM units for the information of school principals has been completed and was presented to the committee. This letter is to inform the principal of the importance and monetary value of the FM unit and the difficulty in replacing it. Fine-tuning was discussed. A draft of the second letter, which will be used following the actual loss of a piece of equipment was presented to and discussed by the committee.
- 2) Supervisor – Helen indicated that the position of HES supervisor has been posted.
- 3) Unserved/underserved students – At the last meeting, Helen agreed to arrange for teachers to provide “shortage area” services to unserved and underserved students. The committee requested that the supervisors give complete and thorough information to their teachers. Helen will put together a packet to be distributed to the teachers. The committee also requested that it be given a list of students who are eligible for being served as either “shortage area” (on the teacher’s prep) or “per session” (outside of school hours). Helen is hoping to hire more staff to fill the vacancies sooner in the school year.
- 4) Mentoring new teachers – The HES mentoring program is beginning. Vicki Paul is coordinating the mentors. Mentors were selected by Vicki, some from HES, some not. Next year, Helen will seek appropriate mentoring for all teachers in a timely manner.
- 5) District 75 plan for changes in HES – Helen reports that there are no plans for changes. The committee asked again to be kept informed should changes be discussed. Rose asked about the outside team that was brought in by Linda

Wernikoff to visit District 75 sites. None of the sites visited contained HES self-contained classes. Helen had no other information.

- 6) Travel checks – Rose indicated that September and October checks have finally been received. She asked about the November checks and Helen said that they should be received soon. The change from \$8.40 a day to a flat mileage fee was discussed. A grievance has been filed. The committee asked that administration stand up for us. Helen did not feel that there was anything she could do. The committee requested that we be given a formal notice from the DOE about the change.
- 7) Title IIA funds – The district replaced the funding that should have been received for Title IIA funding (staff development). Rose wanted to know who appropriated the funds in the first place. Helen did not have an answer, except that the money is now there.

**New Business:**

- 1) Audiology – A request was made for Spanish and Cantonese translations of the letter notifying parents of the need for an up-dated audiogram. Helen will take care of it. A suggestion was made to post the translations on the HES Web site.
- 2) Reporting Child Abuse – Rose wanted to know why RS teachers have not been informed about changes in procedures for reporting child abuse. The committee requested that supervisors inform their teachers at the monthly meetings. Helen will make sure the supervisors get this information out.
- 3) Counselors –
  - (a) Sue Wolf will be retiring as of February 1. Helen indicated that interviews are already being held and she will replace Sue ASAP.
  - (b) The committee asked Helen to consider assigning full-time counselors to the high school sites. She indicated that it would not be possible due to allocation of funds.