



HEARING EDUCATION SERVICES



United Federation of Teachers

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HES Consultation Committee Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2012
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
400 First Avenue, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10004

In attendance:

Helen Kaufman, Assistant Superintendent District 75; Cecilia Cortez, UFT HES Chapter Leader; Donna Kafko, Brooklyn HES Related Services Teacher and Note Taker; Sandy Spekman, Bronx HES Related Services Teacher

AGENDA

1. Computers Follow-up

I informed Ms. Kaufman that Ms. Leslie Schecht, Tech Coordinator from District 75 has announced in a workshop that there is money for computers in District 75. 159 HES teachers want computers. Ms Kaufman said she will ask Mr. Hecht about computers for HES. I will continue to have this issue on next month's agenda.

Once again Ms. Kaufman mentioned grant writing. I asked her who would write the grant when we don't have the grant writing position any more. She eliminated that position 7 years ago. She said she had to decide what was more important - writing grants or serving the students. She went with serving the students. She needed more providers to serve the students. That is her reason for eliminating the grant writing position. She said teachers should write grants in their spare time.

2. Preparation periods and IEPs

Some HES Teachers have stated that they are losing their preps for IEP meetings. There was a memo from the DOE stating that teachers will get paid if they lose their prep for that reason. We want to know what form should it be submitted to get paid?

Ms. Kaufman said she will follow up on this issue. I sent her a copy of the memo.

This issue will be in the next agenda.

3. Supervisors Update

Nobody else has applied for the supervisor position. The position will be re-advertised by the DOE. Ms. Kaufman said she hope the positions will be filled by the end of February. She would like to choose from within. Various HES providers are getting their certification by February. I asked her about the selection. In some schools there is a committee with teachers and parents to help find principals.

Why can't we do that with HES? She said no. She interviews the candidates with the current supervisors to select the new supervisors. She makes the final decision.

She said Trac is being done on time. She said right now only 5 people have to be approved for Trac. She said there are not that many problems so far in the boroughs. Although, the Bronx teachers have not met once this year yet.

4. Audiology

I was going to bring up the FM units issue. Many people have complained they don't have FM Units.

At that moment we were informed that the contract with Phonac was just approved the day of the meeting. Ms. Kaufman said she told Ms. Judy Cohen to put all the orders in. This will expedite all the back ordered FM units. Soon everyone will get their FM units. Let's hope that happens. If not keep writing.

The next consultation meeting will be on Wednesday, March 7th 2012.