

**New York State Education Department
Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision**

Advisory Council Meeting

**New Horizons Computer Learning Center
New York City**

June 19, 2008

Minutes

Council Members in Attendance:

• Michael J. Hatten	Chairman	Global Business Institute
• Rabbi Yerachmiel Barash	Member	Cope Institute
• Vincent J. Ferrara	Member	American Training Center
• Anthony J. Casale	Member	Public Affairs Consultant
• Matthew Downey	Ex. Officio	HESC
• Carole W. Yates	Ex. Officio	SED- BPSS
• Dennis Buckley	Ex. Officio	Comptroller's Office
• Lois Menyweather For Lisa Harris	Ex. Officio	Consumer Protection Board

Call to Order:

Michael Hatten called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Hatten thanked Ms. Annie Gambina, Director of New Horizons, for hosting the meeting. Ms. Gambina welcomed the participants. Mr. Hatten introduced Mr. Anthony Casale as the newly appointed Advisory Counsel member, appointed by James Tedisco, New York State Assembly Minority Leader.

Minutes:

Review of Minutes from the April 4, 2008 meeting. Vincent Ferrara asked that his name be removed from a statement attributed to him erroneously. Vincent Ferrara made a motion to approve and was seconded by Anthony Casale to accept the Minutes as amended and prepared by Bill Kahn of GBI; accepted unanimously. Carole Yates will have them posted on the SED website.

Overview of Agenda:

Presented by Michael Hatten.

BPSS Update and Status Report:

Presented by Carole Yates, BPSS Director

It has been a very difficult period, with the closing of a very large school, "Caliber". There were over 350 complaints which needed to be recorded and investigated by a staff already working very hard on other routine issues. The main focus has been on behalf of the students with the identification and dissemination of academic transcripts and certifications. Several senior staff members were introduced and elaborated on the difficulties attributed to the closing and to clarify significant areas in the Education law which schools need to abide by to avoid being out of compliance.

A funding proposal for the Bureau's web-based computer system is in the Budget Office for consideration. However, we are not confident of an immediate resolution, due to a current State financial freeze on hiring, supplies, equipment and travel.

Reminder to schools that their financial statements were due to the audit department by June 1, 2008.

Legislative action: 1. The Bureau is not in favor of the alternative coalition Bill. 2. There has not been a response to the ESL Bill. 3. Infection Control (for the purpose of continuing education for appearance enhancement licensees) Bill not supported. A proposed mandated course seems to only serve one special interest.

Monica Borden is developing a "step-by-step" approach to license renewal, followed by a workshop program.

Closure of Caliber Training Center:

Carole Yates introduced Ed Kramer, Supervising Investigator and several senior staff members. They introduced and elaborated on the deficiencies attributed to the Caliber closing and clarified other significant areas in Education law which schools need to abide by to avoid being out of compliance. The U.S. Department of Education was a partner in the closing process. He highlighted how badly the students were hurt by incomplete and out-of-date records, problems with CPAT testing procedures, unlicensed instructors and "no-show" teachers, and academic manipulation of grades/incompletes/attendance/out of sequence academic programs, Satisfactory Academic Progress tracking and other violations. He described how the BPSS sent several undercover students through the enrollment and school start process, which helped identify the multitude of flagrant violations. Carole Yates concluded that the Bureau is working closely with the State Attorney General's Office in building a criminal case.

Open Items/Follow-up:

Michael Hatten introduced Stanley Hansen, the Coordinator of the State's K-16 Action Plan who addressed the need for citizens to have the opportunity to attain post-secondary education, including training from trade schools. He encouraged everyone to read the "action plan", available on-line. With respect to a secondary school initiative, Michael Hatten shared a concern that school counselors were pushing students into community colleges to improve their outcomes. He attended and testified at a task force meeting on June 12th, emphasizing that our sector is viable and significant and serving students who are eager to learn skills they can apply immediately. These successful outcomes should be considered in the reporting process. Vincent Ferrara added that "alternative pathways" need to be established which can accurately report our sectors achievements. Dennis Buckley added that we must do everything possible to spread the word through the media, meetings with school counselors and community activists.

Audience Comments and Questions:

Alex Zholendz, ABI School of Barbering and Cosmetology of Tribeca/ABI School of Barbering and Cosmetology of Chelsea, discussed at length, with many other member schools, his views on the Infection Control legislative Bill. Jay Fund, Hunter Business School, suggested that the Council should hear presentations from experienced school administrators, covering various topics of interests.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be posted on the SED website.